

Timeless Designs®

Laminate Installation Instructions

Thank you for choosing one of Timeless Designs click floating laminate products. Properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years. **For current warranty, installation and maintenance information please visit timelessdesignsflooring.com.**

Acclimation of Material Before Installation

To ensure a problem free installation, all areas where flooring will be installed should have a working heat and air conditioning source operational a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours prior to installation and remain in operation during and after installation. Conditions should be at the same temperature and humidity level expected during normal use (between 65-85 degrees F with a relative humidity no greater than 65%). Ensure subfloor and flooring are fully acclimated to these conditions for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. For best results, open the cartons at the beginning of the acclimation period.

NOTE: Extreme differences in temperature and humidity between the flooring product and job site may result in gapping, buckling or joints which are difficult to properly engage. Improper locking of the flooring may cause joints to be distressed resulting in a "peaked" appearance, delamination due to ledging, separation of joints from normal environmental temperature changes, cupping or side joint failures.

Pre-Installation Jobsite Requirements

Timeless Designs cannot be held responsible for site conditions that do not conform to requirements as indicated in these instructions including but exclusive to vapor transmission, moisture permeation, contaminated or damaged subfloors, etc.

Floating laminate floors should be protected from direct sunlight and not exposed to direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Timeless Designs recommends blinds, drapes, window films or suitable window coverings in areas where there is a large exposure to direct sunlight.

It is the installer's responsibility to examine the flooring prior to installation for color, finish, sheen and quality, and to ensure that jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements of these instructions. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If flooring is not deemed acceptable, contact your supplier immediately for resolution. Timeless Designs flooring cannot be held responsible for flooring installed with visible defects.

Subfloor Preparation

All subfloors must be clean, smooth and **flat** within 3/16" in a 10 ft radius and/or 1/8" in 6 ft radius, and dry*. Dust, scale, and loose particles must be removed. The surface must be free of solvents, paint, grease, oil, wax, alkali, sealing or curing compounds, and any other foreign material.

**Failure to properly level the subfloor to manufacturer specifications can cause additional stress on the tongue and groove resulting in plank separation.*



Timeless Designs click laminate floors are designed to “float” over the subfloor. Proper preparation of the subfloor is a critical part of a successful installation. Unevenness of the subfloor may result in plank separation and popping sounds.

All wood subfloors shall have at least 18” of well-ventilated space below. The ground under crawl spaces must be covered with 6- mil polyethylene sheeting to reduce moisture vapor transmission. Wood floors must be **a minimum thickness of 3/4” with 16” on center floor joist**, such as APA underlayment Grade Plywood without voids, and with a fully sanded face.

Concrete on, below or above grade must be free of moisture or high alkalinity. A concrete slab shall be cured a minimum of 90 days before performing moisture tests prior to the installation of your new flooring. The concrete may require additional drying time dependent upon local environmental conditions. The PH level of the concrete should be between 7 and 9.

- **Concrete/Screeds:** All cracks and joints should be filled. Prepare concrete subfloors according to ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparation of Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring. The surface of the concrete must be dry, clean, smooth, level and structurally sound. Concrete subfloors require moisture testing conducted in accordance with ASTM F1869 Calcium Chloride Test or ASTM F2179 Relative Humidity in Concrete Slabs. Calcium Chloride emissions should not exceed 5lbs per 1000sf. Relative Humidity In-Situ Probes should not exceed 75% RH. Testing should be performed and documented prior to beginning installation.
- It is the responsibility of the flooring contractor to determine if a concrete substrate is within the proper moisture levels. **It is recommended for all laminate floating installations that a 6mil vapor barrier underlayment be installed over concrete substrates.** For concrete substrates with excess moisture results, a moisture mitigation system is recommended. Timeless Designs does not warrant nor is responsible for damage to floor coverings due to or caused by moisture related issues.

Wood Floors

- Wood floors must be solid and flat with no deflection. All loose boards must be firmly fastened.

Existing Resilient Floors

- Existing resilient tile and sheet vinyl floors must be in good condition and thoroughly bonded to the structural floor. Any tile or sheet that is of a soft cushion construction or loose lay must be removed.

