



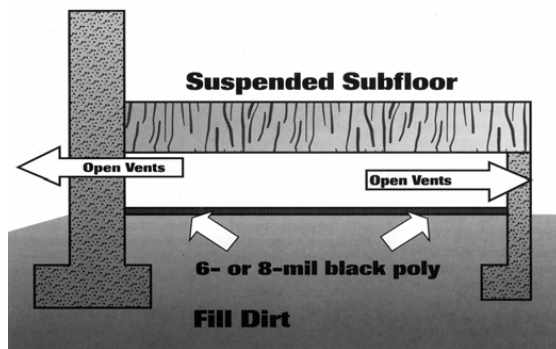
## Floating Click Installation Instructions

### \*For use with laminate floors only\*

*Inspect the job site carefully before you begin the installation. Some conditions require specific installation methods. A level, flat, clean, dry, and firm subfloor is always necessary. All L.W. Mountain, Inc. products are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards. If the material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately.*

### Climate and Pre-installation Procedures

- Material should be stored on the job site in rooms where installation is to occur.
- Garages and exterior patios are not suitable for storing laminate flooring.
- DO NOT remove the product from the cartons.
- DO NOT open just the ends of the cartons.
- HVAC systems MUST be installed and operating before the flooring is delivered to the jobsite.
- All concrete, masonry, framing members, drywall, paint, and other “wet” work should be thoroughly dry.
- Exterior Grading should be complete with surface drainage offering a minimum drop of 3’ in 10’.
- Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 24” from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of 6-8 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier with joints lapped six inches and taped. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to 1.5% of the crawl space square footage.



**CAUTION: Do not install LWM Laminate flooring over carpet. This product is not suitable for any outside use, solariums, sauna, or rooms that have the potential of flooding. We also highly recommend you do not install in rooms or homes that are not temperature controlled.**

Make sure the room environment is set at a normal living range 55 – 80 degrees and 35 – 55% humidity. **Normal living conditions** should be achieved and maintained a minimum of fourteen days before flooring is brought into the living area for acclimation purposes. It should be maintained during and after the installation as well. If flooring is delivered at a moisture content or temperature that

coincides with the expected in-use (e.g., normal living) conditions of the facility, and these conditions are maintained, no on-site acclimation is required. Variance between subfloor and laminate flooring may not exceed 2%.

The customer is responsible for maintaining normal humidity conditions (35-55%) within the home throughout the year. L.W. Mountain, Inc. is not responsible for environmental conditions that cause excessive expansion and contraction.

### **Subfloor Information**

- **All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor covering, resulting in an unsightly surface and may cause excessive wear on high spots. Subfloor must be flat- 1/8" in 6' or 3/16" in 10'.**
- **Carpet staples or adhesive residue must be removed to ensure proper installation.**
- **Any unevenness over 1/8" (3 mm) must be sanded down or filled with a floor leveler. Voids or humps in the subfloor will prevent the locking mechanism from locking properly.**
- **All subfloors must be tested at the time of installation to confirm appropriate conditions prior to the installation of flooring. Testing wood and concrete subfloors requires the use of meters, devices, and testing materials specific to either wood or concrete subfloors. The use of meters or devices that are not specifically designed for the subfloor in question are unacceptable.**
- **Surface temperatures must be 55°-85°F and 10° above ambient Dew Point.**
- **Ambient conditions must be between 55°-85°F and 35-65% RH (relative humidity).**
- **Acceptable concrete testing options:**
  1. **ASTM F2659- A meter calibrated for concrete qualified by gravimetric testing must be used. Moisture Content must be less than or equal to 4.0% MC.**
  2. **ASTM F1869- Calcium Chloride testing to determine moisture vapor emissions. (MVER) less than 5 lb/24 hr per 1000 sq.ft.**
  3. **ASTM F2170- In-situ probe testing to confirm the Relative Humidity (RH) is less than 80%.**

### **Wood Subfloors:**

1. **Do not install Laminate Planks over wood subfloors which lay directly on concrete or over sleeper constructions.**
2. **All wood and wood composition panels are suitable for use under Laminate Planks providing that they are smooth, flat, structurally sound, and free of deflection. The panels include plywood, oriented strand board (OSB), flake board and wafer board.**
3. **Moisture Content of wood subfloors must be between 6-12% MC.**
4. **Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil. polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18" and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.**

***Do not install Laminate Planks over wood subfloors which lay directly on concrete or over sleeper constructions.***

### **Concrete Subfloors:**

1. **The concrete subfloor must be dry, smooth, and free from dust, solvent, paint, wax, grease, oil, and any other extraneous materials. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.**
2. **New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry (at least six weeks) and completely cured. The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer. Excessive subfloor moisture is an ideal breeding ground for moldiness, mildew, and fungus. The limited warranty does not cover**

discoloration from mold or from any kind of water damage caused by flooding, leaking or similar conditions.

3. Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a latex underlayment and troweled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
4. Concrete floors with in-floor radiant heating systems are allowed, provided the temperature of the floor never exceeds 85°F or 29°C. Before installing the flooring, the heating system must be turned on to eliminate residual moisture.
5. A 6 mil. plastic moisture barrier **MUST** be laid over entire subfloor before any other underlayments. Overlap plastic seams 8 inches.

## Existing Flooring

1. Sheet vinyl or resilient tile as long as it is installed over one of the preferred subfloors.

**WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.**

*These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to [www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com)*

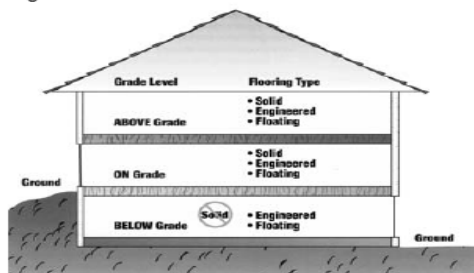
5. Ceramic tiles should be made smooth by applying a cementitious overlay such as patching or levelling compound.
6. In-floor Radiant Heat: With radiant heat, the heat source is directly beneath the flooring, so flooring may gain moisture or dry out faster than in a home with conventional heating system. For this installation, once slab has cured, turn heat on, regardless of season, and leave it on for at least 5-6 days before installation. Maximum surface temperature should never be more than 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius).
7. **NEVER** install a floating floor over another floating floor or as noted before over wood subfloors which lay directly on concrete or over sleeper constructions.

## Subfloor Preparation

- a. Subfloors must be cleaned. This can be scraping or sanding the floor to remove all foreign materials.
- b. Subfloors must be flat. 3/16 inch in 10 feet. Sand all seams and high spots.
- c. Subfloors must be free of loose areas and squeaks before installation can start. Renail or screw down sections that are loose or squeak. Replace any subfloor that is damaged.
- d. The subfloor must be dry before you begin your installation.

## Grades and Floors

Figure 1-2 Grade Levels



If the soil surrounding a structure is 3 inches or more above the floor of any level, consider that level below grade. This includes walk-out basements. In addition, the surrounding soil should be sloped away from the structure.

Above Grade- Laminate floors can be installed.

On Grade- Laminate floors can be installed. L.W. Mountain, Inc. requires a 6 mil. plastic be installed on concrete slabs.

Below Grade- Laminate floors can be installed. L.W. Mountain, Inc. requires a 6 mil. plastic be installed on concrete slabs.

# INSTALLATION

## Important Notice

*The installer is the final inspector of this product. If the installer is not sure whether or not the floor's milling or grading is acceptable, work should stop immediately, and a call should be made to the person that sold the floor.*

### Floating – Click Joint Method

Maximum room dimensions for **laminat**e floating floors are **25ft.** across the boards or **40 ft.** lengthwise. Floors exceeding either of these dimensions require use of “T-Molding”. “T-Molding” should be installed in any doorway connecting to larger areas of flooring. A minimum of one butt seam is required in every other row, regardless of width (e.g., hallways).

**Never attach any permanent object through the flooring, affixing it to the subfloor. Never install cabinets on top of floating floors. A floating floor must be free to expand and contract in all directions.**

*NOTE: LWM Laminate with pre-attached backing does not require additional underlayment.*

#### Step 1

If installing over concrete, a 6 mil. plastic moisture barrier **MUST** be laid over entire subfloor before any other underlayments. Overlap plastic seams 8 inches.

#### Step 2

Begin installation from the longest straightest wall, usually an outside wall. *Lay out approved laminate underlayment if there is none pre-attached to the laminate. A high density (1.2 mm thick or less) pad is ideal.* Start in the corner and lay first row, with tongue ends and sides toward wall. Proper expansion space can be achieved by pulling floor away from wall once first three rows have been installed. Use spacers to maintain a proper expansion space of ½ inch.

