Installation Instruction
Laminate Flooring

Congratulations on the purchase of your new floor. We thank you for your excellent selection of an Eclipse product that is designed to offer you years of use and enjoyment.

Eclipse Laminate Floors uses the authenticated locking system licensed by Valinge™. This innovative technology offers great stability and allows for an easy installation, saving you up to 50% of installation time.

IMPORTANT
- To ensure that your floor is installed properly, Eclipse requires that you CAREFULLY READ AND FOLLOW the installation instructions BEFORE you or a hired authorized professional install Eclipse products. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL VOID YOUR PRODUCT WARRANTY.
- It is the INSTALLER/OWNERS' RESPONSIBILITY to inspect all material carefully BEFORE installation, and ensure the product matches what has been ordered/chosen. If you have any doubts or concerns in regards to the quality of Eclipse flooring products, report to your retailer BEFORE installation. INSTALLATION IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE. NO CLAIM AGAINST MATERIAL OR LABOR WILL BE ACCEPTED BY ECLIPSE ONCE THE MATERIAL IS LAID OR INSTALLED.
- It is the INSTALLER/OWNERS' RESPONSIBILITY to ensure the JOB-SITE, AMBIENCE, AND SUB-SURFACES CONDITIONS MEET ALL OF ECLIPSE'S REQUIREMENTS.
- Insufficient subfloor preparation will hinder the performance of your laminate floor. Subfloors must be clean, dry, level and structurally sound. Ensure the subfloors is level within **3/16" in 10' radius (5mm in 3m) or 1/8" in 6' radius (3mm in 2m).**
- A 5% material waste allowance should be included within your total square footage.
- Do NOT use a rubber mallet to engage the tongue and groove. Instead, use a tapping block as rubber mallets will leave abrasive marks (dull spots) and chipped edges on the floor.
- Crawlspace or basement areas have to be cross-ventilated, and covered entirely with proper vapor barriers (minimum 6 mil black polyethylene).

TOOLS
Basic tools and accessories: broom or vacuum, chalk line, tapping block, laminate flooring surface cleaner, hand saw, jigsaw or cross cut saw, wood/concrete moisture meter, safety ware, straight edge, pencil, tape measure, square, utility knife, spacers.

STORAGE AND HANDLING
It is important to not transport flooring products under raining and/or damp conditions. Handle and unload flooring products with care, and store in a dry and well ventilated place, being sure to provide at least a 4″ (10 cm) air space under cartons. Flooring shall not be delivered until the building has been enclosed with windows, doors are in place, and cement work, plastering and all other "wet" work are completed and dry. HVAC systems should be in place and in operation at least 14 days prior, during, and after installation of the flooring.

JOBSITE CONDITION & PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENT
Exterior grading should be completed with surface drainage offering a minimum drop of 3" in 10' (7.6cm in 3m) to direct flow of water away from the building. All gutters and drainage spouts must be in place. The soil around the house must be treated or graded to provide sufficient drainage.

Do NOT install laminate floors in areas exposed to excessive moisture. Acclimatize the laminate flooring products on the jobsite. Material is acclimated once it has reached moisture equilibrium consistent with the ambient temperature and relative humidity of the job site conditions listed below. This usually takes 48 to 72 hours

It is required to maintain the relative humidity where the flooring is installed at a level between **35% and 55%**, and the room temperature must be consistently kept at **65-80ºF (18-27ºC)**. These ambient conditions are specified as pre-installation requirements and must be maintained for the life of the laminate floor, or warranty will become void.

SUBFLOOR CONDITIONS AND INSPECTION

1) STRUCTURALLY SOUND

Nail or screw down the subfloor (plywood or OSB) if there are any loose areas. It is recommended to install laminate floor over plywood, CDX, and/or concrete. Replace any water-damaged, swollen, or delaminated subfloor/underlayment.

2) LEVEL & FLAT

Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement. Use a straight edge or level, check to ensure the subfloors is within **3/16" in 10' radius (5mm in 3m) or 1/8" in 6' radius (3mm in 2m)**. Use a cement-leveling compound that has strength no lower than 3000 p.s.i. to patch/fill any low areas. Follow the cement-leveling compound manufacturer's instructions to avoid overfill in deep voids.

