

NAF LAMINATES

PLEASE READ COMPLETELY BEFORE INSTALLATION

Please inspect product for color, finish, quality, and style BEFORE installing any material. NAF's warranty DOES NOT cover materials with visible defects once they have been installed. Any defects should be reported to the flooring dealer IMMEDIATELY for inspection and/or replacement. Failure to follow recommended installation procedures may void warranty.

ALL PLANKS ONCE INSTALLED ARE CONSIDERED AS ACCEPTED BY THE INSTALLER AND/OR HOMEOWNER AND THE MANUFACTURER ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ABOVE.

TOOLS & ACCESSORIES

- Rubber mallet
- Tapping block
- Tenon saw, hand saw or circular saw
- Electric drill, with a 3/32-inch (2mm) bit
- Square and measuring tape
- Utility Knife
- Pencil
- Underlayment (Float install)
- Moisture Meter
- Chalk line
- Level
- Flooring screws (to solidify sub-floor when installing over wooden sub-floor)
- Safety glasses and dust mask
- Broom and dustpan

TIP: To prevent damaging this flooring, avoid pounding on it with a rubber mallet during installation. Instead, use a tapping block against the edge of the plank.

BEFORE YOU START

PREPARATION

Remove wrapping and lay flooring planks out flat at room temperature for 48-72 hours. HVAC must be running 72 hours prior to installation. Check all panels for defects. Claims cannot be made for planks already laid. Ensure the surface to be covered with planks is clean, smooth and level. Uneven areas must be leveled. Do not install over carpets. Remove carpet along with any residual adhesive material and install on smooth, firm surface. A 'Patch Test' must be performed on concrete sub-floors. If there is any evidence of moisture, the concrete must be treated with an appropriate sealer. **DO NOT** install laminate floor if patch test reveals moisture build up, until concrete is sealed! It is recommended that a moisture barrier (Poly) be placed over all concrete sub-floors to protect against any possible moisture emissions.

MOISTURE BARRIER

To protect planks against moisture from surfaces where moisture is likely to occur, a moisture barrier must first be placed over the base surface. Use 6 mil (0.2mm) polyethylene film. Overlap the edges of the polyethylene by a minimum of 8 inches and seal the junction with moisture proof self-adhesive tape. Use on concrete floors and all floors below grade or other areas where condensation or moisture emissions may occur. Do not install planks in bathrooms, or other rooms exposed to excessive moisture. A moisture barrier should be installed over floors with

radiant heat. Before laying the barrier, turn heat down to 15°C (60°F) one week before. Always keep temperature below 27°C (80°F).

UNDERLAYMENT

Planks must be installed on top of the recommended HUSSSH underlayment. Underlayment seams should not overlap and should be taped with self-adhesive tape. If installing both a moisture barrier and underlayment, place the underlayment ON TOP of the moisture barrier, or use a reliable combination product if preferred.

MEASUREMENTS

Be sure to measure all floor surfaces with the required expansion gaps. Plank tongues are 5mm and must be part of the measurement when considering expansion gap. If preferred, you can cut off the tongue facing the expansion gap on the first row. It is also important measure the room for squareness. If walls are not square, it is recommended that you use the longest, straightest wall as your line of reference, and draw perpendicular lines from it.

***TIP:** Draw your line at a distance from the wall more than width of the laminate plank so it is visible after you position your first row of planks. It is recommended that all installed planks be at least 12 inches (30.5cm) in length.

***TIP:** Measure the length of a row and cut the first plank of the row according to the length desired for the last plank of the row.

DIRECTION OF PANELS

For appearance, planks are normally installed so the length direction of the panels is the same as the length direction of the room. This will also reduce the amount of cutting required.

***Tip:** Draw your line at a distance from the wall more than width of the laminate plank is it is visible after you position your first row of planks. It is recommended that all installed planks be at least 12 inches (30.5cm) in length.

EXPANSION

Because changes in heat and humidity will cause laminate planks to expand and contract in both length and width, expansion spaces must be allowed on all sides of the installed floor. The use of spacers inserted between the planks and perimeter walls is recommended. The spacers should be removed after the planks are installed and before mouldings are attached to the walls. For rooms up to 25 feet (7.6 meters) in width and 40 feet (12.2 meters) in length, allow for expansion between 3/8" and 5/8" (10mm to 16mm) along each wall.

