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Floating Installation: ROBINA INTERLOCKING LAMINATE can be installed over most sub-floors, and are engineered to be very dimensionally stable, making them suitable for installation over all grade levels. (See information and installation guidelines below.)

ATTENTION – INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Inspect “all” materials carefully before installation. All ROBINA floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards. Even though our product goes through many inspections before it leaves the factory, it is the responsibility of the customer and installer to perform a final inspection prior to installation.

ROBINA LAMINATE warranties do not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.

TOOLS

Basic tools and accessories: broom or vacuum, chalk line, tapping block, laminate cleaner, hand or electric jamb saw, miter saw, moisture meter, safety glasses, straight edge, table saw, tape measure, square, utility knife, pry bar and Robina Floors underlayment.

JOB SITE CONDITIONS

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the job site sub floor and job site conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for laminate floor installation. ROBINA LAMINATE declines any responsibility for laminate failure resulting from or connected with sub-floor, subsurface, job site damage or deficiencies after the laminate flooring has been installed.

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

Concrete Sub-Floors

New concrete slabs require a minimum of 60 days drying time before covering them with a laminate floor.

All Concrete sub-floors must be dry, smooth (level with 3/16” in a 10 foot Radius – 1/8” in 6’) and free of structural defects. Hand scrape or sand with a 20 grit #3-1/2 open face paper to remove loose, flaky concrete. Grind high spots in concrete and fill low spots with a Portland based leveling compound (min. 3,000 psi).

ROBINA LAMINATE flooring may be installed on grade, above grade, as well as below grade where moisture conditions do not exist. Make sure that the perimeter of the foundation has adequate drainage and use a vapor barrier when installing below grade.

Wood Sub-Floors

Wood sub-floors need to be well nailed or secured with screws. Nails should be shanked and screws need to be counter sunk. The wood sub-floor needs to be structurally sound and dry. It should not exceed 14% moisture prior to installation. If the sub-floor is single layer, less than 3/4” thick, add a single cross layer for strength and stability (minimum 5/16” thick for a total 1” thickness). This is to reduce the possibility of squeaking.

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Sub-floor Moisture Check

On and below grade applications are susceptible to moisture and should be tested for moisture prior to installation in several locations within the installation area. Acceptable conditions for above, on and below grade applications are:

- Less than 3 lbs. /1000 sq. ft. /24 hrs. on calcium chloride test
- Less than a reading of 5.0 on a Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter (moisture meter)

To correct any sub-floor problems concerning moisture, either wait until the sub-floor dries to meet specifications or use appropriate moisture barrier.

Sub-floors Other Than Wood or Concrete

Note: Carpet and rubber tiles are unacceptable underlayments and must be removed. Terrazzo, tile and any other hard surfaces that are dry, structurally sound and level, as described above, are suitable as a sub-floor for ROBINA LAMINATE.

Radiant Heated Sub-floors

Before installing over a radiant-heated floor turn off heat and wait until the floor has reached room temperature. After installing the floor return the heat to the previous setting, slowly 2° at a time. Caution: The slab surface must never exceed 85° F. in temperature.

INTERLOCKING LAMINATE FLOORING INSTALLATION

Preparation

Remove all moldings and wall-base and undercut all door casings with a hand or power jamb saw using a scrap piece of flooring and underlayment as a guide to ensure that you undercut the door jamb to the proper height.

“Racking the Floor”

As you install the floor, blend the laminate planks from several cartons to provide a random look throughout the installation. As you continue working across the floor be sure to maintain the 9” minimum stagger between end joints on all adjacent rows. Never waste material; use the left over pieces from the cuts to start the next row or to complete a row.

All flooring installations must use a Robina Floors approved underlayment. In a floating installation, a 1/2” expansion gap must be maintained around the perimeter of the room. (See corresponding photos below for a step-by-step illustration of the following floating installation instructions.)

After allowing the floor to acclimate (Step 1) and ensuring that proper subfloor requirements are met (Step 2), you can begin the installation by laying the Robina Floors underlayment (Step 3). As you lay the first plank, use spacers to maintain the minimum 1/2” expansion gap around the perimeter of the room (Step 4). Then lay the butt seams (end joints) onto each other for the first row. (Steps 5-6)

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The cut piece from the first row (which should be at least 9" long) will be used to start the second row (Steps 7-9). Be sure to always stagger the end seams a minimum of nine inches.

To begin the second row, place the tongue of the cut piece into the groove and lock down into place (Step 10). Place the second board of the second row into the groove and lock down into place. The butt seams will be held down by the following rows.

