

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Installation Grade Levels, Methods and Environment

This product can be installed on, above or below grade levels; indoor use only.

**SAFETY CAUTION: USE SAFETY GLASSES AND GLOVES WHEN CUTTING THIS PRODUCT. DURING THE CUTTING PROCESS, LAMINATE MAY CREATE WOOD DUST; BE SURE TO INSTALL IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA.**

**WARNING:** Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products generates wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection.

### Owner/Installer Responsibility

Owner/installer should inspect the flooring for defects prior to installation and during installation. During installation, do not install boards which appear to be defective. Owner/installer is responsible for the job site being structurally acceptable (see local building codes) for laminate flooring installation. Owner/installer is responsible for flooring failures resulting from or related to subfloor, subsurface, job site damage or deficiencies after the flooring has been installed.

### Job Site Condition

Manufacturer will decline responsibility for situations associated with improper installation or poor site conditions. Pouring of basement concrete floors, drywall and plasterwork, plumbing, etc. must be completed well in advance of the floor delivery. Jobsite should be in a normal living condition, i.e., room temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) level of 35%-60%.

### Concrete Subfloor Requirements

Concrete subfloor must be cured, clean and must be flat and level (3/16" inch for every 10' feet). Minimum moisture barrier is 6 mil (0.006" inch) virgin polyethylene sheet. Concrete subfloor must have a moisture content of:

- Less than 5% as per Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter or;
- Less than 3 lbs. per 1000 square feet per 24 hours per Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F-1869) or;
- Less than 2.5% per Calcium Carbide (CM) Test (ASTM D-4944-04 modified).

### Wood Subfloor Requirements

Wood subfloor must be clean and must be flat and level (3/16" inch for every 10' feet). Wood subfloor must have moisture content of less than 14%. Wood subfloor must be structurally sound.

### Underlayment

Always install a foam underlayment on top of your subfloor before installing your laminate floors. Butt end seams and tape them to hold in place. If installing over concrete or in moisture prone areas install a minimum 6mil (0.006 in.) polyethylene vapor barrier under the foam underlayment. Vapor barrier seams must be overlapped by 6 in. and taped with moisture resistant adhesive tape.

### Existing Floor Coverings

Acceptable floor coverings include: linoleum, vinyl carpet tile, terrazzo, ceramic tile and other "moisture sealing floors." Unacceptable floor coverings include: carpet, needle punch felt, edge glued linoleum and other "moisture absorbing flooring."

### Radiant Heated Floor

This product can be installed over a radiant heated floor provided that the heating element is installed into a concrete subfloor. Lower heating system to 60°F for 1 week before installation. After installation, slowly increase the temperature in increments of 10°F per hour. The finished floor surface temperature must not exceed 85°F throughout the service life of the floor. Follow installation requirements for concrete as outlined above.

### Wet Areas

Do not install in saunas, swimming pool areas and other similar extreme wet areas. Fill all expansion gaps with water repellent sealant. Seal joints between panels.

### Aclimation

Store the flooring in the room where they are to be installed for a minimum of 48 hours, still in their packaging, and at normal living conditions, i.e., room temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) level of 35%-60%, prior to beginning installation work.

### Expansion Gaps

Allow expansion gap of 5/16" inch to 3/8" inch around perimeter of the floor and vertical structures. Floor spanning greater than 40' feet, length or width, require expansion T-molding. Wall openings, with or without door, require expansion T-molding.

### Tools

You will need the following tools to install this product: tapping block, pull bar, spacers, tape measure, hammer, circular saw, saw blade with carbide tip for finish cuts, work gloves, kneepads and safety glasses.

### Helpful Considerations

Work in a well-lit area. Remove all existing moldings.

Install flooring perpendicular to the direction of the floor joists. If possible, install the boards parallel to the direction of the light entering the room. Install the underlayment in the same direction that the laminate flooring is to be installed. Tape all seams. Check door clearances, making necessary adjustments before laying the floor.

### Installation Instructions

Fig.1) First board of first row - Starting at the left hand corner of the room, lay the first board against the wall with the tongue-side of the board facing the wall. There must be an expansion gap between the perimeter of the floor and the wall of 5/16" to 3/8" inch. You can wait until the third row before you adjust the expansion gap.

Fig.2) Line the end of the next board even with the first board.

Fig.3) Drop the board in a single motion, pressing the boards together by gently pushing down towards the floor. Complete the first row in the same manner.

Fig.4) The last board in the first row will need to be cut. At the end of the row, measure the remaining distance between the last full board and the wall. Be sure to include the required 5/16" to 3/8" inch expansion gap in your measurement. If the distance is less than 10" inches, the first plank in the row must be cut. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and the last plank in each row must be at least 10" inches in length.

