

## CREATIVE SURFACES™ LAMINATE FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDE

**NOTE: It is important to read the instructions before installation. Laminate flooring should never be nailed or glued to the subfloor. The floor should not be installed against any fixed, vertical object.**

**CONDITIONING:** Allow laminate flooring to acclimate to room temperature (between 65 °F – 75 °F/18.3 °C – 24.8 °C) and a relative humidity of 35%-70% by placing the packaged flooring flat in the room for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Do not remove the plastic wrapping.

### IMPORTANT

- Allow a minimum of 5/16 in (8 mm) expansion space around the perimeter of the room and any fixed objects.
- Use T-moldings for rooms wider or longer than 30 feet (9.14 m) and openings less than 6 feet (1.82 m).
- Stagger boards by a minimum of 12 in (305 mm).
- Do not install in rooms with relative humidity exceeding 70%.
- Flooring should be installed and maintained in a climate-controlled environment with ambient temperature between 60 °F – 80 °F (15.5 °C – 27 °C) and a relative humidity of 35% – 70%.
- The minimum length for the first and last plank per row is 12 in (305 mm).

### TOOLS

Spacers, tapping block, pull bar, hammer, table or hand saw, carbide-tipped circular saw blades, vacuum, tape measure, duct tape, premium laminate glue, sandpaper, level, age-resistant & non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier (8 mil / 0.2 mm) – for installations over concrete, safety glasses, gloves, dust mask or respirator.

**Caution:** Use safety glasses, gloves, and a dust mask or respirator when cutting this product. During the cutting process, laminate may create wood dust; install in a well-ventilated area

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SUBFLOORING:** Laminate flooring can be installed over most floors; substrates should be structurally sound and immobile. Before installing flooring, ensure the subfloor is leveled 3/16 inch in 10 feet (4.76 mm in 3.05 m). Irregularities in the subfloor should be smoothed using a hydraulic cement base patching and leveling compound.

### A) Concrete

- New concrete subflooring should be cured for at least 90 days prior to installation.
- Install 8 mil (0.2 mm) age-resistant, non-permeable polyethylene vapor barrier over the concrete subfloor. Tape seams with adhesive tape, such as duct tape. The vapor barrier should be installed up the wall by 1 in (25 mm).
- For sheet vinyl, tile and wood subflooring, the moisture content of the wood subfloor should not exceed 12%.

### B) Wood

- Suspended wood subfloors should have a minimum of 18 in (458 mm) of well-ventilated air space above the ground.
- The moisture content of the wood subfloor should not exceed 12%.

### C) Carpet

- Remove deep-pile carpeting and padding prior to installation of laminate flooring.
- Laminate flooring can be installed over industrial direct glue-down carpeting that was installed over wood subfloors without padding.
- Carpet installed over concrete must be removed. See instructions for installation over a concrete subfloor.

### D) Vinyl (sheet/tile), Linoleum, Ceramic Tile

- If vinyl, linoleum, or ceramic tile is installed over concrete, a 0.2 mm 8 mil vapor barrier must be installed on top of it. Overlap vapour barrier edges by 20 cm (8 in) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape. Run vapour barrier 2 cm (3/4 in) up wall and trim after wall base is installed.

### E) Radiant heat floors

- Laminate flooring can be installed on under-floor radiant heating systems if the heating element is installed into wood or concrete subfloors.
- Lower heating system to 60 °F (15.5 °C) for 1 week before installation.
- After installation, slowly increase the temperature in increments of 10 °F (5°C) per hour.
- Surface temperature must not exceed 85 °F (29 °C)
- Follow installation instructions for wood or concrete as outlined above.

### ROOM PREPARATION

- Remove all existing moldings.
- If room has electric baseboard heaters, leave a minimum of 1/2 in (12.7mm) between the surface of the flooring and the bottom of the heaters, allowing heat to circulate.
- Check door clearances and make necessary adjustments before laying the flooring. Door moldings (jamb) should be undercut to accommodate the thickness of the flooring as well as the underlayment (whether pre-attached or installed separately).
- Install underlayment per manufacturer's instructions (for flooring without attached pad).
- Inspect each plank for defects prior to installation. Do not install defective planks; installation of defective planks implies acceptance of material.
- Determine which direction to lay the planks. If installing in narrow hallways or small rooms, the area will appear larger if flooring is laid parallel to the longest wall.

### INSTALLATION

THIS PRODUCT IS PRIMARILY MADE OF WOOD MATERIAL AND NEEDS ROOM TO EXPAND AND CONTRACT. DO NOT ATTACH THE FLOOR TO ANY SURFACE. ALWAYS ALLOW AN EXPANSION GAP AT THE PERIMETER AND AROUND ALL OBSTACLES.

