

DuraFloors

D I S T R I B U T O R S

Water Resistant Laminate Flooring

Installation Guide

Floating Drop-Lock Click Installation

Quality You Can See. Performance You Can Trust.

Read Before Installation

Proper installation is essential to the appearance, performance, and longevity of your DuraFloors™ Water Resistant Laminate Flooring. This guide provides requirements and recommended procedures for product acclimation, jobsite preparation, subfloor evaluation, installation planning, drop-lock installation, and completion of the finished floor.

Read these instructions in their entirety before beginning installation.

Failure to follow applicable DuraFloors installation requirements may result in installation-related damage or product performance issues and may affect warranty coverage.

IMPORTANT - INSPECT BEFORE YOU INSTALL

Inspect all flooring before and during installation for visible manufacturing defects, shipping or handling damage, colour or shade concerns, damaged plank edges, locking-profile damage, and other noticeable irregularities. Do not install flooring with visible defects. Installation of a plank constitutes acceptance of its visible appearance and condition.

WATER RESISTANT - NOT WATERPROOF

DuraFloors Water Resistant Laminate Flooring provides enhanced protection against normal household spills and topical moisture. It is not waterproof. Remove spills and standing water as soon as reasonably possible. Water resistance does not eliminate the need for proper subfloor moisture evaluation, installation, or ongoing care.

48-72 HOUR ACCLIMATION REQUIRED

Acclimate flooring in the installation area for 48-72 hours before installation, with temperatures maintained between 55°F and 85°F (13°C and 30°C).

Professional Installation Recommended

DuraFloors Water Resistant Laminate Flooring is designed for floating drop-lock click installation. Professional installation is recommended where the installer is unfamiliar with laminate flooring, floating-floor systems, drop-lock locking mechanisms, subfloor preparation, or moisture evaluation.

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Before You Begin

A successful installation begins before the first plank is installed. Review the flooring, jobsite conditions, subfloor, room layout, and installation requirements before beginning work. All DuraFloors Water Resistant Laminate Flooring covered by this guide is intended for floating drop-lock click installation.

Recommended Tools & Materials

- Tape measure and pencil
- Utility knife and straight edge or square
- Appropriate saw for laminate flooring
- Spacers
- Rubber mallet
- Appropriate tapping block
- Pull bar or flat bar
- Safety glasses and knee protection
- Broom and/or vacuum
- Subfloor preparation tools and materials

PROTECT THE LOCKING SYSTEM

When using a tapping block, pull bar, or rubber mallet, use care to avoid damaging plank edges or the locking profile. Never strike an exposed locking profile directly with a hammer or other hard object.

Product Storage & Acclimation

48-72 HOURS REQUIRED | 55°F-85°F (13°C-30°C)

Allow the flooring to acclimate in the installation area for 48-72 hours. Maintain the installation area under conditions representative of normal occupancy. Do not begin installation immediately after flooring has been transported or stored in substantially different environmental conditions.

Inspect & Mix Flooring

- Confirm the product and colour are correct for the project.
- Inspect cartons and individual planks for visible damage or defects.
- Check plank edges and locking profiles for damage.
- Set aside questionable planks rather than installing them.
- For a natural finished appearance, work from multiple cartons and vary plank visuals where appropriate.

Plan the Installation

Measure the installation area and establish the plank direction, starting point, doorways, transitions, fixed objects, and expected first- and final-row widths. Do not assume any wall is perfectly straight or square; establish an appropriate reference line before beginning.

- Overall room dimensions and plank direction
- Starting point and first-row width
- Expected final-row width
- Doorways, transitions, and fixed obstructions
- Required perimeter expansion space
- Desired random plank layout

FLOATING FLOOR SYSTEM

DuraFloors Water Resistant Laminate Flooring is installed as a floating floor. The flooring must remain capable of normal movement as a complete assembly and must not be permanently fastened to the subfloor.

Ready to Proceed?

- ☐ Flooring has acclimated for 48-72 hours.
- ☐ Installation area is between 55°F and 85°F (13°C and 30°C).
- ☐ Correct product and colour have been confirmed.
- ☐ Flooring has been inspected for visible damage or defects.
- ☐ Installation direction and starting point have been established.
- ☐ Required tools and installation materials are available.

Subfloor Requirements & Preparation

Proper subfloor preparation is essential to the performance of DuraFloors Water Resistant Laminate Flooring. Before installation begins, the entire installation surface must be evaluated and properly prepared.

All Subfloors Must Be

- Clean - free from dirt, dust, debris, and materials that could interfere with installation.
- Flat and level - uneven areas must be corrected before installation begins.
- Dry - the subfloor must be evaluated for moisture before installation.
- Structurally sound - the substrate must provide stable support for the floating flooring system.
- Free from excessive movement - loose, unstable, or damaged areas must be corrected.