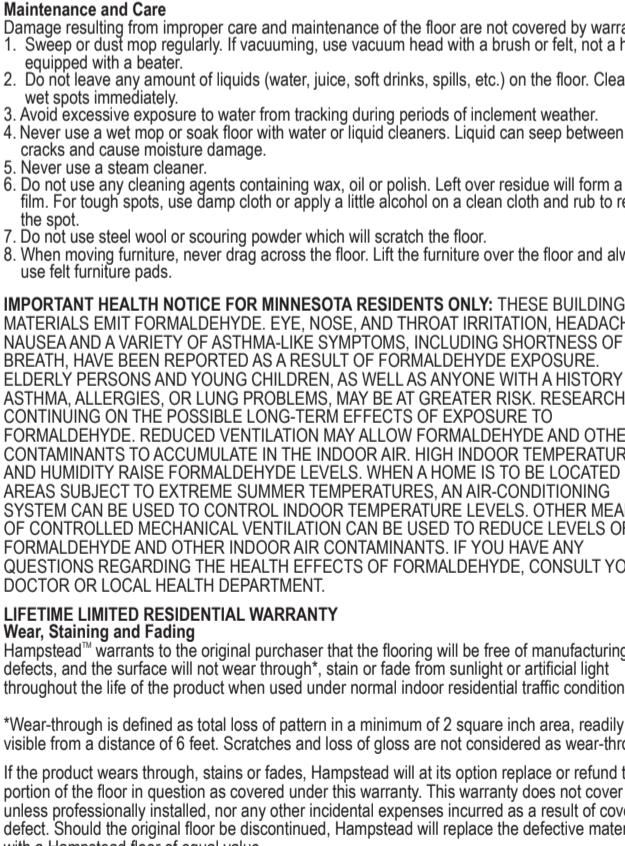
Fig.5) Mark and cut the last board with a jig saw, placing the board face down. If using a hand saw, the board should be face up.

Fig.6-7) To begin the second row, use the cut piece of the last board of the previous row. This board should be at least 10" inches long. If not, use a new board cutting it into two pieces. Make sure that the end joints of each row are always at least 10" apart from row to row. Place the board by tilting it down and placing the tongue side against the groove edge of the first row. Exert pressure and at the same time press down towards the floor.

Fig.8-9) Repeat for the remaining boards in the row, making sure to line up the ends of the boards before dropping the next board into place.

Fig.10) Repeat the above process for the remaining floor. Remember to adjust for the 5/16" to 3/8" inch expansion gap using spacers.

Fig.11) For the last row, measure the remaining width and cut the boards accordingly. Be sure to leave 5/16" to 3/8" inch between the boards and the wall to allow for expansion. Remove spacers from the perimeter and install moldings around the perimeter of the room to cover the expansion gap space. Fasten moldings into the wall and not through the flooring.



### Maintenance and Care

Damage resulting from improper care and maintenance of the floor are not covered by warranty.

1. Sweep or dust mop regularly. If vacuuming, use vacuum head with a brush or felt, not a head equipped with a beater.
2. Do not leave any amount of liquids (water, juice, soft drinks, spills, etc.) on the floor. Clean any wet spots immediately.
3. Avoid excessive exposure to water from tracking during periods of inclement weather.
4. Never use a wet mop or soak floor with water or liquid cleaners. Liquid can seep between the cracks and cause moisture damage.
5. Never use a steam cleaner.
6. Do not use any cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish. Left over residue will form a dull film. For tough spots, use damp cloth or apply a little alcohol on a clean cloth and rub to remove the spot.
7. Do not use steel wool or scouring powder which will scratch the floor.
8. When moving furniture, never drag across the floor. Lift the furniture over the floor and always use felt furniture pads.

### IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE FOR MINNESOTA RESIDENTS ONLY: THESE BUILDING MATERIALS EMIT FORMALDEHYDE. EYE, NOSE, AND THROAT IRRITATION, HEADACHE, NAUSEA AND A VARIETY OF ASTHMA-LIKE SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING SHORTNESS OF BREATH, HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS A RESULT OF FORMALDEHYDE EXPOSURE.

