

WOOD LOOK LAMINATE FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

GLUELESS LAMINATE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEVELED EDGE WOOD LOOK DESIGNS

PREPARATION

Glueless Laminate can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings except for carpet. Wood flooring glued to concrete must be removed before installation.

ACCLIMATION

- No acclimation period is required when installation site conditions are climate controlled prior to and during installation of Shaw Laminate Flooring Products. This means that Shaw Laminate Flooring products can be installed faster and more efficiently than conventional alternatives.
- During the installation period, temperature should be maintained between 65° F to 85° F and relative humidity should be between 35% to 65%.
- [1] Do not store cartons near heating/cooling ducts or direct sunlight.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- Fill any low spots in the subfloor greater than 1/8" in 6 feet with a Portland cement leveling compound. Check this by using a 6' straight edge. Remove any high spots by sanding or grinding.
- Remove any existing floor molding (if any) except for the wall baseboards. (Unless you plan to replace with Shaw color coordinated Wallbase).
- [2] To undercut door frames, lay a loose plank upside down against the frame and on top of the underlayment. This will be your guide for proper height to allow installed planks to float under the door frame. Saw the bottom of the doorjamb case molding back to the wall studs so that 3/8" expansion gap is maintained when laminate is fitted under doorjamb case molding.
- Sweep the subfloor clean.

SUBFLOOR MOISTURE TESTING

- On Concrete Subfloor—Always test a concrete subfloor for excessive moisture before installing over concrete, concrete covered with ceramic tile, marble, stone, vinyl tile, or linoleum. To test concrete, use a properly calibrated and reliable concrete moisture meter. The maximum allowable moisture content percentage for concrete is 4%. If the moisture meter readings are above 4%, have a qualified floor covering contractor perform a Calcium Chloride Moisture Emissions test. The maximum allowable reading for a Calcium Chloride Test is 5 lbs./1,000 sq. ft./24 hours.

On a Wood-based Subfloor

- Moisture content of the wood subfloor must not exceed 12% when checked using a pin-type wood moisture meter. Whenever readings are higher than 12%, full evaluations of the joist systems, crawl spaces or basement areas beneath the wood subflooring are also necessary. Call the Shaw Information Center at 1-800- 441-7429 for more assistance.

INSTALLING UNDERLAYMENTS

When installing products with preattached acoustical underlayment:

On Concrete Subfloor

- use minimum 6-mil polyethylene (plastic) sheeting as a vapor barrier. Roll out the plastic, overlapping the seam area 6 to 8 inches, and tape the seams with a clear plastic sealing tape.

On a Wood Subfloor

- no additional plastic vapor barrier should be installed.

When installing products without preattached acoustical underlayment:

- Please read the installation guidelines included with your chosen underlayment, and strictly follow those instructions when installing your underlayment.
- [3] Unroll one width of underlayment along the longest wall. Always work from left to right. Planks should run lengthwise against the longest wall, and if possible, parallel to incoming sunlight.
- [4] Use a t-mold at all doorways 36" or less that have a door and a frame and every 45 feet in length and width.

START OF INSTALLATION

- The width of the first row of planks should be approximately the same width as the last row. This may require cutting the first row plank to a shorter width. Measure across the room (inches) and divide by the width of a plank to see how many full width planks will be used and what size width will be needed for the last row. The last row should never be less than 2" in width.
- Use 3/8" spacers to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor. **Quarter Round** molding will cover this expansion gap. **IMPORTANT:** this 3/8" gap must be maintained around cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any other obstacles in floor.

INSPECT EACH BOARD CAREFULLY FOR DAMAGE PRIOR TO INSTALLING IT.

- Do not install a damaged plank. If you have any concern about the product fit or finish, **call Shaw Information Services at 1-800-441-7429 for information.**
- Check groove on plank to make sure it is clean and free of debris.

Follow installation steps [1]–[5].**REMAINDER OF FLOOR**

- Now you can continue to add additional rows using the same method of assembly. Work on top of your start rows and pull the planks toward you to position them before locking them into place.
- **Randomly pull planks from 3 cartons at a time** to ensure random appearance. Use cut pieces from the end of each row as starting planks. Always stagger end joints a minimum of 12"; make random so as not to show a repeating pattern.
- **All joints should be a tight fit with no gaps.** Stop and reconnect if a joint is not tight or if all edges are not even with adjacent planks. These planks can be engaged and disengaged several times if needed to help make a correct installation.
- When cutting the last row, place a full row of planks directly on top of the previous row of installed planks (keeping the tongue in the same direction as that of the installed planks). Use the full width of a scrap piece of plank as a guide. Place a pencil next to the edge and trace a line down the planks following the contour of the wall. Cut planks on the pencil line and then connect the last row.

Call Shaw Information Center at 1-800- 441-7429 for molding and transition installation instructions.

For complete product and warranty information please visit <https://shawfloors.com/flooring/how-to/laminate/warranties> or call 1-800-441- 7429.