

Windlass Laminate Installation Instructions



June 30, 2025

ATTENTION

Before starting installation, read instructions in entirety. Installation instructions must be followed in entirety for warranties to be considered valid. Please take a moment to read the instructions and plan your installation carefully. **Installation of the flooring constitutes acceptance of product. Warranties are only valid if flooring is installed per installation instructions and maintenance guidelines are followed.**

Please note that improper installation can invalidate warranties. Installation of 100 square feet of flooring is enough to verify quality and acceptance.

Pre-inspect the job site prior to delivery of the Windlass flooring. It is the responsibility of the owner and installer to ensure that the structure is suitable for the installation of laminate flooring. Windlass Flooring is not responsible for flooring failure due to unsatisfactory job site and/or subfloor conditions. If any questions arise, please consult your Windlass flooring dealer.

PRE-INSTALLATION

1. It is the responsibility of the owner and flooring installer to carefully conduct a quality inspection of all flooring prior to installation. Please ensure that flooring ordered is what has been received. Inspect for color, sheen, finish, and quality. If the product does not meet the acceptance of the owner or the installer, it should not be installed. We require the homeowner and installer to inspect the flooring in well-light conditions prior to installation. If there is a concern with the flooring, the decision not to proceed with the installation must be made within the first 10% of the total square footage or 100 square feet of flooring boxes opened, whichever is less. Boxes of flooring that are opened in excess of 10% of the total square footage or 100 square feet, (whichever is less) are not eligible for return including boxes left over from a completed job. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the owner and installer. Windlass flooring will not be responsible for flooring that has been installed with visible defects.
2. It is the responsibility of the owner and flooring installer to make sure that flooring is acclimated to the proper temperature and humidity conditions. Climate control at the job site should be maintained with the room temperature between 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit and relative humidity within 40-60% before, during, and after installation. These conditions must be maintained for at least 7 days prior to installation. It may be necessary to install exhaust fans and/or humidifiers or dehumidifiers to help maintain levels of temperature and humidity. Uncontrolled humidity can lead to mold which can damage the structure and the flooring.
3. To ensure you have sufficient material on hand, add a 5% cutting allowance to allow for custom cutting.
4. Forty-eight hours prior to installation, place the closed packages in the middle of the properly conditioned room. Never against a wall or in the corner. DO NOT open the packages until you are ready to begin installation. Inspect each plank before installation. If you find any defects, either cut out the defect or do not use the plank. Contact your dealer immediately. The warranty does not cover labor costs for installation of visibly defective planks.
5. Prior to installing any flooring, the owner and installer must ensure that the jobsite and subfloor meet the requirements as set forth in these instructions. Windlass flooring will not be responsible for flooring failure due to unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

PREPARATION

1. Remove existing carpet, baseboards, quarter rounds, and thresholds. Undercut door jams using a piece of flooring material (plus the respective underlay) as a guide.
2. Repair all defects in the subfloor.
3. Additional expansion and contraction space can be achieved by undercutting drywall. A minimum of 1/2" expansion space required.
4. The jobsite must be clean and clear of any debris that could potentially damage the flooring.
5. The doors will still be able to open and close after installation. Doors may have to be cut to allow for sufficient clearance. The door jambs may need to be modified as well.
6. For aesthetic appearance we suggest you measure the width of the room to ensure that the width of the pieces of the first and last row is approximately the same and that they are not less than 3".

SUBFLOOR

1. Repair any defects in the subfloor. Installation over an uneven subfloor will cause premature damage to the floor and make the floor feel unstable.
2. All subfloors must be clean, firm, flat within 3/16" within a 10-foot radius, 1/8" within a 6-foot radius, and smooth and dry.
3. The moisture in concrete slabs must be less than or equal to 80% Relative Humidity (RH) with an in-situ probe as per ASTM F2170, and less than or equal to 12% moisture content on plywood.
4. You can lay the planks over any solid and stable subfloor material, including plywood, chipboard, old non-creaking floorboards, hardwood flooring, concrete slabs, PVC, or most ceramic tile (avoid heavy embossed tile). DO NOT install over existing carpet.
5. Wood subfloors must be structurally sound. Any loose parts must be nailed or screwed and, if necessary, a leveling compound must be applied.
6. It is essential that the crawl space under the subfloors is sufficiently ventilated. A 6-mil poly vapor barrier must be installed on the crawl space floor.
7. The recommended underlays are Eclipse II, Sound Blok 100, Eco Silencer Infinity or HD, Whisper Step Acoustical, or Black Jack. An underlayment pad is required.

