



# WATERPROOF LAMINATE PLANKS

12mm • AC5 • DROP LOCK SYSTEM

## PLEASE READ COMPLETELY BEFORE INSTALLATION

Congratulations on the purchase of your new NAF laminate floor. Please read and follow this set of instructions to ensure that your floor is installed correctly. Please contact your flooring dealer prior to installation if you have any questions or concerns. Failure to do so will void your warranty. NAF suggests that your floor be installed by an experienced flooring professional who is familiar with industry accepted standards and technical guidelines as published by the NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association). If not installed by a credible flooring professional, the owner assumes any risk of issues arising due to improper installation, and/or any issues arising from improper pre/post installation inspections. For further information, please see [www.nwfa.org/cp-about.aspx](http://www.nwfa.org/cp-about.aspx). The beauty of NAF Laminate flooring is the realistic wood pattern with high variation which includes light and dark shades or multiple color mixes in the same box, providing visual interest in your floor. It is very important to open all the boxes before installing and lay out the planks to see how the colors will line up. You want to avoid having two similar-looking planks installed next to each other.

### PREPARATION

Please add at least 10%-15% to your total square footage calculation to allow for cutting & waste. Flooring must be cut to fit around obstacles such as but not limited to: Stair-cases, wall contours, pipes, etc.

### TOOLS & ACCESSORIES

- Tapping Block
- Tenon saw, hand saw, or circular saw
- Electric drill with a 3/32-inch (2mm) bit
- Measuring tape and square
- Safety Glasses and Dust Mask
- Flooring Screws (to solidify sub-floor when installing over wooden sub-floor)
- Laminate flooring surface cleaner
- Utility Knife
- Moisture Meter
- Chalk Line
- Level
- Underlayment (Float install)
- Pencil
- Vacuum
- Spacers

\*NAF does not recommend using a rubber mallet during installation because it will leave abrasive marks and damage the edges of the planks. Use a tapping block against the edge of the plank to avoid damages.

### TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & ACCLIMATION

Avoid transporting your flooring products in wet or humid conditions. Handle and unload flooring products with care. Do not deliver flooring to the jobsite or install flooring until appropriate and consistent temperature and humidity conditions have been achieved. Garages and exterior patios, are not acceptable areas to store your flooring. Remove wrapping and store in a dry and well-ventilated enclosed area, making sure to allow adequate space for air to flow freely around stacked boxes. Ensure basements and crawl spaces are ventilated, there should be at least 1-4% of open venting per 1000 per square feet (92.90 m2) of floor area. The flooring needs to acclimate to the appropriate indoor temperature and humidity conditions for at least 48-72 hours prior to installation. HVAC and any radiant heat system must be operating a week prior to installation. Turn off radiant heat and let subfloor cool down to room temperature 3-4 hours before installation. Seasonal gapping of your laminate floor should be expected with radiant heat installation. NAF's product warranty will not cover any improper installation over radiant heat system.

\*Appropriate temperature and humidity conditions are defined as the normal conditions to be experienced in the building once occupied. If it is not possible for the permanent HVAC system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that replicates normal temperature and humidity conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent HVAC is operating. NAF recommends maintaining 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.

### JOB SITE AND INSTALLATION SURFACE

It is the responsibility of the owner and/or installer to thoroughly inspect and evaluate the jobsite for potential problems before wood flooring is delivered and installation begins. Insufficient subfloor preparation will hinder the performance of your laminate floor.

- Subfloors (either wood or concrete) must be free of debris, completely dry, level, and structurally sound. Ensure the surface to be covered is level within a 3/16" in 10' range (5mm in 3m) or 1/8" in 6' range (3mm in 2m). Uneven areas must be leveled prior to installation.
- Do not install over carpets. Completely remove carpet along with any residual adhesive material and install on smooth, firm surface.

### MOISTURE

- The moisture level of the subfloor has a direct effect on how much your flooring will expand/contract after installation causing the floor to swell, warp, and buckle. Determine the moisture levels using a moisture meter. Test the subfloor for moisture at several locations in the room — a minimum of 20 per 1,000 square feet — and average the results. A high reading in one area indicates a problem that must be investigated and corrected prior to installing your floor.
- Moisture on concrete subfloor needs to be treated with an appropriate sealer, such as a chemical retarder or urethane membrane. DO NOT install laminate floor over any moisture build up, until concrete subfloor is sealed!
- To protect planks against moisture from surfaces where moisture is likely to occur, a moisture barrier must first be placed over the base surface. A minimum 6 mil construction grade polyethylene film, with perm of .13, or other impermeable material with a perm of .15 or less is recommended. 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).

### INSPECTING PLANKS

It is the installer or owner's responsibility to ensure that each plank is carefully inspected BEFORE installing any material. If the floor does not meet the homeowner/installer's expectations and/or is not acceptable for installation, STOP and please contact your flooring dealer BEFORE beginning installation for inspection and/or replacement of product.

NAF's product warranty does not cover any claims for flooring related to incorrect color, style, quality, collection, type, visible defects or damages once installed. No replacement or refunds will be offered or issued once it has been installed.