IMPORTANT - SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Do not use the flooring installation itself to compensate for an improperly prepared subfloor. High spots, low spots, abrupt changes in elevation, or other irregularities that prevent proper plank support must be corrected before installation.

Moisture Evaluation

THE SUBFLOOR MUST BE EVALUATED FOR MOISTURE BEFORE INSTALLATION.

Evidence of active moisture intrusion, excessive moisture, water damage, or unresolved moisture conditions must be investigated and corrected before installation begins.

WATER-RESISTANT FLOORING DOES NOT ELIMINATE SUBFLOOR MOISTURE REQUIREMENTS

The water-resistant characteristics of DuraFloors laminate flooring are intended to provide enhanced protection against topical household moisture. They do not protect the flooring or building assembly from moisture originating beneath the floor.

Concrete & Wood Subfloors

Concrete must be clean, dry, structurally sound, sufficiently flat, properly prepared, and evaluated for moisture. Wood subfloors must be structurally sound, stable, properly secured, clean, dry, sufficiently flat, and free from excessive movement. Repair loose, damaged, unstable, or uneven areas before installation.

Existing Hard-Surface Flooring

DuraFloors Water Resistant Laminate Flooring may be installed over most existing hard-surface flooring provided the surface is clean, flat, dry, structurally sound, firmly secured, and suitable to support a floating drop-lock floor.

- Tile: grout lines must be appropriately filled and levelled before installation.
- Sheet vinyl: must not be heavily cushioned or excessively soft. Soft or compressible substrates may negatively affect the drop-lock system.

DO NOT INSTALL OVER CARPET

DuraFloors Water Resistant Laminate Flooring must not be installed over any type of carpet. Remove carpet and evaluate and prepare the underlying subfloor before installation.

Before Installing the First Plank

- ☐ Subfloor has been evaluated for moisture.
- ☐ Surface is clean and free of debris.
- ☐ High and low areas have been appropriately corrected.
- ☐ Subfloor is dry and structurally sound.
- ☐ Existing flooring is suitable to remain in place.
- ☐ Carpet and unsuitable soft substrates have been removed.
- ☐ Tile grout lines and significant irregularities have been filled and levelled.

Installation Planning & Expansion Requirements

Establish a Straight Starting Line

Measure the installation area and establish a straight reference line for the first row. A properly aligned first row is especially important with a drop-lock flooring system because subsequent rows will follow the alignment established at the beginning. Check alignment periodically as installation progresses.

START STRAIGHT

Take extra care when installing the first several rows. An improperly aligned starting row can affect the appearance and engagement of the flooring throughout the installation.

¼" (6 mm) Perimeter Expansion Space

Maintain a minimum ¼" (6 mm) expansion gap between the flooring and perimeter walls and around fixed vertical obstructions. Use appropriate spacers during installation.

- Perimeter walls
- Door frames and jambs
- Columns and posts
- Pipes
- Fireplace surrounds
- Other fixed vertical obstructions

COVER THE EXPANSION GAP - DO NOT ELIMINATE IT

Baseboards and mouldings should conceal the perimeter expansion space without pinning or restricting the floating floor. Do not fasten trim through the laminate flooring.

Minimum 6" (152 mm) Random Stagger

Maintain at least 6" (152 mm) separation between end joints in adjacent rows and use a random installation pattern throughout the floor.

✓ CORRECT - RANDOM



✗ AVOID - REPEATING



Avoid H-joints, repeating end-joint locations, intentional stair-step patterns, and other visually aligned joints.

Starting & Finishing Rows

Before installing the first row, calculate the approximate width of the final row. Where practical, adjust the first-row width to avoid an excessively narrow final row. Cut edges along perimeter walls must maintain the required ¼" (6 mm) expansion clearance.

Doorways & Door Casings

Plan doorway areas before reaching them. Where appropriate, door casings may be undercut to allow the flooring to fit neatly beneath the casing while maintaining required movement space. A flat bar may be used to assist engagement in tight areas.

TRANSITIONS & LARGE AREAS

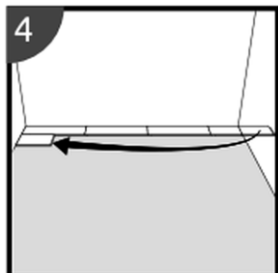
Where a transition or expansion-break requirement is not addressed by the applicable product specification, contact DuraFloors or your authorized DuraFloors retailer before proceeding with large or complex continuous installations.

Installer Check

- ☐ Straight reference line and row widths established.
- ☐ ¼" (6 mm) perimeter expansion clearance can be maintained.
- ☐ Minimum 6" (152 mm) stagger and random layout will be maintained.
- ☐ Doorways and fixed obstructions have been planned for.

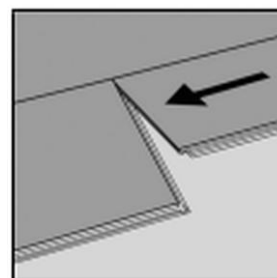
Drop-Lock Installation

DuraFloors Water Resistant Laminate Flooring uses a floating drop-lock click system. Take care throughout installation to fully engage each joint without damaging plank edges or the locking profile.