LAYOUT

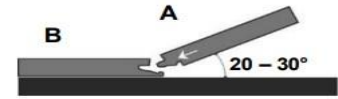
1. Choose planks from several cartons at the same time to ensure color and shade mix.
2. The ideal environment is a temperature of 60 - 70 degrees Fahrenheit and relative humidity of 40-60%.
3. Joints must be staggered at least 12" in each row. Staggered joints result in a stronger and more stable floor, and enhance the overall appearance of the floor. DO NOT stair-step the flooring across the room.
4. All moldings, door frames, etc., should be undercut to allow an expansion and contraction space around the perimeter of the floor. Be sure to leave the minimum 1/2" expansion and contraction space on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds, under doors, and around any fixed objects (floor vents, cabinets, kitchen islands, etc...). Transitions cannot exceed 50' in any direction and are required in doorways less than 30". Match moldings to the flooring before installation for best overall appearance.
5. Kitchen cabinets/islands should not sit on the flooring as this will prevent natural expansion and contraction that occurs, and climate conditions fluctuate.
6. The expansion/contraction space should be covered by baseboard and other appropriate moldings.

GENERAL FLOATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Windlass Laminate flooring can only be installed in a FLOATING application.
2. Cover a concrete subfloor with a 6-mil poly, overlap the edges by 12", damp-proof tape the seams and run up 4" on each wall. Flooring products with an attached underlayment will also require a separate 6 mil poly vapor barrier.

3. Install the required underlayment pad. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Install the planks in the same direction as the longest wall.
5. Begin installing the floor from the left corner of the room.

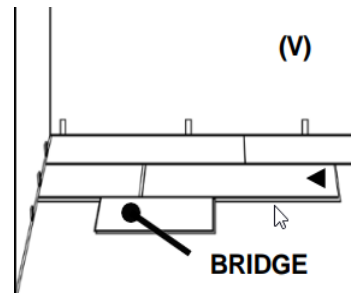
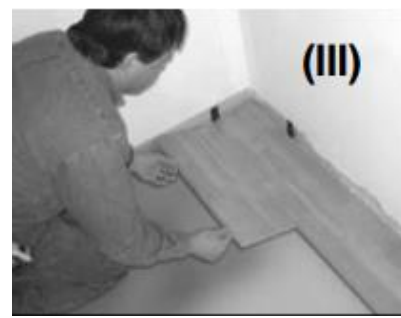
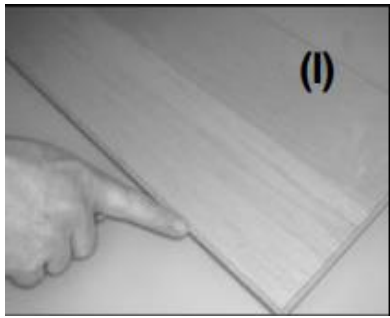
Always remember that the easiest way to install the floor is by placing the tongue (A) into the groove (B).



6. DO NOT glue the planks together.
7. Use a hammer and an approved Uniclic tapping block to help create a tight joint between the planks. For a short edge, make several small taps until the planks click together completely. For a long edge, tap planks together gradually. Begin tapping lightly at the corner of a plank until the joint has clicked together. Repeat the process every 12" until the entire long edge of the plank has clicked in with the next plank. Never attempt to knock the joint into place with just one hit.

THE FIRST ROWS

1. Saw off the tongue of the first plank, both on the short as well as the long edge. For all other first row planks cut off the tongue on the long edge.
2. Orient the first plank in the left corner of the room. Maintain a minimum spacing of 1/2", using wedges. Lay the planks groove side facing you (I) to use the tongue and groove system. Lay the first rows along the wall.
3. An expansion space of 1/2" must be provided at the wall, as well as columns, pipes, door frames, etc....
4. Turn plank inclined with the end joint into the already laid plank. Click the two together. Ensure that the planks of the first row are straight (II).
5. The cut piece from the first row becomes the starting piece for a subsequent row. The cut pieces must be a minimum of 12" in length (III). Install the cut edge facing the wall, with the expansion wedge in place.
6. Now angle this piece and click into the first plank of the first row. Continue the second row with a full piece, placing the tongue of the long side into the groove of the first row piece (IV).
7. Move the end joints together until they are approximately 1/4" apart. Click the plank lengthwise into place. For the short edge, use several small taps with the Uniclic approved tapping block, until the planks click into place completely. For longer length edges, use a scrap piece of flooring as a bridge, to assist lining up the short sides to tap on the opposite end (V). DO NOT attempt to knock the joint into place with one hit. Continue with this method for each plank, covering the entire width of the room. Note: The stagger between the head joints must be 12". Cut the last planks of each row leaving a 1/2" space to the wall.

