INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS LifeProtect® FLOORING

LifeProtect® Flooring is a versatile flooring system that can be installed in most areas of your home. LifeProtect® Flooring can be installed on, above or below grade levels.

PRE-INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

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.

CAUTION: Wood Dust !

WARNING: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to 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. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood.

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

Owner/installer should inspect the flooring for defects prior to installation and during installation (check for differences in finish, sheen and other defects before installing). During installation, DO NOT INSTALL planks which appear to be defective. **The warranty does not cover materials with visible defects.** 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. Should and individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension then the installer should not use this piece. Your LifeProtect® Flooring supplier cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects.

Jobsite 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%. The floor should be thoroughly swept and free of all debris and dust.

Have all wet trades finish and allowed to dry before installing the flooring.

Tools

You will need the following tools to install this product: tapping block, pull bar, spacers, tape measure, pencil, level, hammer (preferably rubber), circular saw, saw blade with carbide tip for finish cuts, caulking gun, work gloves, **safety glasses, ear protection** and knee pads.

List of Materials

You will need the following materials: Flooring underlayment, 6-mil poly (depending on the subfloor), expansion spacers (3/8"), 3/8 in compressible PE foam backer rod, mouldings (Coordinating mouldings are available for your LifeProtect® Flooring, contact your retailer or distributor for more information).

Concrete Subfloor Requirements

Concrete subfloor must be cured, clean, flat and level (3/16 in for every 10 ft). Minimum moisture barrier is 6 mil (0.006 in) 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 1,000 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, flat and level (3/16 in for every 10 ft). If there are any uneven areas that exceed this, level them out in advance with a leveling paste or sand down high spots. Wood subfloor must have moisture content of less than 11%. Wood subfloor must be structurally sound. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking.

Underlayment

Sound reducing underlayment is required for flooring without attached underlayment. The underlayment will require an integrated moisture barrier or a separate 6 mil virgin polyethylene sheet when installed over concrete (if not warranty will be void).

Existing Floor Coverings

This flooring may be installed directly on top of sheet vinyl, vinyl composite tiles (VCT), and ceramic or porcelain tile, when these items have been installed on a wooden subfloor. The subfloor and existing covering must be structurally sound and meet all the necessary flatness and moisture requirements. Never use a vapor barrier when installing over a wooden subfloor. If the previously mentioned flooring types have been installed directly on concrete, then a 6-mil vapor barrier must be installed and overlapped at least 6" along any seams. In all cases, regardless of subfloor, all types of carpet and padding (including the old glue if applicable) must be removed, and the normal subfloor instructions would then apply. If an existing floor covering is being removed before installation, please consult a specialist regarding the safety of handling and disposal of the existing materials before beginning.

Radiant Heated Floor

This product can be installed over 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. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure.

Wet Areas

Do not install in saunas, swimming pool areas and other similar extreme wet areas. Fill all expansion gaps with 100% silicone sealant. Do not install outside. For installation of your LifeProtect® Flooring in kitchens and bathrooms, please read Section 6. Under the Angle-Tap installation instructions.

Acclimation

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 40%-65%, prior to beginning installation work. Store horizontally and well away from the walls.

Expansion Gaps

Allow expansion gap of 3/8" in around the perimeter of the floor and vertical structures. Floors spanning greater than 45 ft, length or width might require expansion T-moulding or larger expansion gaps. Wall openings, with or without door, might require expansion T-moulding. Door frames require special care as 3/8" expansion gaps also need to be applied around door frames.

Certain pieces of heavy furniture (bookcases, pianos, …) can hinder the expansion and contraction of the flooring. In this case consider leaving a larger expansion gap to be later covered with a thicker base board or shoe moulding.

Helpful Considerations

- Work in a well-lit area.
- Remove all existing mouldings.
- 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.
- Stagger end joints but avoid stair-stepping appearance by varying stagger distances between adjacent rows. Minimum stagger distance is 12 in.
- Check door clearances, making necessary adjustments before laying the floor.

LifeProtect® Flooring can be both installed using the Angle-Tap or Angle-Angle installation method.