Existing Ceramic Tile

- Grout lines must be skim coated with a floor leveler. If you install the flooring over an existing floor that has an embossing or grout line on it, we recommend you skim coat with a floor leveler. Check for any dips or humps in the subfloor that can create a void or peak underneath the floor, the acceptable 1/8” in 10’ tolerance. If found, please fill in and level the subfloor with embossing leveler. For high spots, grind down the peak or simply knock them off with a hammer and chisel and fill in the holes.

Radiant Heat

- Subfloors should be operating for at least 3 weeks prior to installation to drive out moisture and calibrate temperature settings. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 80°F. Radiant heat components must be a minimum of 1/2” away from the flooring.

Timeless Designs cannot be held responsible for failure of the subfloor.



Installation

Do not secure individual planks of the flooring to the subfloor as it is designed to be a floating floor. All doorjambes should be undercut and cabinets, heavy furnishings, fireplaces or other built-ins must not be installed on top of flooring, as it restricts the floor's ability to expand. Wall moldings and transition strips should be installed at any exposed plank edges but should not be fastened through the planks.

The maximum room size suggested is limited to 50 linear feet with perimeter expansion space of 5/16". For installations larger than 1,000 square feet or runs longer than 50 linear feet, control joints (T-Mold) must be installed with a minimum of 5/16" gap between the installed molding. **Use T-Molding in doorways less than 32 inches or if the installation changes directions through the doorway.**

1. First, determine the orientation of the flooring in the area. Typically, for plank products, the flooring runs the length of the room. There may be exceptions since it is all a matter of preference.
2. To avoid narrow plank widths or short plank lengths near the walls/doors, it is important to do some pre-planning. Using the width of the room, calculate how many full boards will fit into the area and how much space remains that will need to be covered by partial planks. Divide the remaining space by two to calculate the width of the partial planks. Do the same along the length.
3. Note that if the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge is toward the wall.
4. 5/16" expansion gaps should be planned for and maintained from the wall during the installation. This will allow space for the natural expansion and contraction of the planks.
5. The planks should be installed from left to right. From the top left corner of the room, put the first plank in place so that both the head and side seam grooves are exposed.
6. Begin laying planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. The tongue of the plank should face the starting wall.
7. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous plank at a low angle. Gradually lower the plank down flat until the end joint closes, ensuring that the planks are perfectly aligned. Install remaining full planks in the first row.
8. The last plank in the first row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract ¼" (6.35mm) from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 8" (20cm), the first plank in the row should be cut. The first and last plank in each row should be at least 8" (20cm) in length. Planks are cut using a saw.
9. The remaining piece cut off from the last plank in the first row may serve as the first plank in the second row provided it is at least 8" (20cm) long. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 8" (20mm) apart.
10. Install the long side of the first plank of the second row. Place a ¼" (6.35mm) spacer between the wall and the short side of the plank. Insert the tongue side into the groove side of the plank from the previous row at a low angle and lower flat to the substrate. Remainder of plank from last piece of first row can be used as the first plank of the second row.
11. Install the second plank of the second row. Position the long side of the plank with the tongue side into the groove of the planks in the previous row. It is important to make sure that the first two rows are straight and square as they can affect the entire installation.
12. Install the remaining planks of the 2nd row by first inserting their long edge tongue into the guide plank's long edge groove, but before lowering, ensure it is approximately 3/16" away from the previously installed plank. Connect the **bridge plank** to help align planks during tapping. To connect the planks lightly tap the new plank's short-end groove until it is fully connected to the previous plank. Once connected, joints will be tight and there will not be a gap between planks. Never tap installed planks directly, as this will result in damage, use a tapping block.

Installation, Cont.

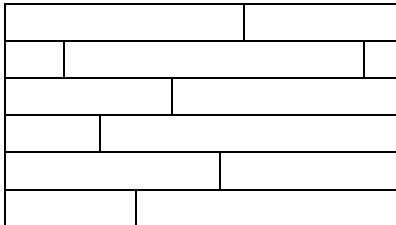
13. Continue working left to right, row by row. Be sure to maintain a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6.35mm) space around all walls and vertical objects. To maintain a random appearance, remember to offset end joints a minimum of 8" (20cm).
14. Transition molding are required every 50 feet in any direction.