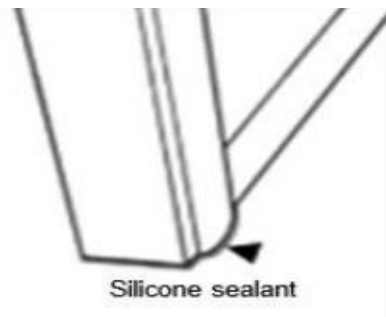
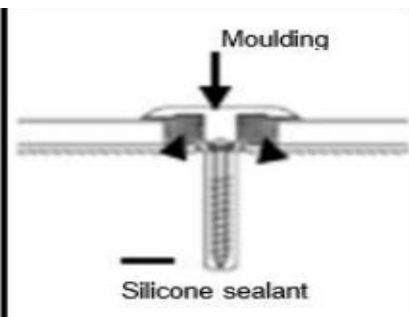
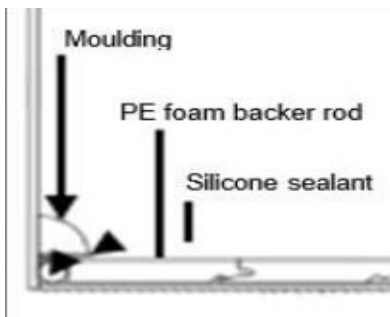


THE FINAL ROW

1. There must be a $\frac{1}{2}$ " expansion space between the final row and the wall. To create this, saw off the long edges of the last row of planks. Place the planks one by one next to the planks on the previous row. Tap the edges together using the tapping block.

COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION

1. After installing your floor, you can walk on it and begin final touches.
2. Remove any spacer wedges and, to create a waterproof seal around the entire perimeter, fill all expansion spaces with compressible $\frac{1}{2}$ " PE foam backer rod (type Climashield or Climaloc); next, create a watertight seal by applying waterproof, flexible, 100% silicone sealant on the foam backer rod, covering at least $\frac{1}{8}$ " of the floor and 1" running up the wall (which will be covered by baseboard and molding) or the doorstop. For non-waterproof installations, PE foam backer rod and silicone is not required. See drawings below.
3. The use of flexible silicone to seal the expansion and contraction space is **mandatory** for bathroom installs.
4. Prior to installing the moldings, first fasten the track to the subfloor, then apply the flexible silicone along the portion of the molding that will directly contact the surface of the laminate flooring.
5. Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.



RADIANT HEAT INSTALLATION

1. Only for use in residential settings.
2. New floor heating systems which are embedded in lightweight concrete or gypsum underlayment should be turned on to 80% or 2/3 of maximum output (depending on system type) for 2 weeks prior to installation of Windlass Laminate flooring. This is very important in that this allows the subfloor to release excess moisture prior to being covered with flooring.
3. Four days before installation, the flooring heating system must be reduced to 64° F.
4. The Windlass Laminate flooring must be on site in the room to be installed, in its original packaging, for a minimum of 2 days before installation.
5. All subfloors must be clean, firm, flat within 3/16" within a 10-foot radius, 1/8" within a 6-foot radius, and smooth and dry.
6. The moisture on concrete slabs must be less than or equal to 80% Relative Humidity (RH) with an in- situ probe as per ASTM F2170, and less than or equal to 12% moisture content on plywood.
7. Relative humidity range at the job site should be 40-60%, and installation should be done at normal room temperature of 60 -70 degrees Fahrenheit.
8. The first time you use your floor heating system after the installation, gradually raise (a maximum of 5° F/ per 24 hours), the temperature to your desired operating level. Gradual warming will prevent the flooring from being shocked by sudden temperature increases. The warranty does exclude damage caused by excessive heat.
9. The surface temperature of the subfloor should never exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
10. Radiant heat systems presented in the shape of thin mats or rolls and that are installed over the floating floor underlayment cannot have bulky connectors that may cause bumps on the subfloor or interfere in any other way with the performance of the floor.
11. The floor heating system must be balanced by adequate room humidity throughout the year, specifically in a range of 40-60% RH. The warranty excludes damage caused by excessive dryness or humidity. The use of a humidifier or dehumidifier may be required to achieve desired relative humidity.
12. Follow all the manufacturers' instructions for the floor heating system. Ensure that the floor heating system's requirements do not conflict or interfere with Windlass Laminate flooring installation requirements.