3) CLEAN

Inspect to ensure the subfloor is free of any imperfections (nails or screw). Sweep or vacuum thoroughly to make sure there is no wax, paint spills, oil, debris, or anything that could impede adhesion to the subfloor.

4) DRY

Conduct appropriate moisture tests from several different areas of the subfloors and record readings. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 4% for concrete or 12% for plywood/OSB. It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to verify and ensure the moisture contents are within the requirements prior to installation.

Subfloors

PLYWOOD:
¾" (19mm) CDX plywood subfloor is preferred, but minimum thickness of ⅝" is required. Check the entire subfloor is flat and fastened down with proper fastener.

O.S.B.:
¾" OR 23/32" stamped exterior grade is approved.

CONCRETE:
Allow a minimum of 60 days for new concrete to cure before installation. If moisture reading exceeds 4% from the concrete moisture test, conduct a calcium chloride test. Never install a laminate floor when the calcium chloride test exceeds 5lbs/1000 sf./24 hr. The pH level of concrete must register between 6 and 9.

The following tests are required for commercial application. Both tests should be performed prior to installation.
- Calcium Chloride Test (ASTM F1869): Moisture less than 5lbs/1000 sf./24 hrs.
- RH Level in concrete using In-situ Probes (ASTM F 2170-02): must not exceed 85%

OTHER:
Laminate floor can be installed over ceramic, Terrazzo, and other hard surfaces. It is the installer/owner's responsibility to ensure the surfaces are dry, clean, structurally sound, and level, as described in the subfloor requirements. It may be necessary to seal extremely porous or heavily embossed surfaces to ensure a strong bond.

RADIANT HEAT

When installing over radiant heat, precautions must be taken to ensure a gradual temperature change so that the laminate flooring doesn't dry out too quickly. Prior to attempting installation over radiant heat, ambient and subfloor requirements must all be met. The heating system must be inspected by a qualified heating installer.

Though not recommended, Eclipse laminate floors can be installed over hydronic radiant heating systems provided that the subfloor surface does not exceed 85ºF (or 29ºC) at any point. Installation over electric radiant heating system will not be covered by Eclipse warranty. The initial floor temperature must not exceed 70ºF (or 21ºC) for 24 hours prior to and 48 hours post installation. Thereafter, the temperature should be gradually increased by no more than 5ºF (or 2.8ºC) per day to the desired setting, never exceeding 85ºF or (29ºC). A relative humidity level between 35% and 55% must be maintained before, during, and after the installation.

NOTE: Warranty will be voided if an improper installation over radiant heat system is demonstrated.

PREPARATION

Remove existing carpet, baseboards, moldings (if applicable), wall-base, and thresholds. Undercut all door castings with a hand or power jam saw using a scrap piece of floor plank as a guide. Ensure doors can still open and close after installing the floor (leave a minimum of 3/8" or 1cm clearance).

For a more realistic look, be sure to blend the planks from several cartons to ensure a good mixture of pattern throughout the install. Always stagger planks 8" between end joints of adjacent plank rows for aesthetic and structural stability purposes. Avoid "H" patterns and other discernible patterns in adjacent rows. Discard any pieces shorter than 8" at the end of any row.
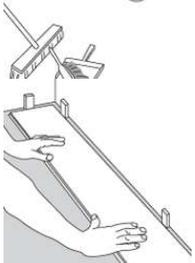
INSTALLATION FOR 8MM LAMINATE FLOORING

IMPORTANT

- Do not install cabinets or walls on top of the flooring.
- To ensure optimal acoustic and stable performances, we strongly recommend using Eclipse All-In-One Underlayment.
- 3/8" expansion gap must be respected between flooring and all vertical rises.
- This product is not suitable for damp rooms such as bathrooms, saunas, rooms with damp concrete, rooms with floor drains or rooms that could potentially flood.
- You can walk on your new laminate floor immediately after installation.
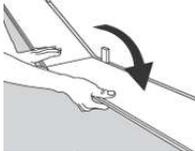
All flooring installations require foam underlay. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the laminate panels. Underlay should be butted side-by-side with no overlap. Tape seams together.
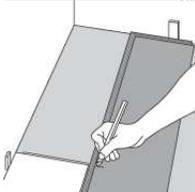
You will need to remove the tongue on the sides of the panels that face the wall. This is to ensure that the decorative surface of the laminate is well under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off.

