

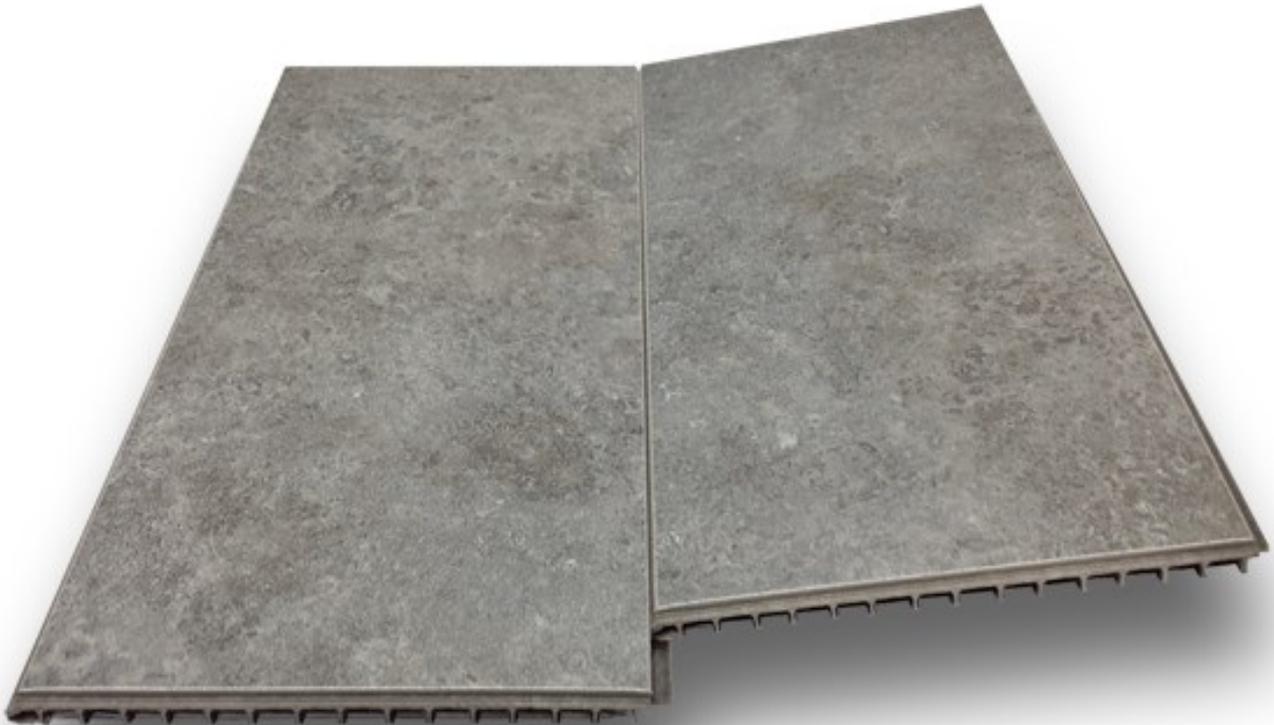


FACTORY DIRECT
— FLOORING —

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT YOUR FLOORING

PLEASE READ BEFORE INSTALLING

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE FOR AQUASTEP FLOORING



ACCLIMATIZATION AND STORAGE

Your new flooring has to be acclimatized for 48 hours before installation begins. The flooring must remain in its packaging stored horizontal in the room which it is to be installed into. Please Note the room must be between 18° and 24°, heat sources or other direct radiant heat exceeding 50° are not allowed.

SUBFLOOR

It is of the utmost importance that the subfloor is dry, clean, solid and flat. You can find appropriate electronic moisture meters in DIY stores, The subfloor must be flat and the flatness tolerances must be observed. The installer must always and in particular with renovation work check the current status of the subfloor, if it does not meet the requirements stated here extra work will need to be carried out to level the subfloor out, to determine the flatness of your floor apply these tolerances over 1m length the floor must not be more than 3mm difference and over 2m that rises to 4mm.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

We recommend that only water based underfloor heating systems be used with Aquastep flooring in conjunction with appropriate Underlay, with a temperature not exceeding 28°C and an average running of 20°C. The heating must be turned off 48hrs prior to installation and once the flooring has been installed turned on with an increase in working temperature of 5°C per day until normal operating temperature has been reached.

TOOLS

Having the correct tools and equipment and understanding of how to use them safely is key to a successful installation, in conjunction with some standard hand tools Hammer, Hand Saw, Square, tape measure, screw driver you may wish to use power tools such as a chop saw, jigsaw or cordless screwdriver to speed you along, paying attention when cutting with power tools to observe the blade cutting direction and place the plank accordingly to prevent breakout on the finished surface.