ELDERLY PERSONS AND YOUNG CHILDREN, AS WELL AS ANYONE WITH A HISTORY OF ASTHMA, ALLERGIES, OR LUNG PROBLEMS, MAY BE AT GREATER RISK. RESEARCH IS CONTINUING ON THE POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO FORMALDEHYDE. REDUCED VENTILATION MAY ALLOW FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS TO ACCUMULATE IN THE INDOOR AIR. HIGH INDOOR TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY RAISE FORMALDEHYDE LEVELS. WHEN A HOME IS TO BE LOCATED IN AREAS SUBJECT TO EXTREME SUMMER TEMPERATURES, AN AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM CAN BE USED TO CONTROL INDOOR TEMPERATURE LEVELS. OTHER MEANS OF CONTROLLED MECHANICAL VENTILATION CAN BE USED TO REDUCE LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF FORMALDEHYDE, CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

### LIFETIME LIMITED RESIDENTIAL WARRANTY

#### Wear, Staining and Fading

Hampstead™ warrants to the original purchaser that the flooring will be free of manufacturing defects, and the surface will not wear through\*, stain or fade from sunlight or artificial light throughout the life of the product when used under normal indoor residential traffic conditions.

\*Wear-through is defined as total loss of pattern in a minimum of 2 square inch area, readily visible from a distance of 6 feet. Scratches and loss of gloss are not considered as wear-through.

If the product wears through, stains or fades, Hampstead will at its option replace or refund the portion of the floor in question as covered under this warranty. This warranty does not cover labor, unless professionally installed, nor any other incidental expenses incurred as a result of covered defect. Should the original floor be discontinued, Hampstead will replace the defective material with a Hampstead floor of equal value.

For the lifetime warranty, if a claim is made and approved after 1 year of purchase, Hampstead will pay a pro-rated percentage of material cost, determined by the number of years from the date of purchase and the remaining period up to 50 years. For example, if the claim is made 20 years after the original purchase, then Hampstead will pay 60% (30/50th) of the material. If the claim is made 50 years or more after the purchase, Hampstead will provide you, the original purchaser, with a 5% discount on material only on your next purchase of a Hampstead laminate flooring product. If professionally installed, reasonable labor may be paid for claims within 36 months from the date of purchase. No labor will be paid after 36 months.

This warranty is exclusive to the original purchaser and in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, and all other remedies, guarantees or liabilities arising by law or otherwise.

#### Residential and Warranty Exclusions

The owner/installer must inspect the color, finish and quality of the flooring prior to installation. Hampstead is not responsible for labor costs incurred for flooring installed with visible defects.

Isolated floor squeaks are not a defect and are not covered under warranty. This warranty does not cover damage caused by improper care or maintenance contrary to written instructions provided by Hampstead, physical abuse or misuse, accidents causing indentation, scratching, impact, cutting, freight damage, alteration, chemical damage or any wear or damage caused by acts of God. This warranty does not apply if product is installed in areas where condensation repeatedly occurs, or any other areas contrary to the recommendations of Hampstead, including, but not limited to, exterior applications, unstable/improper subfloors, areas exposed to excessive topical and ground moisture. Protective pads should be used under furniture legs, and mats should be used under any chairs with rolling casters. Pet urine must be wiped up and not allowed to dry.

Hampstead excludes and will not pay incidental or consequential damages under this warranty. By this we mean any loss, expense, or damages other than to the flooring itself that may result from a defect in the flooring. No implied warranties extend beyond the term of this written warranty.

Hampstead assumes no liability for incidental or consequential damages. Some states do not allow the exclusion of limitation for incidental or consequential damages. In that case, these exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights that vary from state to state. Hampstead reserves the right to increase or alter the obligations or limitations of this warranty.

#### For Warranty Service

##### To make a claim, you may:

- 1) Contact your Hampstead retailer no later than 30 days after the discovery of the defect. Proof of purchase is required. Your retailer will assist in coordinating a resolution of your claim. OR:
- 2) Contract a certified independent inspector ([www.NWFA.org](http://www.NWFA.org)). The inspector should submit a copy of the inspection report directly to your Hampstead retailer for consideration. Note that while independent inspections are credible and usually reliable, the final decision rests solely with Hampstead. Only NWFA inspectors or other certified inspectors approved in writing, in advance by Hampstead will be considered.

## DE INSTALACIONES

### Métodos, medio ambiente y niveles de grado de instalación

Este producto se puede instalar en, sobre o por debajo de los niveles de grado; sólo para uso en interiores.