Start in a corner by placing the first panel with its trimmed side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 8-12mm (5/16" – 3/8") between the wall and the flooring.
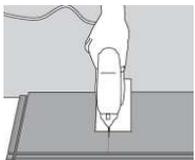
Remember that this product is primarily wood and needs room to expand and contract. At no point should you attach the floor to any surface.
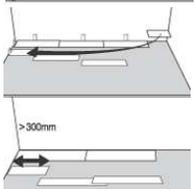
To attach your second panel, insert the end tongue of the panel into the end groove of the first panel at a 45° angle. Lower the panel flat to the floor. Line up edges carefully.
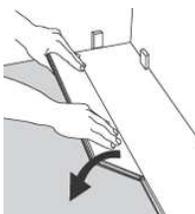
Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full panel. Fit the last panel by rotating the panel 180° with the pattern side upward, place beside row, then mark and saw off any excess material. Attach as described above.
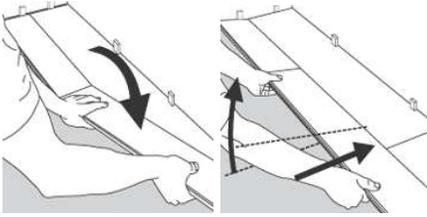
To avoid shipping when cutting, cut on the decorative surface when using a handsaw, or if you use a jig or curler saw, cut with the decorative side down.
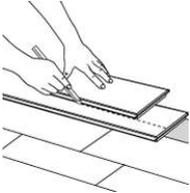
Begin the next row with the off cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 20cm (8") long and the joint offset should be at least 40cm (16").

To start your second row, push the side tongue of the panel into the side groove of the very first panel at about 30°. Press forward and fold down at the same time. When lowered, the plank will click into place.

Attach the second panel of the new row first on the short side as described. Push this panel as close as possible to the previous row. To attach its long side, tilt both panels in the new row at 30° and push into the groove of the previous row. Lower to the floor. Continue laying the remaining panels in the same manner. Tip: Sometimes it is faster to assemble panels into a new row and then attach this row to the previous row.
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To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row, with the tongue to the wall. Lay another panel upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Don't forget to allow room for spacers. Cut the panel and attach into position.

Door frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First cut the panel to the correct length. Then place the cut panel next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on the each side.

You can trim door frames by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames.

Remove spacers and you are ready to install finishing molding. Good work!

INSTALLATION FOR 12MM LAMINATE FLOORING

IMPORTANT

- Do not install cabinets or walls on top of the flooring
- To ensure optimal acoustic and stable performances, we strongly recommend using Eclipse All-In-One Underlayment.
- 3/8" expansion gap must be respected between flooring and all vertical rises.
- This product is not suitable for damp rooms such as bathrooms, saunas, rooms with damp concrete, rooms with floor drains or rooms that could potentially flood.
- You can walk on your new laminate floor immediately after installation.

1) All flooring installations require foam underlay. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the laminate panels. Underlay should be butted side-by-side with no overlap. Tape seams together.
You will need to remove the tongue on the sides of the panels that face the wall. This is to ensure that the decorative surface of the laminate is well under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off.

2) Start in left corner by placing the first panel with its trimmed side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 12mm (1/2") between the wall and the flooring.
Remember that this product is primarily wood and needs room to expand and contract. At no point should you attach the floor to any surface.

3) To attach your second panel, align the tongue-side end with the groove-side end of the first board which is installed flat on the floor. Fold down to place the tongue-side end into the groove-side end, lock the ends firmly, **line up edges carefully**.

4) 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 row, then mark and saw off any excess material. Attach as described above.

5) To avoid chipping when cutting, cut on the decorative surface when using a handsaw, or if you use a jig or curler saw, cut with the decorative side down.

6) 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").