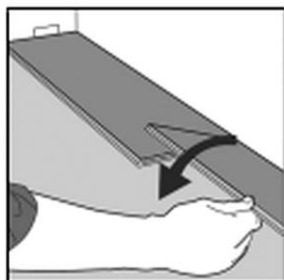
1 Install the First Row

Complete and properly align the entire first row while maintaining the ¼" (6 mm) perimeter expansion gap.



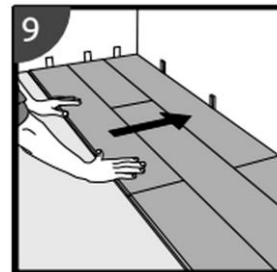
2 Engage the Long Joint

Angle the long side into the previous row and slide the plank into position so the short end aligns with the preceding plank.



3 Lower & Engage Drop-Lock

Lower the plank flat. Using an appropriate rubber mallet, carefully tap the short-end drop-lock joint as required. A tapping block may assist the long-side joint.



4 Continue Randomly

Continue row by row while maintaining the ¼" expansion gap, minimum 6" stagger, and genuinely random end-joint placement.

TAP WITH CARE

Use only the force necessary to properly engage the joint. Never strike an exposed locking profile directly with a hammer or other hard object. Correct any improperly engaged joint before continuing.

Random Means Random

Maintain at least 6" (152 mm) between adjacent end joints. Avoid H-joints, repeating end-joint locations, deliberate stair-step patterns, and other visually aligned joint patterns.

Door Casings & Tight Areas

Where normal plank engagement is difficult beneath a door casing, an appropriate flat bar or pull bar may be used. If needed, tap the long joint while applying pressure with the flat bar to assist engagement. Maintain the required expansion clearance around fixed structures.

Installing the Final Row

Measure the remaining space while accounting for the ¼" (6 mm) expansion gap. Cut the final-row planks to the required width and install carefully using an appropriate pull bar where necessary. Do not force the final row tightly against the wall.

Inspect as You Go

- ☐ Long-side joints are fully engaged.
- ☐ Drop-lock end joints are properly seated.
- ☐ Rows remain straight and plank surfaces aligned.
- ☐ End-joint placement remains random.
- ☐ Minimum 6" stagger and ¼" perimeter clearance are maintained.

Completing the Installation

Once all flooring has been installed, inspect the completed floor before installing mouldings or returning the room to normal use. Confirm that long-side and short-end drop-lock joints are properly engaged and the required perimeter expansion space has been maintained.

Remove Spacers & Install Mouldings

Remove all temporary spacers. Install baseboards, quarter round, or other appropriate trim to conceal the perimeter expansion space. Secure mouldings to the wall or appropriate supporting surface - not through the laminate flooring.

DO NOT PIN THE FLOOR

Finished trim should conceal the expansion space without restricting normal movement of the floating floor.

Transitions, Doorways & Fixed Objects

Install appropriate transition mouldings where required by the project or applicable product specifications. Maintain expansion clearance at door frames, jambs, thresholds, pipes, posts, columns, fireplace surrounds, and other fixed vertical objects.

Final Installation Inspection

- ☐ All long-side joints are fully engaged.
- ☐ All short-end drop-lock joints are properly seated.
- ☐ End joints maintain at least 6" (152 mm) stagger between adjacent rows.
- ☐ End joints are randomly distributed with no H-joints or deliberate stair-step patterns.
- ☐ The required ¼" (6 mm) expansion space has been maintained.
- ☐ Installation spacers have been removed.
- ☐ Baseboards and mouldings do not restrict floor movement.
- ☐ Finished floor is clean and free from installation debris.

Protect the Finished Floor

- Protect flooring from ongoing construction, tools, appliances, and other trades.
- Do not drag heavy furniture or appliances directly across the flooring.
- Use suitable floor and furniture protection when moving or placing heavy objects.

Initial Cleaning & Moisture Reminder

Remove loose debris, sweep or vacuum using an appropriate hard-surface setting, and clean using products and methods suitable for water-resistant laminate flooring. Do not use abrasive cleaning products or flood or saturate the floor during cleaning.

WATER RESISTANT - NOT WATERPROOF

Remove spills and standing water promptly. Water resistance does not protect against flooding, plumbing or appliance failures, moisture originating beneath the flooring, or other excessive moisture conditions.

Maintain Interior Conditions & Protect Your Warranty

Following installation, maintain normal interior conditions between 55°F and 85°F (13°C and 30°C). Retain your proof of purchase, product and colour information, installation date, installer information (if applicable), and a copy of these instructions.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If an installation condition is unclear or you encounter a situation not addressed by this guide, stop the installation and contact DuraFloors or your authorized DuraFloors retailer before proceeding.