



Kronotex Click Installation & Care Guide

INSPECTION RESPONSIBILITY / SUB FLOORS

1. INSPECTION RESPONSIBILITY

Laminate flooring from Kronotex is produced in precise working steps in one of the most modern production sites. Half-finished products, as well as finished products, will be constantly and strictly controlled. Despite our strict quality controls, damages on single panels can occur, i.e. transportation damages. Therefore it is required to double-check each panel before and during the installation job.

2. SUB FLOORS

2.1 All sub floors must be prepared for installation in accordance with normal sub floor preparation procedures and accepted tolerances within the flooring industry. Please consider the following points before starting to install your Prestige Floor:

MOISTURE TEST:

The test will be carried out using a CM-device and should not exceed the following moisture level:

For cement-based concrete 2 CM % - heated concrete 1.8 CM %

For anhydrite / anhydrite flowing concrete (calcium sulphite concrete) 0.5 CM % - heated concrete 0.3 CM %

These values apply to concrete floors without additives. With the use of additives and in case of fast-setting concrete, the measurements and limits specified by the respective manufacturer shall apply.

The test material must be obtained from the lower one-third of the concrete floor. During this process, the concrete floor thickness must be measured and documented.

EVENNESS TEST:

Evenness requirements are based on industrial typical standards. Maximum tolerance of 3 mm per / m (1/9" per three ft).

Evenness must be measured using a levelling rule with a length of 250 cm (98").

LOAD CAPACITY:

The sub floor has to be a closed and self supporting surface.

CLEANNESSTEST:

The sub floor has to be in a clean and vacuumed condition.

CLIMATE CONDITION TEST:

The following conditions should be fulfilled before, during and after the installation:

a room temperature of a minimum of 18° C (64° F)

a floor surface temperature of a minimum of 15° C (59° F)

a relative humidity between 40 % and 70 %

2.2 Laminate flooring from Kronotex installed as a floating flooring configuration can be installed on all sub floors which meet the above described requirements. Here are some examples:

all types of concrete sub floors, including hot water radiant sub floor systems

particle board sub floor constructions

fibreboard sub floor constructions

existing flooring surfaces such as PVC, linoleum, natural stone slab, ceramic tiles

UNSUITABLE SUB FLOORS ARE:

textile surfaces i. e. carpets

LIMITED SUITABLE SUB FLOORS ARE:

electrical radiant sub floor heating systems (controlled through the surface temperature)

Basically, an electrical radiant sub floor heating system is an approved sub floor type only if the heating element is installed within the concrete or other sub floors and not installed as a foil heating element on top of the concrete or other sub floors.

Electrical radiant sub floor heating systems installed as a foil heating element may be used only if the manufacturer of the heating element can ensure that the surface temperature never exceeds 28° C (83° F).



ATTENTION! The surface temperature must not exceed 28°C (82°F). Installing a full-surface 0.2 mm (3/32") PE film underneath the insulating layer is mandatory. In case of insulation that is installed separately and not attached to the flooring element as a system-specific or directly laminated silenzio underlay, no guarantee is offered in regards to the effective maximum areal thermal resistance of the finished structure for floating installation on concrete floors with sub-floor heating.

CONCRETE SUB FLOORS

If the laminate flooring system is installed over a concrete sub floor, you have to consider that possible rest moisture in the sub floor will seep to the surface of the sub floor. Based on the previous mentioned reason it is always necessary to install a 0.2 mm (0,008") polyethylene film as a moisture barrier over concrete sub floors, except for mastic asphalt. The film needs to be overlapped by at least 200 mm (8").

CONCRETE WITH HOT WATER RADIANT HEATING SYSTEMS

Depending on the intended use, any floor with a radiant heating system requires planning and coordination of the radiant heating system and concrete floor in order to assure long-term, optimum functionality and integrity. All existing floor surfaces need to be removed prior to the installation of the new laminate flooring. In addition to the standard sub floor tests, it is necessary to provide a certificate that the proper heating up and cooling down phases have been completed. The correct heating up and cooling down of the concrete construction will be required at all seasons of the year.