A. ANGLE-TAP INSTALLATION METHOD.

1. INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW

a. Begin installation from the straightest wall. If possible, install the floor perpendicular to the floor joists.

b. Use a carbide-tipped circular saw blade to remove both the short and long side tongues from the plank to allow room for spacers. Do not trim the groove sides. (Figure 1) Always cut the flooring boards with the décor or face side down.
c. Trim the long side tongue from each plank needed to complete the first row. Install the planks from left to right. Place 3/8 in spacers between the wall and the cut edge of the planks to ensure a 3/8 in space along the perimeter. (Figure 2)
d. Adjoin the planks by using a tapping block as shown and gently tap until the planks are joined. Continue this process until the final plank for the row is needed. (Figure 3)

2. COMPLETING A ROW

a. When cutting a plank used for completing a row be sure to allow for the proper 3/8 in gap once the plank is installed. (Figure 4)
b. Use a pull bar in place of a tapping block to close the gap between the two planks to complete the row. (Figure 5) If the remainder of the cut plank is a minimum of 8 in long it may be used to start the next row.

3. INSTALLING THE SECOND AND REMAINING ROWS

a. Begin installing the second row by angling the plank to allow the tongue to slip into the groove of the plank in row 1. (Figure 6) Maintain inward pressure (towards the previous row) while gently moving the plank up and down as you slowly push the plank to the floor. (Figures 6A & 6B) Do not force the plank to the floor if the tongue is only partially inserted into the groove. (Figure 6C)
b. Install the next plank by placing it near the previous plank in the row and laying it flat to the floor while leaving a small gap (2-3 mm) between the short ends of planks D and C. (Figure 7)
c. Once the plank is flat, use the tapping block to tap the end into a locked position. Then, placing the tapping block no closer than 8 in from either end, tap lightly along the long side to ensure the joint is fully seated and no gaps exist. (Figure 8) Note: Uneven tapping or use of excessive force may damage the joint.
d. Continue laying the floor from left to right, as described in the previous steps. (Figure 9) Remove the short side tongue from any full planks used in starting a new row.
e. Trim the planks to be used in the final row to the desired width while taking into consideration the necessary gap of 3/8 in needed between the planks and the wall. Install the final row as described in the previous steps. (Figure 10)

4. INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

Use the pull bar to draw the last row to fit tightly to the previous row.

5. FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

• Remove all spacers (Figure 11)

6. INSTALLATION IN KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

• Create a watertight seal by first filling the entire expansion perimeter, T-moulding spaces, and other open areas with 3/8 in compressible PE foam backer rod
• Next cover the backer rod and any remaining gaps with 100% silicone sealant. DO NOT use acrylic sealants
• Prior to installing the mouldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the moulding or transition that will contact directly with the laminate flooring surface.
• Install mouldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant
• Apply silicone sealant at connections to door frames, T-joint mouldings, or any other fixed objects
• Make sure when installing the mouldings not to obstruct the flooring from being able to expand or contract. Never nail mouldings into your floor or have the floor touch the sides of the mouldings.

AFTER INSTALLATION

Dust mop or vacuum your floor to remove dust, dirt and debris

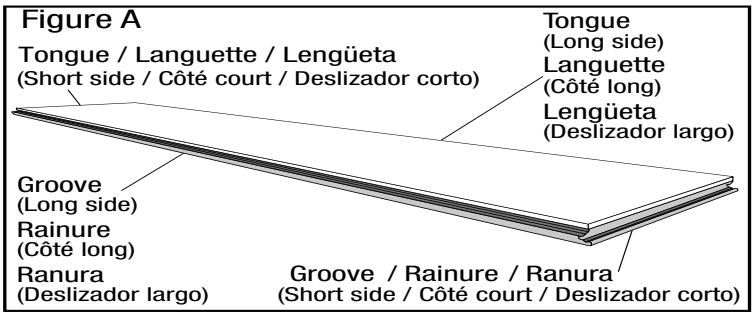


Figure A
Tongue / Languette / Lengüeta
(Short side / Côté court / Deslizador corto)
Tongue
(Long side)
Languette
(Côté long)
Lengüeta
(Deslizador largo)
Groove
(Long side)
Rainure
(Côté long)
Ranura
(Deslizador largo)
Groove / Rainure / Ranura
(Short side / Côté court / Deslizador corto)