### UNDERLAYMENT

To ensure optimal acoustic and stable performances, all flooring installations require HUSSSHITM underlay. Run the HUSSSHITM underlay in the same direction as the flooring panels. Underlay seams should be side-by-side with no overlap. Tape seams together with self-adhesive tape. If you are installing both a moisture barrier and underlayment, place the underlayment ON TOP of the moisture barrier.

### MEASUREMENTS

Please note, that the maximum run length is 36' in either direction or an area of 4' x9' planks. Installation exceeding this size will require a transition piece. Matching T-molding, Reducer, and Stairnose (Overlap or Flush) are available for purchase, please contact your flooring dealer.

Plank tongues are 5mm and must be included in the measurement when considering expansion gap. You will need to remove the tongue on the sides of the panels facing the expansion gap on the first row, against the wall. This is to ensure that the decorative surface of the flooring is under the finished trim. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off.

### 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. Choose a starting wall according to the most architecturally important elements in the room, such as any fireplaces, doors, cabinets etc. The starting wall will often be the longest unbroken wall in the room. 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. Check the line against the wall on one side of the adjoining room of the walls weren't square, try to adjust the line to compensate for the out-of-square walls.

### EXPANSION

Changes in heat and humidity will cause flooring planks to expand and contract in both length and width, expansion spaces must be left around the perimeter and at all vertical such as cabinets, partitions, posts, and door jambs. You will also need to use transition strips in doorways and between rooms. Failure to do so may cause the planks to buckle or gap. The use of spacers inserted between the planks and perimeter walls is recommended. Do not use spacers that may cause damage on factory-finished products. For rooms up to 25 feet (7.6 meters) in width and 40 feet (12.2 meters) in length, allow for about a 1/2-3/4" or 12-19mm expansion space along each wall. When installing flooring planks around pipes or other obstacles, leave the same expansion gap as you would next to a wall. 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 or fill the space around the pipe with caulking to protect it from condensation. Always 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.



EASY TO INSTALL



WATERPROOF



PET PROOF



SCRATCH RESISTANT



REDUCES NOISE





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## INSTALLING THE FIRST TWO ROWS

The first two rows of your flooring sequence are critical to ensuring proper alignment and stability to your entire installation.

### FIRST ROW

1. Measure the row before laying the first plank. Cut the first plank according to the length required for the last plank. It is recommended that all installed planks be at least 12 inches (30.5cm) in length.
2. Lay one row of strip or plank along the entire length of the starting wall. 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 tapping block to lock firmly into place. (Reverse the procedure to release.) Continue in a similar fashion for the remaining panels. Ensure that all edges are carefully lined up. Your NAF Laminate flooring features drop down click technology, so you can have confidence in its exceptional stability and strength.
3. Measure for straightness and cut the planks to make sure the inner edge of the first-row planks is square before starting second row. 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.
4. Set the first row of planks along the wall, leaving space for expansion
5. Lock the ends of the planks together until the first row is finished.
6. Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full panel. Fit the last panel by rotating the panel 180° with the pattern side facing upwards. Place beside the row, then mark and cut off any excess material with a saw. Attach as described above.
7. To avoid chipping the plank when cutting, cut on the decorative surface when using a handsaw
8. Begin the next row with the off-cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 20cm (8") long and the joint offset should be at least 30cm(12").

### 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.

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.  
Lay the remainder of the second row and tap into place with a tapping block. NOTE: If any plank is shorter than 8 inches in length, do not install it; instead, cut a new piece to measure at least 8 inches long.

Figure 8-1 Stagger End Joints

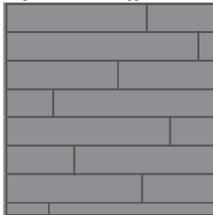
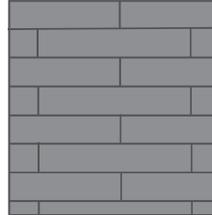


Figure 8-2 Avoid "H" Joints



- Continue to lay your boards from left to right: repeat this process until your subfloor is covered
  - To ensure your floor remains stable, be sure to stagger the boards when laying your floor
    - You never want the seams in adjacent rows to be less than 6" apart (for added stability we recommend a 12" stagger between seams)
    - Maintain a minimum length for end boards (we suggest a minimum length of 8")
- To ensure a secure lock between boards, consider using a tapping block to edge boards into place

### MOLDINGS

Quarter Round & Wall Base moldings can be nailed into place once your flooring is installed. Do not nail these moldings directly into the flooring. They should be kept slightly off the floor as not to bind and jam the flooring.

Use appropriate moldings as transitions to door thresholds, steps, or other floor coverings.

T-moldings and reducers can be glued or nailed to the subfloor using finishing nails. 2.

When installing T-molding or reducers, first drill small holes in the molding to avoid wood splits. Using the drilled holes as your guide, hammer finishing nails directly into the subfloor every 18 inches. 3.

Stair Nosings require a unique installation method. Glue the wood flooring and step nosing directly to the stair tread using our NAF brand Adhesive™.

Whatever option you choose foot traffic should limited for 24 hrs after installation.