THE HEATING UP AND COOLING DOWN PHASE

- **Functional heating:** In the event that the sub floor is a cement-based concrete, do not start the heating-up phase before 21 days after the concrete has been installed. In the event that the sub floor is an anhydrite concrete, do not start the heating-up phase before 7 days after the concrete has been installed. **ATTENTION:** Observe the manufacturer's specifications! Start the heating-up phase with a water temperature of 25°C (77°F), which must be held for three days. The water temperature is increased until the maximum water temperature is reached (max. 55°C / 131°F). Hold the maximum water temperature over a period of 4 days without night-time shutoff.
- **Floor curing heating:** In the event that the sub floor is a cement-based concrete, do not start the heating-up phase before 28 days after the concrete has been installed. In the event that the sub floor is an anhydrite concrete, do not start the heating-up phase before 14 days after the concrete has been installed. **ATTENTION:** Observe the manufacturer's specifications!
Day 1 - Start the heating-up phase with a water temperature of 25°C (77°F) and increase it by 10°C (13.5°F) per day.
Day 4 - the maximum water temperature is reached (max. 55°C / 131°F).
Day 5 through 18 - hold the maximum water temperature.
Day 19 - floor curing test - CM measurement (continued heating is required if excessive residual moisture is detected).
Day 19 through 21 - lower the water temperature by 10°C (13.5°F) daily until a water temperature of 25°C (77°F) is reached. Installation of the flooring elements once a surface temperature of 18°C (64°F) is reached for the concrete floor. During and 3 days after installation, hold the temperature specified above. After the end of 3 days, the water temperature can be increased slowly if required.

ATTENTION! The surface temperature must not exceed 28°C (82°F). Installing a full-surface 0.2 mm (3/32") PE film underneath the insulating layer is mandatory. In case of insulation that is installed separately and not attached to the flooring element as a system-specific or directly laminated silenzio underlay, no guarantee is offered in regards to the effective maximum areal thermal resistance of the finished structure for floating installation on concrete floors with sub-floor heating.

NATURAL STONE SLAB AND CERAMIC TILES

Since residual moisture seepage must be expected, installing a moisture barrier in the form of a full-coverage PE film is required before the system-specific insulating layer.

PARTICLE AND FIBREBOARDS

In order to improve impact sound, a system-specific insulating layer is recommended. Do not install a PE film moisture barrier.

HARDWOOD FLOORING BOARDS

Loose floorboards must be properly screwed down if required. In order to improve impact sound, a system-specific insulating layer is recommended. Do not install a PE film moisture barrier. Sufficient ventilation in the sub floor structure must not be impaired. The laminate flooring panels must be installed crosswise to the existing floorboards.



ELASTIC FLOORING SURFACES (PVC, LINOLEUM, VINYL)

With these types of flooring, installing a PE film moisture barrier is not required since the elastic flooring assumes the function of a moisture barrier. In order to improve impact sound, a system-specific insulating layer is recommended.

WET ROOMS

ATTENTION! Prestige laminate flooring is not suitable for installations in wet rooms such as bathrooms, saunas or in similar rooms.

3. INSTALLATION PREPARATIONS

ACCLIMATISATION OF THE PANELS

The laminate flooring has to be brought into the room where it will be installed or in a room with the same climate condition before starting the installation. The acclimatisation will be carried out as following:

in sealed, unopened boxes for a time period of at least 48 hours flat laying with at least 50 cm (20") distance to the walls at a room temperature of at least 18° C (64° F) at a floor surface temperature of a minimum of 15° C (59° F) at a relative humidity between 40 % and 70 %

INSTALLATION DIRECTION

Laminate flooring looks best when installed parallel to the light coming in through the windows. In the event that the sub floor construction consists of hardwood flooring boards or wood strip flooring, you have to install the laminate flooring at 90 degrees to the sub floor boards.

PLANNING THE FIRST ROW

After determining the best layout of the flooring and the starting wall, measure the width of the room and divide it by the width of the laminate flooring panels to determine the number of rows and the width of the last row. If the last row is determined to be less than 5 cm (2") wide, it should be adjusted by cutting the first row lengthwise.

PLANNING OF EXPANSION GAPS

Since Prestige laminate flooring is made of organic materials, it is subject to certain movement behaviours (shrinkage/expansion) due to changes in climate conditions. Right sized expansion gaps to all fixed points will allow the laminate flooring to move in its natural kinesic behaviour. It is required to have expansion gaps of 8 mm to 10 mm (1/3" to 2/5") to all fixing points i.e.

walls, door frames, stairs, around pipes, ...