Finishing Installation

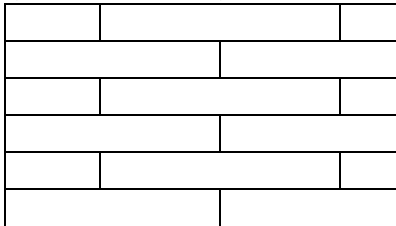
- After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of the room.
- Do not fasten any moldings through the flooring.
- Install quarter round or baseboard molding. Molding should be of sufficient size to cover the $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6.35mm) space and should be fastened to the wall, not the flooring.
- For other moldings, make sure to select plank to match the molding before finalizing installation.

(Stagger End-Joints) to create a random pattern

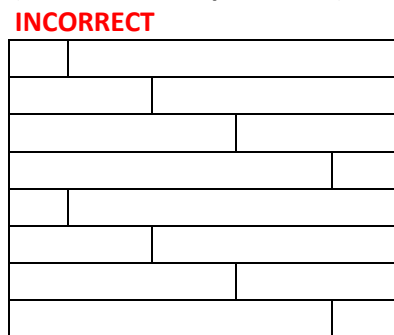
CORRECT



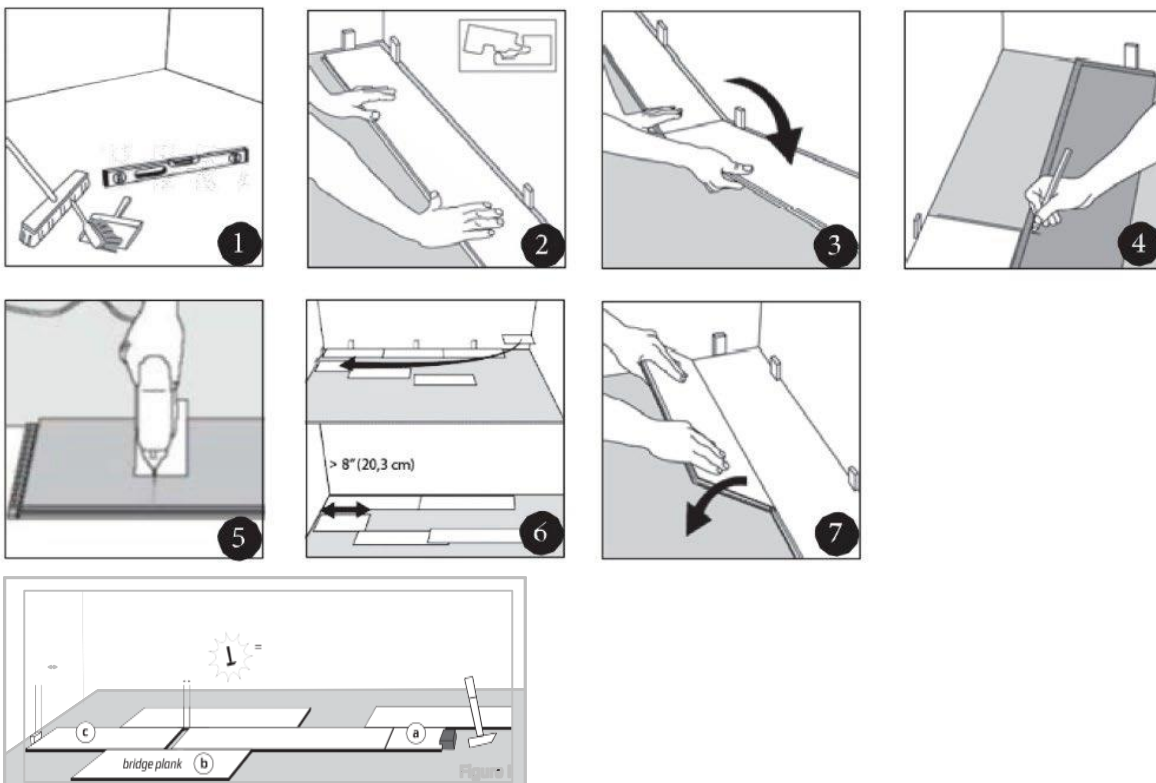
(Avoid "H" Joints) **INCORRECT**



(Avoid Stairs Step Patterns) **INCORRECT**



INSTALLATION STEPS ILLUSTRATIONS





Repairs

In the unlikely event that a plank is damaged for whatever reason, the simplest method is to disconnect the plank carefully (protecting the tongue and groove edges) until the damaged plank can be removed. Then replace the damaged plank with a new one and reassemble the disconnected planks. This typically works for planks that are closest to the two long walls of a room. For damaged planks that are not close to the perimeter, you may have to remove the damaged planks and insert new pieces without the short and long end grooves.

Floor Maintenance and Protection

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Avoid exposure to long periods of direct sunlight. Close blinds or drapes during peak sunlight hours. Floor covering subjected to excessive heat and light is subject to thermal degradation. Use appropriate precautions to minimize potential effects on the floor covering.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile oil drips onto the laminate floor covering.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under caster wheel chairs.
- Frequently moved furniture should be equipped with felt pads to avoid scratching the floor. Heavy furniture and appliances should be equipped with non-staining large surface floor protectors. Furniture with castors or wheels must be easy swiveling, large surface non-staining and suitable for resilient floors. Do NOT use ball type castors as they can damage the floor.
- Use floor protectors under furniture.
- Use walk off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. Do NOT use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- Do NOT use electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Do NOT use harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor. Do NOT use abrasive scrubbing tools. Do NOT use detergents, abrasive cleaners or "mop and shine" products. Do not use steam mops.
- Laminate flooring, like other types of smooth floors, may become slippery when wet. Allow time for floor to dry after cleaning. Immediately wipe up wet areas from spills, foreign substances or wet feet.