EXPANSION

Depending on the climate conditions your flooring **will** expand or contract, it therefore needs to be kept a suitable distance away from any fixed structures such as walls, supports, door frames, radiator pipes etc, this is called the expansion gap. This gap should be a minimum of 10mm when using solid or engineered floors a gap of 8mm can be allowed on Laminate in smaller areas on each edge of the floor, larger areas the gap will need to be increased. As a guide each linear meter of flooring fitted requires a 2mm gap either side of the floor, e.g. a 6m run will require an expansion gap of 12mm each side of the floor. Larger areas such as angular areas or installations that cover more than one room will require additional clearance, these gaps can be hidden by using expansion profiles or a scotia bead, for areas over 6m x 10m please call for further assistance.

PLEASE NOTE

- As your floor is a natural product, structure and colours in wood may vary. That is why we recommend mixing floor boards coming from different packages when installing your floor.
- All flooring will **CHIP, DENT** and **SCRATCH** unless care is taken to **PROTECT** it, **FELT PADS** should be used on all moveable furniture. Matting at room entrances will greatly reduce grit and dirt from being transferred onto your flooring
- Liability for the installation remains with the installer following the fitting instructions and guides supplied

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

Aquastep Uniclic installation Instructions

The revolutionary Uniclic system for installing Aquastep waterproof flooring means the planks are clicked together simply and quickly and because of the tongue and groove shape can be installed in two different ways:-

Method A: Position the plank to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed, move the panel up and down while exerting forwards pressure until the panel locks into place, you can either insert the tongue into the groove or the groove into the tongue. **TIP:** most installers choose the tongue into the groove this is the most common and easiest method of installation.

Method B: The planks can also tap into each other without lifting, for this method to work you must use a suitable tapping block for this click system, don't try and make the joint with a single tap, to avoid damage to the planks you must tap them together gently.



Focus points

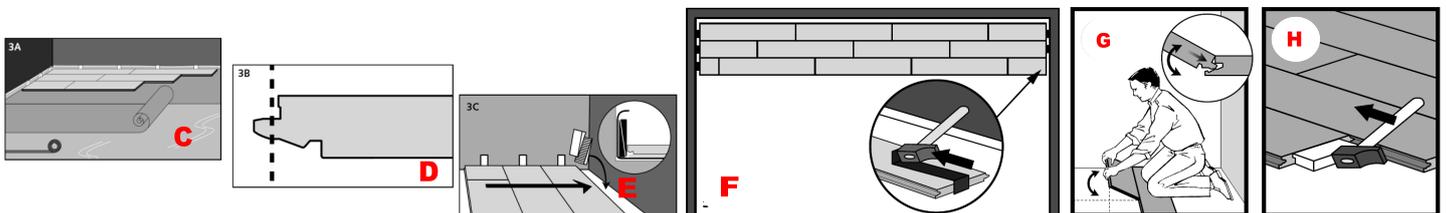
This floor floats on and underlay and without glue, you can walk on your floor during and immediately after the installation

With this click system you can choose where you want to begin and we will demonstrate the installation for right handed people from left to right, but you can work in the opposite direction if you wish.

Always work out of more than one box, visually check each plank before its install

Installing the Floor

First install the underlay one width at a time making sure of the suitability for you sub floor type (C), begin your first row with a whole plank first remove the tongue from the length and short sides (D). Put the plank with the sawn off sides against the wall use spacers to maintain an expansion gap approx 10mm (E). The planks are laid left to right when the last plank has been cut in the row allowing for expansion, the waste piece if greater than 150mm in length can return to be used as the starter of the next row (F) maintaining a stagger between planks



Images (G) (H) show where to use the two types of installation method, were it is not possible to use a tapping block (H) at the end of the row for instance a pull bar will be needed (F) .

Finishing

Once your floor is complete remove your spacers, this will allow for either new Aquastep skirting board or Aquastep beading to be installed over the expansion gap, never fix beading beading to the floor but to the wall this will allow the floor to expand and contract under it. When installing your floor around pipe work always remember to allow the same expansion gap this can be covered with the use of rosettes or caulking.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR LAMINATE FLOOR

Aquastep 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 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 detergent and water leaving your floor clean and hygienic, always check suitability of cleaning products and their suitability for use with Laminate flooring.

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 floor's surface.

- Never use abrasive cleaners or scourers
- Never use wax's or floor polishes during cleaning
- Do use Mop and water for 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.