PIPES AND OTHER OBSTACLES

When installing a laminate plank around a pipe or other obstacle, leave the same expansion gap as you would next to a wall.

Measure and precut the affected plank. If there is condensation from the pipe, cut the plank so there is sufficient space to keep the plank dry. It is recommended that you treat the exposed edge of the plank to protect it from pipe condensation.

***Tip:** Fill the space around a pipe with caulking in order to protect the exposed (cut) edge of the plank. For rooms up to 25 feet (7.6 meters) in width and 40 feet (12.2 meters) in length, allow for expansion between 3/8" and 5/8" (10mm to 16mm) along each wall.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

- Measure doors for clearance of installed planks. Cut away doorframe and jambs at bottom if necessary. Remove existing baseboards.

- Surfaces should be clean, smooth, and level. Surfaces with slopes steeper than 3mm over 1m must be leveled.
- Measure the perimeter of the room's squareness, and the required width of the last row of planks. Allow for expansion gaps along each wall.
- Wear protective mask, safety glasses and gloves when sawing panels. Always cut laminate panels with the decor side facing down. An electric circular saw or miter saw with a finishing blade is recommended.
- Tongue and groove panels are easily installed without glue. Simply attach the tongue on one plank to the groove side of the other plank and the planks will lock snugly together.
- Start with the first plank flat on the floor, decor surface up, and the groove side away from the wall.
- Insert the tongue of the second plank partially into the groove on the first, while holding the second plank at about a 20° angle from the floor. Press the second plank down and use a hammering block to lock firmly into place. (Reverse the procedure to release.) Continue in a similar fashion for the remaining panels.

***TIP:** After you have locked a few rows in place, you may find it easier to stand on the installed planks when setting the next row in place. Measure the length of a row and cut the first plank of the row according to the length desired for the last plank of the row.

First Row

- Measure the row before laying the first plank. Cut the first plank according to the length required for the last plank. (See measurements above).

- Measure for straightness and cut the planks to make sure the inner edge of the first-row planks is square before starting second row.

*Tip: Measure the last row for plank width first. Then cut first row planks to the same width as last row. Less than 2 inches is not recommended.

- Position the first-row planks along one wall, leaving space for expansion between planks and the wall.
- Lock the ends of the planks together until the first row is finished.
- For rooms up to 25 feet (7.6 meters) in width with 40 feet (12.2 meters) in length, allow for expansion between 3/8" and 5/8" (10mm to 16mm) along each wall.

*Tip: Measure the length of a row and cut the first plank of the row according to the length desired for the last planks of the row.

Second Row

The first plank of the second row should be long enough so the ends of the second-row planks reach past the end seams of the first-row planks.

***TIP IF THE REMAINING SECTION OF THE LAST PLANK OF THE FIRST ROW IS LONG ENOUGH, USE IT FOR THE FIRST PLANK OF THE SECOND ROW. Line UP THE FIRST PLANK OF THE SECOND ROW SO THE OUTSIDE END IS EVEN WITH THE OUTSIDE END OF THE FIRST PLANK OF THE FIRST ROW. LOCK THE LONG SIDE OF THE SECOND-ROW PLANK ONTO THE PLANK OF THE FIRST ROW. AFTER LOCKING IN PLACE, LAY THE REMAINING PLANKS OF THE ROW BY FIRST LOCKING THE LONG SIDE IN.**

Environment

- Maintain temperature between 65-75° F (18-24 °C) and R.H. at 35-55% for at least 3-5 days before installation, during and maintain after installation. HVAC systems must be operational for at least a week prior.
- Radiant heat systems must be operating at least one week prior to installation. Turn off and let subfloor cool down to room temperature 3-4 hours before installation.
- Ensure basements and crawl spaces are sufficiently ventilated. (1-4% of open venting per 1000/ square feet (92.90 m2) of floor area).
- Insulate overheating and un-insulated heating ducts using a double layer of #15 asphalt felt paper. NAF Laminate floors can be installed on, above and below grade where proper care has been taken to ensure flooring conditions meet installation and warranty requirements.