The last row will be cut to fit (Step 11) and should be wider than two inches.



1. Allow flooring to acclimate to the installation room's temperature.



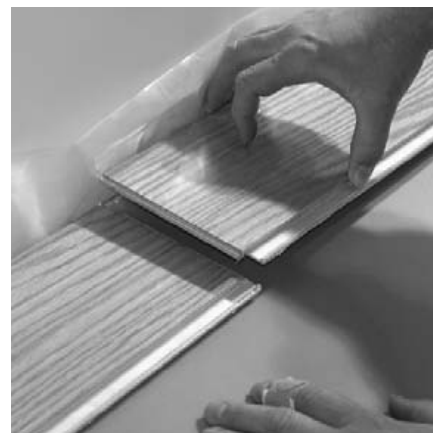
2. Make sure the floor is level and dry.



3. Roll out the underlayment, a few rows at a time to prevent tearing.



4. Start in corner positioning first board with 1/2" expansion spacers.



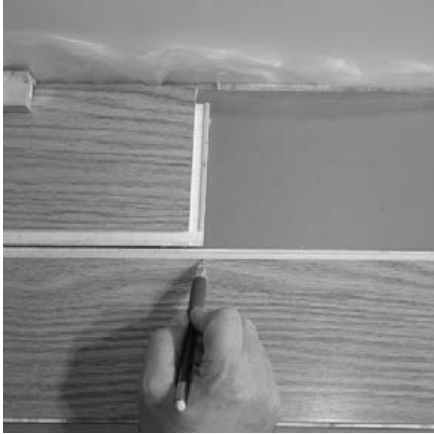
5. Line up the end of the second board with the first.



6. Drop second board into place ensuring that the seam is tight.

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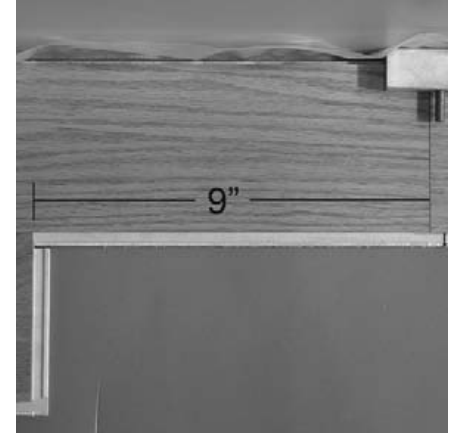
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7. Place boards tongue to tongue and mark the cut line as shown.



8. The cut board from the first row is used to start the second row.



9. Maintain a minimum 9" stagger throughout installation.



10. Position second row board at an angle and push down into place.



11 Measure cut line for last row, allowing for 1/2" expansion.

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Final Touches:

Install the proper trim molding at the doorways to achieve the transition and along the walls to cover the edges of any gaps along the wall due to irregularity. (Do not attach transitions or trim pieces to the floor.)

MAINTENANCE

ROBINA LAMINATE FLOORS are very easy to maintain. Simply use a laminate cleaner and a specialty terry cloth flooring duster, which is available from most flooring retailers.

NEVER WET MOP YOUR LAMINATE FLOOR.

STEP 1:

Vacuum or sweep your floor to remove any particles that could scratch your floor. Warning: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a laminate floor and should never be used.

STEP 2: Apply the specialty laminate cleaner directly to the terry cloth flooring duster, not to the floor! You can purchase our Robina approved cleaning materials from your Robina retailer or from our website under the [“Floor Care”](#) section.

STEP 3: Use a back and forth motion with the duster. When the terry cloth cover becomes soiled, simply replace it with a clean one. Cleaning the floor with a soiled cover could cause streaking. The covers are reusable so simply throw the cover in the wash and dry it as you would any towel.

Tips & Warnings:

- Never wet or damp mop your laminate floors. Water will damage them.
- Vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Remove spills promptly using a laminate cleaner and a clean white cloth.
- Use felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture and chairs.
- Use protective mats at all exterior entrances.
- Spiked heels should not be worn on laminate floors and shoes in need of repair can damage your floor.
- Never use oil soaps, wax or other household products to clean your floor.
- Keep animal nails trimmed.
- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.
- Laminate floors perform best when in a controlled environment (relative humidity 45-65% and ambient air temperature 68°-78°).

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of these instructions at the time of printing, however, this document is subject to change. Please consult our website for the most up to date information.

For installation help please contact Robina Floors, 1925 Shiloh Road, Building 2, Kennesaw, GA 30144.
Call Toll Free: 888.862.9898 or visit www.robinafloors.com.