#### Step 3

Engage tongue of next board into groove of previous board by holding it against the first board at approx. 45° angle and laying it flat on the floor. Continue in this manner for entire first row.

#### Step 4

Cut end board in first row to correct length and start second row with left-over piece (if possible). End joints should be staggered by at least twice the width of the plank. Butt seam must be placed in each row regardless of width, e.g., hallways. **Do not use stair step spacing. Avoid End-Joint line up & H joints.** See Figure A-1

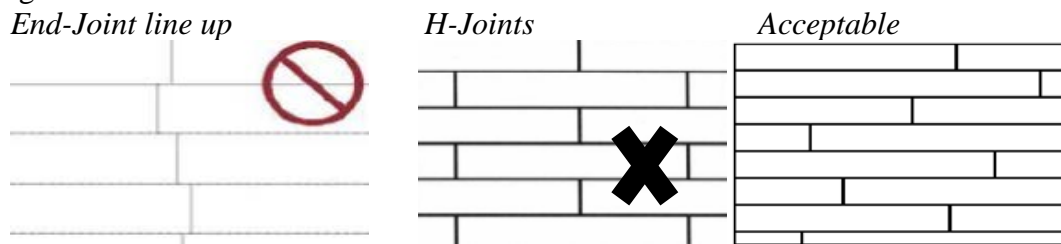


Figure A-1

#### Step 5

Engage tongue of next board into groove of previous boards by holding the board at approx. 45° angle to the previous boards. Press forward to engage joint and lay flat on floor.

#### Step 6

Engage short end of new board. Lay flat, keeping long side in line with groove of adjacent board.

#### Step 7

Using tapping block, carefully tap long edges together until they are closed. **DO NOT** tap too hard or over-engage. **Never** tap directly against wear layer. Continue this process until you reach the end wall.

#### Step 8

Cut last board to correct width. Place last board on top of second-to-last board. Mark board with help of piece of board without locking edge. Use floor pull bar and mallet to click the long side of planks.

**NOTE:** If boards cannot be easily angled under door frame (or similar), do the following: cut away locking edge, then apply Floating Floor Adhesive and install board.

Remember that all walls and other vertical structures in the room must have a ½ inch expansion space left between it and the floor. If your drywall stops at least ¾” above the floor, the thickness of the drywall can be considered part of the ½ inch expansion space requirement.

- Once the floor has been completed the base and the quarter round can be reinstalled into the room. This will cover the expansion gaps left between the wall and the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor using a soft brush attachment.
- Finish by cleaning the floor with an approved hardwood floor **cleaner**.
- Enjoy your new hard wood floor.

## **TRIMS & TRANSITIONS**

There is a variety of trims and transitions to accent a floor by covering expansion gaps or transitioning from one flooring surface to another. Before completing your floor, it is important to know what trim pieces you will need for your floor.



- T-Mold- The molding is used mostly between tiled surfaces and wood floors. Also used for connecting to existing wood floors.
- Overlap Reducer- Used with floors to other floor coverings with lower vertical heights. Also used to transition to carpet.
- Overlap Stairnose- Used to transition for step down and staircases.
- Quarter Round- Used to cover expansion around walls next to base boards.

*Moldings must always be glued or nailed to the wall or subfloor, never to the laminate flooring.*

## **Additional Information**

### Waste Factor

Additional square footage ordered for an installation is commonly referred to as a waste factor. During installation, boards are cut to specifically fit your floor. In addition, some boards may not be suitable for installation because of milling or color preferences which means it becomes waste. Finally, unfortunate damage during the life of your floor may call for replacing a board, and having spare flooring from the same stock can help to keep your floor’s appearance. The standard in the flooring industry is to order five - ten percent of additional flooring to cover cuts and other waste.

## **POST INSTALLATION**

***\*DO NOT INSTALL CABINETS ON TOP OF ANY FLOATING FLOOR. IT WILL INHIBIT THE EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION OF THE FLOOR.***

**\*\*L.W. Mountain, Inc. does not recommend covering the flooring for any extended period. If covering is needed to protect the flooring from additional work, it should be immediately uncovered after the work is performed. Covering the flooring can give other trades the perception that no damage will occur no matter what they do. In addition, foreign matter between the flooring and the cover can cause abrasions to the surface.**

***This is especially true in NEW home construction. Covering a newly installed floor over a recently poured concrete basement with fresh paint and drywall can cause moisture to be trapped under the covering and causing major damage to the new flooring.***