- **Step 1** – Using a carbide-tipped circular saw blade, remove both the short and long side tongues from the plank (fig. 1) to allow room for spacers (fig. 2). Do not trim the groove sides (fig. A).
- **Step 2** – Trim the long side tongue from each plank needed to complete the first row; install the planks from left to right. Place 8mm spacers between the wall and the cut edge of the planks to ensure a 5/16 in (8 mm) space along the perimeter (fig. 2).
- **Step 3** – Adjoin the planks by using a tapping block as shown (fig. 3) and gently tap until the planks are joined. Continue this process until the final plank for the row is needed. Refer to 'CUTTING A PLANK' before proceeding to step 4.
- **Step 4** – Begin installing the second row by angling the plank to allow the tongue to slip into the groove of the plank in row 1 (plank C fig. 4). Maintain inward pressure (towards the previous row) while gently moving the plank up and down as you slowly push the plank to the floor (fig. 4A, 4B, 4C). Do not force the plank to the floor if the tongue is only partially inserted into the groove.
- **Step 5** – Install the next plank by placing it near the previous plank in the row and laying it flat to the floor as described in Step 4 while leaving a small gap (0.078 in - 0.12 in / 2mm-3mm) between the short ends of planks D and C (fig. 5).
- **Step 6** – Once the plank is lying flat, gently tap the plank as described in Step 3 to join planks C and D (fig. 6).
- **Step 7** – Continue laying the floor from left to right, as described in steps 1 through 6 (fig. 7). Remove the short side tongue from any full planks used in starting a new row.
- **Step 8** – Trim the planks to be used in the final row to the desired width while taking into consideration the necessary gap of 5/16 in (8mm) needed between the planks and the wall. Install the final row as described in the previous steps (fig. 8).

### CUTTING A PLANK

- **Step 1** – When cutting a plank used for completing a row, be sure to allow for the proper 5/16 in (8 mm) gap once the plank is installed. (fig. 9A)
- **Step 2** – After cutting the plank, install the long side of the plank as described in step 4 (above). (fig. 9B)
- **Step 3** – Use a pull bar in place of a tapping block to close the gap between the two planks to complete the row (fig. 9C). If the remainder of the cut plank is a minimum of 12 in (305mm) long it may be used to start the next row.

### INSTALLING AROUND MOLDINGS AND DOOR JAMBS

- In challenging areas such as door moldings where planks cannot be installed at an angle it may be necessary to modify the joint. Begin by removing a portion of the groove (fig. 10) from the planks being fitted to in the previous row by either planing or sanding. Once the material is removed, apply a small amount of laminate glue to the top of the subsequent planks tongue and install it by sliding it on the floor into place. Wipe up excess laminate glue with a damp cloth and warm water.

### FINAL INSTALLATION

- Remove the spacers placed along the perimeter of the room and cover the expansion space with the appropriate molding. Be sure to fasten the molding into the wall, not through the flooring. Quarter-rounds should be pre-drilled before nailing them to the wall.
- Felt protection pads should be placed under furniture legs or other heavy objects to be left in place for an extended period of time. Do not drag or pull heavy furniture, as doing so will damage the floor.

### CLEANING AND CARE

- Vacuum using a soft bristle brush attachment. Do NOT use vacuums with beater bars as doing so can damage your floor.
- Laminate floors may be lightly damp-mopped when needed. Avoid standing water as it may cause the joints between the planks to lift. Do NOT use steam cleaners, jet-mops or any mop that sprays liquid directly onto the floor. Apply cleaning solution formulated for laminate flooring to a cloth or mop, not directly to the floor. Clean floor in the same direction as the planks.
- Any furniture that rests directly on top of a laminate floor should have floor protectors or wide furniture coasters under all feet. Placement of mats at all outside entrances and heavy traffic areas is recommended.
- Do not use oil soaps or wax-based cleaning products. These products will

leave a dull finish on your floor. Use a floor cleaner specifically formulated for cleaning laminate flooring.

- Pets' claws may scratch the surface if not trimmed regularly.
- When liquids are spilled on the laminate flooring, use a lightly damp white cloth or paper towel to immediately blot up and dry the affected area.

### WARRANTY

**Creative Surfaces laminate flooring is covered by a limited lifetime warranty for residential use. The stipulations of the residential warranty are as follows:**

- The flooring will be free from manufacturing defects.
- The decorative laminate surface will not wear through.
- The flooring will not fade due to sunlight, UV rays or electrical light.
- The flooring will not stain.
- Seams will not unlock under normal use conditions.

**Creative Surfaces laminate flooring is covered by a limited warranty of 10 years for light commercial use. The stipulations of the light commercial warranty are as follows:**

- The flooring will be free from manufacturing defects.
- The decorative laminate surface will not wear through.
- The flooring will not fade due to sunlight, UV rays or electrical light.
- The flooring will not stain.
- Seams will not unlock under normal use conditions.