PLANNING OF TRANSITION MOULDINGS

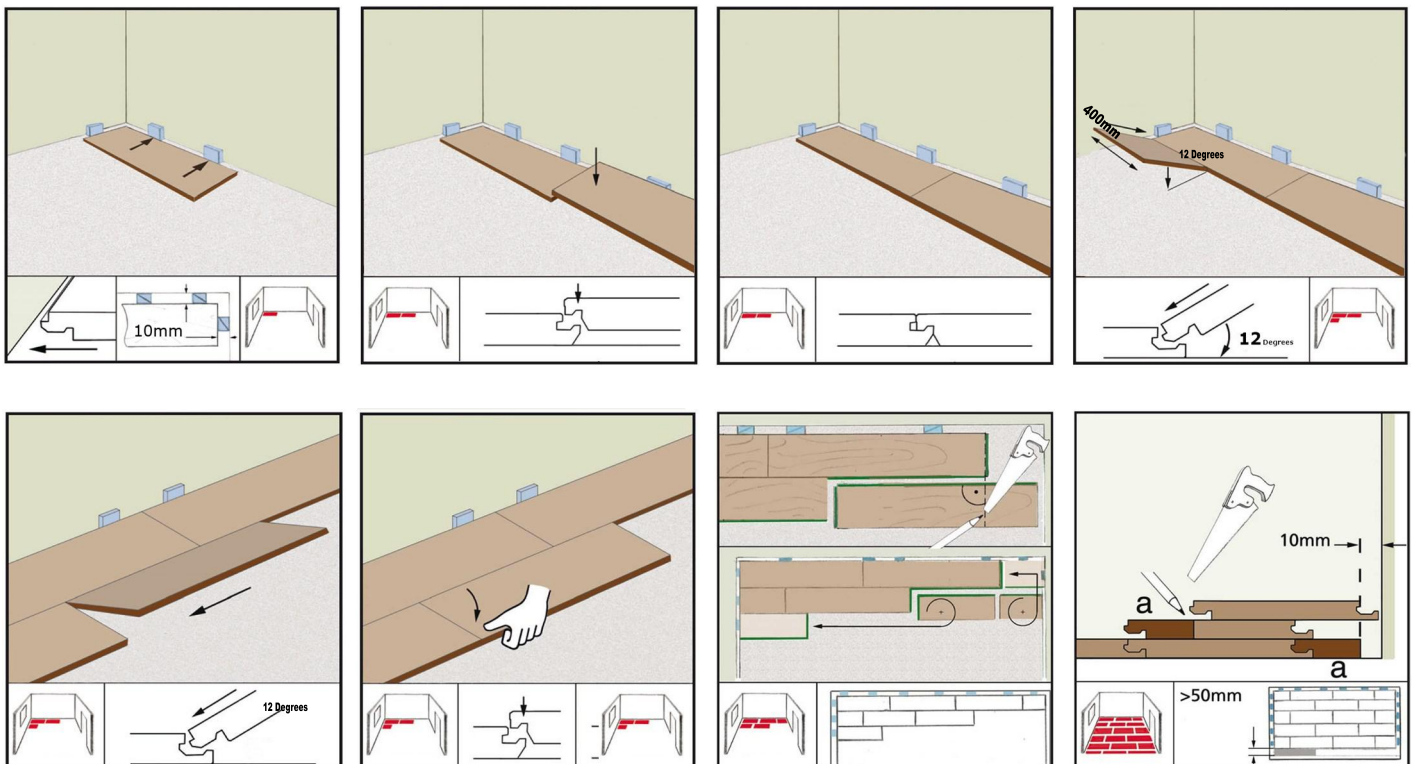
You have to install transition mouldings in the following areas because of the natural kinesic behaviour of laminate flooring: at all door throughways at all passage ways, angular rooms, single room length and/or with more than 10 m (33 ft)



It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure that the location for the fitting of this product is suitable prior to it being installed