**PRECAUCIONES DE SEGURIDAD: UTILICE LENTES DE SEGURIDAD Y GUANTES CUANDO CORTE ESTE PRODUCTO. DURANTE EL PROCESO DE CORTE, EL LAMINADO PUEDE CREAR ASERRÍN; ASEGUÍRESE DE REALIZAR LA INSTALACIÓN EN UNA ZONA BIEN VENTILADA.**

**ADVERTENCIA: Taladrar, serrar, lijar o mecanizar productos de madera genera aserrín, una sustancia conocida en el estado de California por causar cáncer. Evite la inhalación de aserrín o utilice una mascarilla contra polvo u otro tipo de protección personal.**

### Responsabilidad del instalador/propietario

El propietario/installador debe inspeccionar el suelo en busca de defectos antes y durante la instalación. Durante la instalación, no instale los tablones que parezcan estar defectuosos. El propietario/installador es responsable de que el lugar de trabajo sea estructuralmente aceptable (consulte los códigos de construcción locales) para la instalación de suelos laminados. El propietario/installador es responsable de las fallas en el piso resultantes de o relacionados con el contrapiso, subpiso, daños al lugar de trabajo o deficiencias después de que el piso se ha instalado.

### Condiciones del lugar de trabajo

El fabricante no aceptará la responsabilidad de situaciones relacionadas con la instalación incorrecta o malas condiciones del lugar. Se debe de completar el vertido de pisos con base de hormigón, placa de yeso y enlucido, trabajos de plomería, etc. con suficiente antelación a la entrega del piso. El lugar de trabajo debe de encontrarse bajo condiciones normales de vida, es decir, a una temperatura ambiente de 60°F a 80°F y un nivel de humedad relativa (HR) del 35% al 60%.

### Requisitos del contrapiso de hormigón

El contrapiso de hormigón debe estar curado, limpio, plano y nivelado (3/16" de pulgada por cada 10' pies). La barrera mínima de humedad es una lámina de polietileno virgen de 6 mil (0.006" pulgadas).

El contrapiso de hormigón debe tener un contenido de humedad:

- Menor al 5% según el Verificador de humedad en concreto Tramex o;
- Menor a 3 libras por cada 1000 pies cuadrados por cada 24 horas según la prueba de cloruro de calcio (ASTM F-1869) o;
- Menor al 2.5% según la prueba de carburo de calcio (CM) (ASTM D-4944-04 modificada).

### Requisitos del contrapiso de madera

El contrapiso de madera debe estar limpio, plano y nivelado (3/16" de pulgada por cada 10' pies). El contrapiso de madera debe tener un contenido de humedad menor al 14%. El contrapiso de madera debe ser estructuralmente firme.

### Base de piso

Instale siempre una base de piso de espuma en la parte superior del contrapiso antes de instalar los pisos laminados. Ensarte las juntas de los extremos y fíjelas con cinta en el lugar. Si realiza la instalación sobre hormigón o en áreas propensas a la humedad, instale una barrera de vapor de polietileno de 6 mil (0.006 pulgadas) como mínimo debajo de la base de piso de espuma. Debe superponer las juntas de la barrera de vapor unas 6 pulgadas y pegarlas con cinta adhesiva resistente a la humedad.

### Tipos de revestimientos para pisos

Los revestimientos para pisos aceptables incluyen: linóleo, alfombras modulares de vinilo, terrazo, azulejo de cerámica y otros "pisos de sellado contra humedad." Los revestimientos inaceptables para pisos incluyen: alfombra, fieltro punzonado, linóleo pegado en los bordes y otros "pisos que absorben humedad."

### Piso con calefacción radiante

Este producto se puede instalar sobre un piso con calefacción radiante siempre y cuando el elemento calefactor se instale en un contrapiso de hormigón. Disminuya la temperatura del sistema de calefacción a 60°F 1 semana antes de la instalación. Despues de la instalación, poco a poco aumenta la temperatura en intervalos de 10°F por hora.

La temperatura de la superficie del piso terminado no debe exceder los 85°F durante la vida útil del piso. Siga los requisitos de instalación del hormigón como se indicó anteriormente.

### Zonas húmedas

No instale en saunas, zonas de albercas y otras zonas similares con humedad extrema. Rellene todas las juntas de dilatación con sellador repelente al agua. Selle las juntas entre los paneles.

### Aclimatación

Almacene el piso en la habitación donde se van a instalar durante un mínimo de 48 horas, todavía en su empaque, y en condiciones normales de vida, es decir, a una temperatura ambiente de 60°F-80°F y niveles de humedad relativa (HR) del 35% al 60%, antes de comenzar los trabajos de instalación.

### Juntas de dilatación

Deje una junta de dilatación de 5/16" de pulgada a 3/8" de pulgada alrededor del perímetro del piso y las estructuras verticales. El piso que abarque más de 40' pies, en longitud o anchura, requiere una moldura en T de dilatación.

Las aberturas en la pared, con o sin puerta, requieren una moldura en T de dilatación.

### Herramientas

Necesitará las siguientes herramientas para instalar este producto: taco protector, barra de tracción, separadores, cinta métrica, martillo, sierra circular, hoja para sierra con punta de carburo para cortes de acabado, guantes de trabajo,