**The Creative Surfaces commercial-use warranty is applicable to installations in the following areas without immediate access to street traffic: offices, hotel rooms and suites, hotel conference and multipurpose rooms, and retail stores.**

**This warranty is not applicable to installations in heavy commercial areas such as, but not limited to, airports, restaurants, bars, etc. To validate the commercial warranty, the flooring must be professionally installed following Creative Surfaces installation guidelines and only installed in dry interior areas.**

**The following conditions apply to the warranty and may void the warranty if not followed correctly. The owner must follow the care and maintenance guidelines.**

- The flooring must be installed according to the instructions provided.
- If filing a warranty claim, it must be submitted within 30 days of the discovery of the damage.
- Surface wear must be evident and visible from a standing position; measuring at least 2 square in (13 cm<sup>2</sup>). Gloss or sheen reduction is not surface wear and is not covered by the warranty.
- Proof of purchase, such as a bill of sale, is mandatory when requesting warranty service.
- The manufacturer reserves the right to designate a representative to inspect the floor in question and remove samples for analysis.
- Removing flooring prior to contacting Creative Surfaces Claim Department voids the warranty.
- The warranty includes the replacement material, and excludes labour cost.
- The warranty only applies to product installed indoors.
- Upon approval of a warranty claim, Creative Surfaces will provide the claimant with instructions on how to proceed to have the flooring repaired or replaced. The claimant has 90 days to comply with the instructions. If the claimant fails to do so within 90 days, all rights under the limited warranty are waived.

### WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS

- Damage due to improper installation, care, cleaning, or maintenance.
- Damage caused by severe impact, scratching, or cutting, fire, water damage, alterations, or any other wear or damage caused by acts of God.
- Damage caused by water or any other liquids, such as swelling and bubbling, is not covered by the warranty.
- Slight gaps may occur between laminate planks installed over radiant heating and will not be covered by the warranty.
- Peeling and wear in bevelled-edged products along the edge of the panels less than 3/16 in (5 mm) from the edge is not covered by the warranty.
- The limited warranty does not apply to moldings.
- The warranty applies only to flooring purchased through an authorized dealer.
- This warranty does not cover defects caused by improper subfloor/surface preparation (proper installation is assumed to include a moisture test to ensure excessive moisture does not exist in the subfloor). A vapour barrier must be used for those on concrete subfloors, below grade level or in moisture-prone areas.
- This warranty does not apply to damage caused by water or moisture in the subfloor or underneath the flooring, including but not limited to damage from subfloor hydrostatic pressure (water or moisture under the floor that is transmitted to the surface through exerted pressure) or other conditions that result in water or moisture below the floor.
- Creative Surfaces offers no other warranty, expressed or implied. This warranty replaces all other warranties.

### FILING A CLAIM

Any claim under the above warranty must be made within 30 days after the issue is detected by contacting Creative Surfaces Technical Support by email at [techsupport@creativesurfaces.ca](mailto:techsupport@creativesurfaces.ca) or by telephone at 1-800-561-9737. Proof of purchase (indicating the date of purchase) must be presented to file a claim. Creative Surfaces reserves the right to send a representative to inspect the floor and remove samples for analysis. If the claimant fails to give reasonable cooperation to the representative to inspect the flooring and remove samples, Creative Surfaces shall be under no obligation to provide any remedies to the claimant.

\*Important to note\*: The owner/purchaser must inspect the colour, finish and quality before installation. The manufacturer cannot be held responsible for costs incurred when a floor with visible defects has been installed.

For questions regarding installation, please contact our Technical Support Department by email at [techsupport@creativesurfaces.ca](mailto:techsupport@creativesurfaces.ca) or by telephone at 1-800-561-9737. To purchase matching moldings, please contact our Customer Service Department at [info@creativesurfaces.ca](mailto:info@creativesurfaces.ca) or visit [www.creativesurfaces.ca](http://www.creativesurfaces.ca).

**⚠ WARNING** Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust and other chemicals, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood).

**Precautory measures:** If dust level is high, avoid inhalation of wood dust by wearing the appropriate NIOSH designated dust mask. Use adequate personal protective equipment to avoid dust contact with eyes and skin. Equip machine power tools with a dust collector to reduce the emission of wood dust.

**IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE FOR MINNESOTA RESIDENTS ONLY:** SOME OF THE BUILDING MATERIALS USED IN THIS HOME (OR THESE BUILDING MATERIALS) EMIT FORMALDEHYDE. EYE, NOSE, AND THROAT IRRITATION, HEADACHE, NAUSEA AND A VARIETY OF ASTHMA-LIKE SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING SHORTNESS OF BREATH, HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS A RESULT OF FORMALDEHYDE EXPOSURE. ELDERLY PERSONS AND YOUNG CHILDREN, AS WELL AS ANYONE WITH A HISTORY OF ASTHMA, ALLERGIES, OR LUNG PROBLEMS, MAY BE AT GREATER RISK. RESEARCH IS CONTINUING ON THE POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO FORMALDEHYDE. REDUCED VENTILATION MAY ALLOW FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS TO ACCUMULATE IN THE INDOOR AIR. HIGH INDOOR TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY RAISE FORMALDEHYDE LEVELS. WHEN A HOME IS TO BE LOCATED IN AREAS SUBJECT TO EXTREME SUMMER TEMPERATURES, AN AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM CAN BE USED TO CONTROL INDOOR TEMPERATURE LEVELS. OTHER MEANS OF CONTROLLED MECHANICAL VENTILATION CAN BE USED TO REDUCE LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF FORMALDEHYDE, CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