4. INSTALLATION

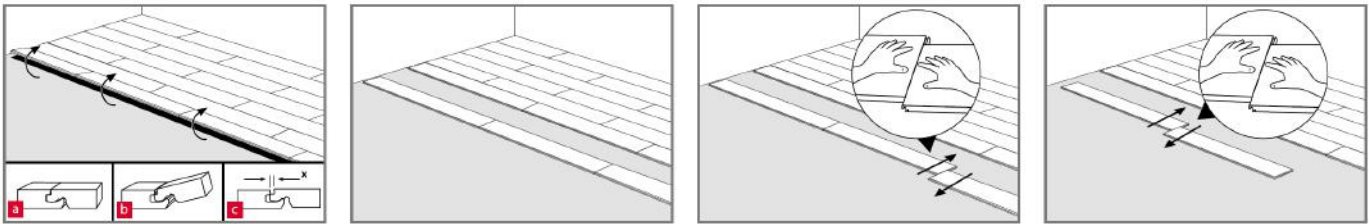
- Check all panels for possible damages/defects. Ensure you understand the difference between the tongue and the groove on the panel (Figure 1/2).
- Start installing the first row in a left-hand corner of the room with both tongue sides of the first panel facing the wall and both grooved sides facing the installer (Figure 1/Figure 2).
- You have to place spacers between the flooring panels and the walls to ensure to have the right expansion gap. (Figure 3).
- Now connect the ends of the panels for the first row by perfectly fitting the tongue into the groove from above and pushing down. Next, fully close the locking mechanism by means of controlled tapping from above using a hammer and tapping block (Figure 4). In order to allow subsequent rows to be added to the long edge without gaps, ensure the long edges of the panels are lined up precisely. Inserting a piece of the flooring as a stop / spacer between the wall and the flooring being installed in the first row, respectively in the area of the end joints, is recommended. After installing the first 3-4 rows, remove these pieces and correctly align the laminate flooring installed so far with all walls, observing the required gaps. The last panel in the first row can be cut to the required length and fitted in place.
- Begin the second row with the remaining piece from the last panel in the first row, assuming it is at least 200 mm long. Slide the tongue on the long edge of the panel into the groove on the long side of the first row by tilting the edge with the tongue down. Then lower the panel until it is lying flat on the sub-floor. (Figure 5)
ATTENTION! Ensure all the short ends are staggered at least 200 mm (8"). If you install panels with a bevelled edge and/or you want to achieve a special pattern (e.g. checker-board with tiles), please make sure that you stagger the short ends according to the bevel and/or your pattern idea.
- To install the second panel of the second row, once again tilt the long edge with the tongue down and slide it into the groove on the long side of the first row. With the panel in this tilted position, slide the panel towards the end of the first panel in the second row until the tongue and groove at the ends of the first and second panels are above each other so they are perfectly fitting. Once again lock the long edges by lowering the panel (Figure 6) and the ends by pushing down and carefully tapping from above using a hammer and tapping block (Figure 7).
- Install all remaining panels for the second row as described above. The last panel is once again cut to length.
- All subsequent rows are always started with the remaining piece from the last panel in the preceding row.
ATTENTION! – the minimum offset for the points where the panels meet from row to row is 200 mm. Ensure the offset and / or pattern repeat is consistent!
- You can continue to lay board after board now. In order to mark the last row of boards for scribing, take the new board and place it exactly on top of the row before last. Using an off cut of a board (element width + edge joint width) it is possible to transfer the wall profile to the board within a pre-chosen distance.





REMOVAL / DISMANTLING OF ELEMENTS

In order to replace installed panels without destroying them, you first have to unlock the entire row by tilting it and then offset the panels at the ends while they are laying flat. Proceed with due care in order to avoid damaging the tongue and groove.



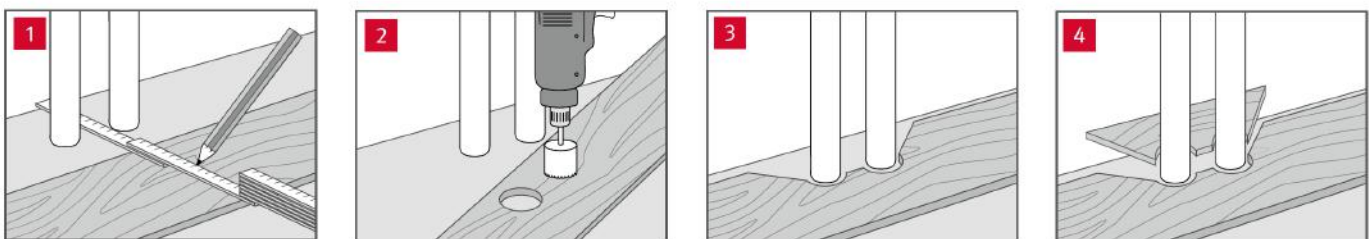
COMMERCIAL AREAS IN CLASSES 31, 32 AND 33



An above-average exposure to moisture must be expected in commercial areas. As a result additional sealing with the system-specific sealing glue is mandatory for such applications. Apply the sealing glue to the long side of the tongue of the new panel to be laid and into the front edge of the groove of the already laid element so that it oozes out on top along the entire seams when the panels are joined. Make sure that there is no gap in the flooring joints under the glue which has oozed out. Excess sealing glue is easy to remove from the surface immediately or after a short drying period.

