

# LAMINATE INSTALLATION

## How to measure

It is important to include an extra 10% when ordering your packs of laminate flooring for trimming etc. Packs sizes can vary so use the example below to calculate how many packs you need.

Room length = A  
Room width = B

Square metre = C (A x B)  
Pack size = D

$C \div D = E$   
E multiply by 1.1 = number of packs required

**E  
X  
A  
M  
P  
L  
E**

Room length = A - 3.2 metres  
Room width = B - 4.6 metres

Square metre = C (A x B) - 3.2 x 4.6 = 14.72  
Pack size D = 1.74 square metres

$C \div D = E$  - 14.72  $\div$  1.74 = 8.5  
E multiply by 1.1 = number of packs required 8.5 x 1.1 = 9.35 (10 PACKS)

Before you start place the flooring packs unopened in the room which they are to be installed to acclimatise for 48 hours. It is important to examine the colour and structure of the planks and to arrange them to ensure you have an even pattern. It is also advisable to open a few packs at a time to mix planks from each pack as they are installed.

All floors must be structurally sound, dry and flat (no more than a 2mm deviation over a 1m distance). The surface should be free of all contaminants and loose material. Please be sure to leave a 10mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room and at every doorway and around any pipe work. This gap can be hidden using scotias or skirting boards, and remember to fix to the wall not the flooring.

The planks should be fitted lengthways towards the main incoming light source and, where possible down the length of the room/s. If the room is wider or longer than 8m, you should split the installation into two parts by using an expansion gap. This can be hidden using a T-bar moulding.

Always select and use a suitable underlay if you are fitting on a solid sub-floor (e.g. concrete) you must also use a damp proof membrane. Remove soft laid floor coverings e.g. carpet and vinyl. This flooring must be laid as a floating floor and not glued or fixed down.

Laminate is available with 2 types of click fitting systems.

Angle / angle click fitting or Push click fitting, (also referred to as drop lock or G5 fitting).

### Tools for the job

Spacer wedges, pencil, ruler, tape measure, underlay, damp proof membrane (if required) handsaw or jigsaw

### Step 1

Start by laying the first board in a left hand corner over the underlay, the end with the short tongue against the wall. Put expansion spacers against the end of the board and at intervals along the wall, including the point where the boards join together.

### Step 2

Lay the next board end on and put its short tongue into the long tongue of the first board at a 25° angle. Then lower the board and lock it into place. Carry on to the end of the row, where you'll most likely need to cut a board to fit.

### Step 3

To measure the last board, turn it 180° and lay it next to the previous one - putting an expansion spacer against the skirting. Next use a ruler and pencil to draw a line across the board, level with the end of the previous one. Cut the board and position in place.

### Step 4

To start the next row, use the off cut from the previous row or use a new board cut in half to achieve a staggered effect. Angle the board against the first board of the previous row, with the cut end against the wall. Press forward and down to lock it in place. If you are installing angle/angle click laminate flooring each new board should be fitting by angling the long and short sides of the boards. It is easier with a helper to lift the entire row to an angle of roughly 30° to connect to the previous row at the same time. Installing push click fitting only requires angling the boards on the long sides. The short sides are simply pushed down into the previous board. Repeat for each row until you reach the other side of the room.

### Step 5

To cut the boards to fit the last row, position them one at a time directly over the previous row in the direction you'll be laying them. Then line up a third board on top, with its tongue touching the skirting. Use the edge of this board to mark the cutting line with a pencil on the board beneath. Cut the board and fit into place. For fitting around door frames, lay a board on a piece of underlay beside the door frame. Then place a panel saw flat on the board and cut through the bottom of the architrave. Use a wood chisel to remove the waste piece of wood and place the board to achieve a professional finish.

### Step 6

Once the floor is laid, you can remove all spaces and cover the gap around the room by replacing the skirting board or with a flooring trim. This should be fixed to the skirting/wall not the floor.

## CARE GUIDE

Most laminate flooring is splash resistant and is suitable for all rooms except bathrooms and wetrooms. It is not moisture proof and all spillages must be wiped up immediately. Water must never be left to stand on the floor for any length of time.

Laminate flooring can expand and contract in response to climate changes, expansion gaps of 10mm must be left around the perimeter of the room, at all doorways and around all fixed objects such as stairs, heating pipes etc.

The planks will change shade over time as a reaction to exposure to sunlight and this is perfectly normal. It is recommended that you occasionally relocate rugs and furniture once installed to ensure even shading.

To extend the life of and to protect your floor, you must always use felt pads under chairs and furniture (a plastic mat should be used with office chairs on wheels). Rubber based castor cups are recommended for heavy load furniture such as armchairs and pianos. Be aware under some circumstances some types of shoes, pets, and children's toys etc., may cause additional wear and tear. Ensure doormats are used on the inside and outside of all external doorways to prevent grit from being carried across the floor protecting the surface from excessive wear and tear.

For regular cleaning a damp cloth is advised, cloths should be wrung out until no more drips are present before wiping the floor. To remove surface dust use a brush or vacuum cleaner with a soft brush. Tough stains can be removed with a floor cleaner, white spirit or acetone. Avoid using excessive water as this will damage your flooring. Always clear up spillages immediately.

We strongly **do not** recommend using steam cleaners on laminate flooring