WARRANTY

Our guarantee is for replacement or refund of the laminate plank flooring only, not labor. Labor cost will be covered only when professionally installed. It does not cover costs incurred with loss of time, incidental expenses or any other damage from improper installation or maintenance (including side or end gapping), burns, tears, indentations stains or reduction in gloss level due to normal use and/or exterior applications. Gapping, shrinkage, squeaks, fading or structural and sub floor related issues are not covered under this warranty.

Timeless Designs Collection	Residential Limited Warranty
HydroWave	25 Years

LIMITED WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS

The limited Warranty applies only to the original purchaser and the original installation site and is not transferable.

The Limited Warranty does not cover conditions caused by improper use or maintenance, such as:

- Loss of gloss or build-up of dulling film due to lack of maintenance or improper maintenance.
- Damage resulting from failure to follow floor care instructions.
- Scuffs, scratches, cuts, staining from rubber-backed mats, damages or discoloration from carpet dyes, and fertilizer or other chemicals.
- Damage caused by flooding, fires and other accidents.
- Damage caused by abuse (i.e. dragging heavy or sharp objects across the floor without proper protection).
- Damage caused by wheeled chairs, rolling loads, caster wheels or vacuum cleaner beater bars.
- Failure to support furniture with floor protectors made of non-staining felt or non-pigmented hard plastic. Protectors must be of adequate diameter of the object and rest flat on the floor.
- For purposes of the Limited Warranty of Residential Use, "wear through" Means complete loss of the wear layer so that the printed pattern or design of the floor is altered.
- Timeless Designs does not recommend and will not warrant the use of any type of additional underlayment (i.e. pad, foam, rubber...) on any Timeless Designs products that currently have an attached pad.

The Limited Warranty does not cover discoloration or other problems resulting from excessive exposure from heat or sunlight, including side and end joint gapping.

The Limited Warranty does not cover variations of color, shade or texture, which may be different from those shown on samples or photographs.

The limited warranty does not cover discoloration from mold, flooding, leaking plumbing or appliances, leaking water or similar conditions.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LIMITED WARRANTY, MANUFACTURER WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL OR OTHER DAMAGES OF ANY KIND NO MATTER WHAT THE CAUSE.