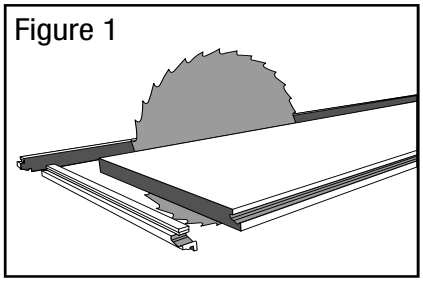
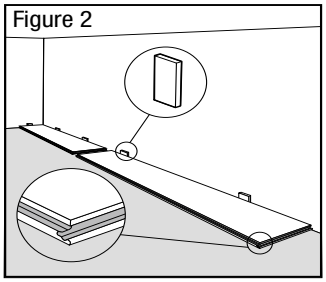


Figure 1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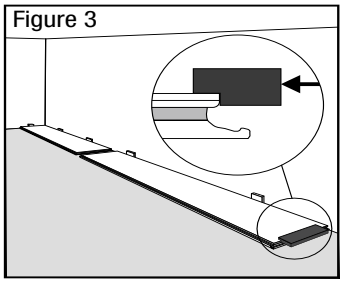
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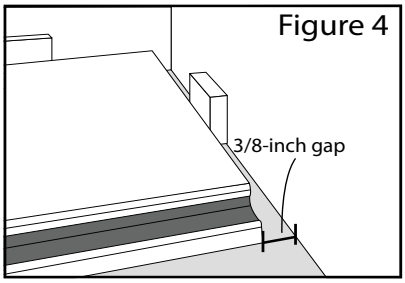
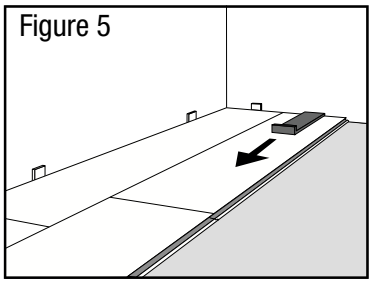


Figure 4
3/8-inch gap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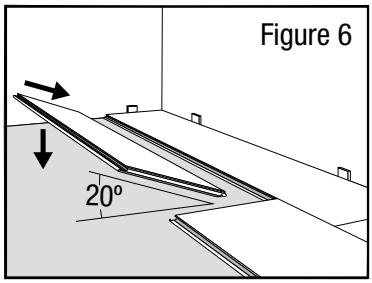
Figure 6
20º

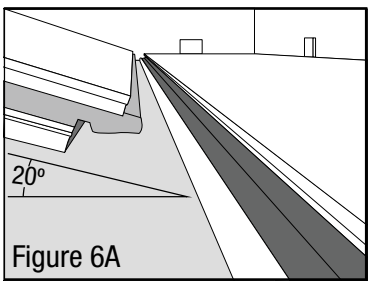
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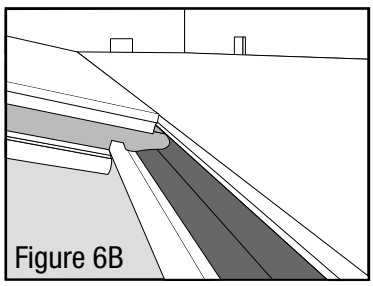
Figure 6A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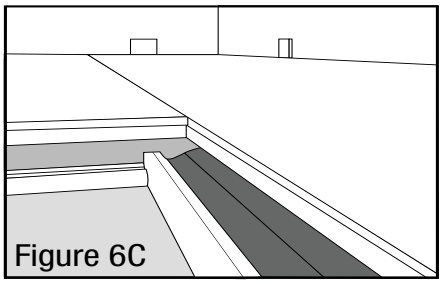
Figure 6C