7) To start your second row, push the side tongue of the first board at about 30° into the side groove of the very first panel in the first row which is already installed on the floor in steps 2-4. Press forward and fold down at the same time. When lowered, the plank will click into place. **Make sure the panel is fully locked and positioned tightly all along the side with the panel of the first row. Failure to lock the joints properly could cause squeaking.**

8/9) To install the second board of the second row, place the board at 30° against the floorboard in the first row. Align the tongue-side end with the groove-side end of the first board of the second row which is installed in step 7. Press forward and fold down at the same time. Make sure the long-side is locked into the previous row and the short- side is positioned tightly and joined with the first board. Continue laying the remaining panels in the same manner. Tip: Sometimes it is faster to assemble panels into a new row and then attach this row to the previous row.
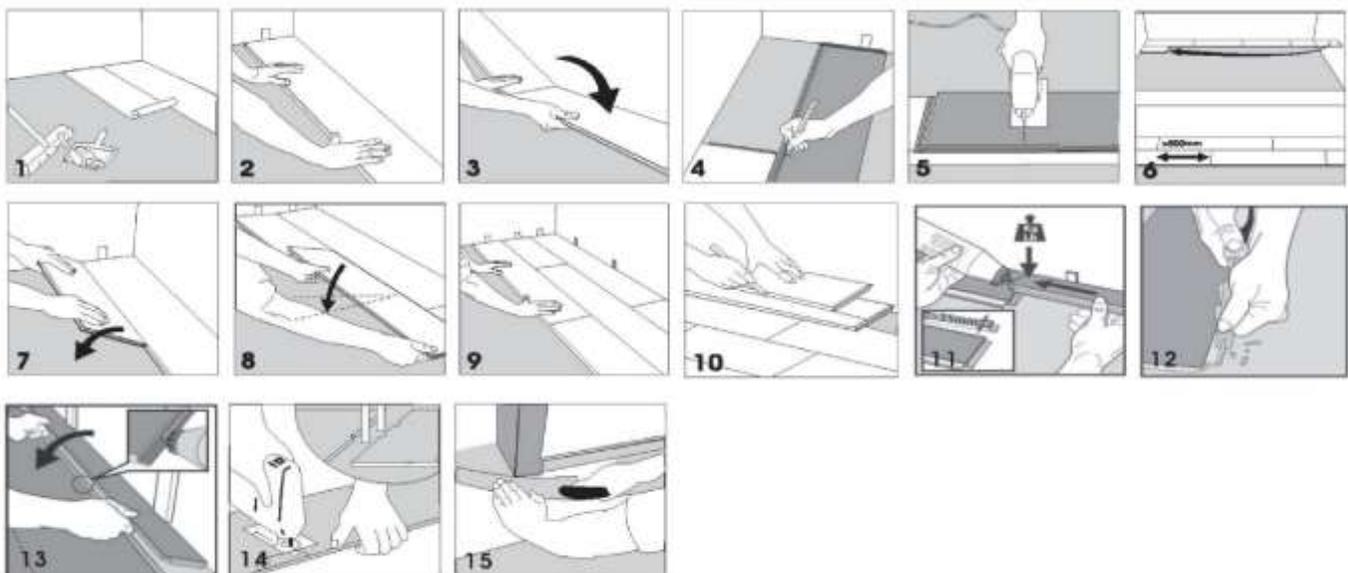
10) To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row, with the tongue-side to the wall. Lay another panel upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Mark the line at where the board needs to be cut to fit. Don't forget to allow room for spacers. Cut the panel and attach into position.

11) For the last row, glue the end joints. After gluing, add weight on the joints until the glue has dried.

12/13) For hard to reach places, cut off locking system elements using a chisel. Put acrylic glue on the adjacent board, and push the planks horizontally together. If necessary, place spacers between the boards and the wall until the glue has dried completely.

14) Door frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First, cut the panel to the correct length, then place the cut panel next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on each side.

15) You can trim door frames by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames.

Precautions: Wood Dust can be hazardous to your health. Wood products including fiberboard and engineered wood products produce wood dust when sawn, sanded or machined. Airborne wood dust can cause health problems and can also be an explosive hazard. Power tools should be equipped with dust collectors and precautions should be taken to prevent ignition. In the United States, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends limiting wood dust exposure to prevent the following health problems: eye and skin irritations, allergies, reduced lung function, asthma, and nasal cancer. Use an appropriate NIOSH approved dust mask and safety glasses when sawing, sanding, or machining wood products. In countries outside the USA, consult the relevant national occupational health and safety authority for the appropriate standard in protective equipment.

*Eclipse carries color-coordinated mouldings for each of our laminate SKUs.