ATTENTION! Because of the profile geometry make sure that you apply only well-measured doses of glue, in particular along the short side.

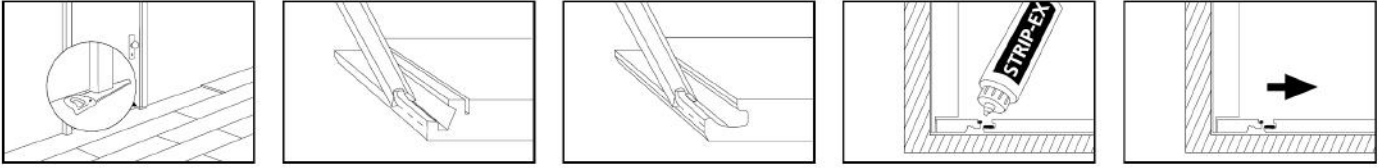
FITTING AROUND PIPES



- Measure the position of the pipes and mark it on the panel (consider also the expansion gap).
- Take into account measurements from the spacers. Drill a hole of 16 mm (5/8") bigger than the pipe diameter - expansion provision.
- Do saw at a 45 degree angle to the holes.
- Apply glue to the sawn out piece and fit in with the pull bar.



DOOR JAMB INSTALLATION



- If you have wooden door jambs, we recommend undercutting them - with the approval of the customer - according to the thickness of the flooring + the underlay.
- Install the flooring now underneath the door jamb – leave the necessary expansion gaps. In the event that your installation job will end underneath a door jamb, we recommend that you remove the locking part of the protruding groove of the pre-installed panel with a utility knife or a pocket plane.
- Also remove the downward-facing section of the tongue on the end or short edge of the panel which is being fitted. Now the panel can be fitted in place lying flat on the floor. In order to do so, the panel must be glued using PVAc glue in the connection area because it will not lock in place.
- If you have a door jamb which cannot be shortened, e.g. a metal door jamb, we recommend that you cover the expansion gaps with mouldings or fill them with elastic acrylic sealants.

TRANSITION AND WALL MOULDINGS

Install the transition moulding as well as wall moulding after the laminate flooring has been installed in a correct way and as described above. In general, the installation instruction for mouldings comes within the accessory packaging.

ATTENTION! With some profile types, the base to accept the cover profile must be installed prior to completing the installation.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR LAMINATE FLOOR

Laminate flooring is one of the toughest and hardest wearing floor coverings and is very simple to care for ensuring it retains its beautiful look, a simple routine of dry mopping, vacuuming and sweeping will keep loose dirt and grit off its surface and prevent scratching from occurring.

Footmarks, dirt and stains can be removed with a thoroughly wrung out mop Never use a wet mop or excessive amounts of water in cleaning laminate floors.

More stubborn stains and marks can be removed with mild solvents with an alcohol content or with acetone nail polish remover Never use abrasive cleaners or scourers when cleaning a laminate floor.

The use of mats covering entrances from outside areas will prevent one of the biggest causes of surface scratches when dirt and grit is brought in underneath footwear.

Always lift furniture items they should never be dragged on laminate floors and the use of felt pads placed underneath will prevent surface damage during smaller movements and daily use at the point of contact with the floors surface.

- Never use a wet mop or large amounts of water during cleaning
- Never use abrasive cleaners or scourers
- Never use wax's or floor polishes during cleaning
- Do use drip trays underneath pot plants
- Do use mats in high traffic areas and at the entrances to your laminate floor
- Do use soap free cleaners during regular cleaning
- Do remove any spills as soon as they occur
- Minor damages can be repaired with touch in kits to suit the colour of the floor

Spending a small amount of time looking after your new laminate floor will ensure that it continues to look at its best and provide you with many years of carefree use without the need of costly maintenance and repairs.