

Installation Guide

(Read all instructions before installation)

Tarkett Laminate Flooring is a floating floor and is installed by using the X'traloc System developed by Tarkett. Tarkett Laminate Flooring should not be glued or nailed to the subfloor. In addition, do not fit this floor net against any fixed, vertical objects (i.e. walls, pipes, passageways, staircases). A minimum 5/16" (8 mm) expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room as well as any fixed objects.

For rooms wider or longer than 30' (9 m), the use of Tarkett T-moldings is required to account for the normal movement of the floor.

Do not install Tarkett Laminate Flooring in rooms where relative humidity exceeds 70%.

Tools and materials:

- 5/16" (8 mm) Spacers
- Carbide Tipped Circular Saw Blades (Fine Tooth)
- Table saw or hand saw
- Vacuum
- Safety Glasses
- Tape Measure
- 0.006" (0.15 mm) polyethylene vapor barrier (installation over concrete)
- Duct tape
- Foam underlayment or Quiet-Cor®

Caution: Safety glasses and gloves are recommended when cutting the product. Cutting the laminate may create wood dust and therefore should be performed in a well-ventilated area.

Subfloor requirements

Tarkett Laminate Flooring may be installed over most types of subfloors including existing sheet, vinyl and tile floors. All substrates must be structurally sound and free from movement. The subfloor must be clean, dry and level. **The subfloor must be level within 1/4" in 8 ft. (6.3mm in 2.4m).** Smooth and level all irregularities with a hydraulic cement base patching and leveling compound. **Suspended wood subfloors shall have a minimum 18" (45cm) of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground.**

Concrete

- Concrete subfloors shall be cured for at least 90 days before beginning the installation (Moisture Test: Moisture vapor transmission shall not exceed 3 lbs./1000 sq.ft./24 hours per ASTM F 1869 Calcium Chloride Test).
- A 0.006" (0.15 mm) polyethylene vapor barrier must be installed over the concrete prior to installing the foam underlayment. Edges shall overlap by 8-inches (20 cm). Tape the seams by using adhesive tape like duct tape. Lay the vapor-barrier up the wall by 1" (25 mm).
- Before installing the laminate, install a polyethylene foam underlayment or Quiet-Cor® Underlayment. In this case, edges should not overlap. Join the edges by using adhesive tape.
- You may also install the Tarkett Polyfoam with vapor barrier. In this case, a vapor barrier is not required. Do not install this product over wood floors or wood subfloors.

Wood, existing sheet vinyl and tile flooring

- Moisture content of wood subfloor shall not exceed 12%.
- Before installing the laminate, install a polyethylene foam underlayment or Quiet-Cor® Underlayment. Tape the seams with adhesive tape. Edges shall not overlap.

Carpeting

- Deep pile carpeting and padding must be removed before laying laminate flooring.
- Tarkett Laminate Flooring may be installed over industrial direct glue carpeting (no padding) that is installed over wood subfloors only.
- Carpeting must be removed if installed over concrete. If installing over concrete, follow instructions for installation over concrete as described above.
- Use of a foam underlayment is not recommended over industrial direct glue carpeting.

Radiant Heating Systems

- Tarkett Laminate Flooring is suitable for installation over underfloor radiant heating systems provided that the heating element is installed into the concrete or wood subfloors.
- Lower temperature of heating system to 60°F (16°C) for one week prior to installation.
- After the installation, gradually increase temperature in increments of 10°F (6°C) per hour.
- Surface temperature should not exceed 85°F (28°C).
- **Follow instructions for installation over concrete or wood as described above.**

Conditioning

Tarkett Laminate Flooring must be allowed to acclimate to the temperature of the room in which it will be installed. Place the packaged flooring flat in the room for a minimum of 48 hours before installation. Do not remove plastic wrapping. Room temperature shall be between 65-75°F (18-24°C).

Room preparation

1. Leave at least 1/2" (12.5 mm) between the surface of the flooring and the bottom of electric baseboard heaters to allow heat to circulate.
2. Remove existing moldings.
3. Check the clearance of doors and make necessary adjustments before beginning to lay the floor. Undercut all door moldings (jamb) taking into consideration the thickness of the flooring and foam underlayment.
4. Install a polyethylene foam underlayment or Quiet-Cor® Underlayment. Follow the above installation instructions for subfloor preparation. **Over concrete subfloors always install a 0.006" (0.15 mm) vapor barrier.**

Installation

Decide in which direction the planks should be laid. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it may be preferable to lay the flooring parallel to the longest wall.

Unpack the first box of laminate and detach the perforated help tool from the bottom of the box. Fold it as shown in Fig. 1. The installation help tool provides you with the correct angle required for quick and easy assembling of the planks.

Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Do not install damaged planks. Check the tongue and groove areas for any loose debris. Remove all loose debris in the tongue and groove. Loose debris can cause gaps between the planks and make it difficult to lock the planks together.

1. Carefully measure the room to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row is less than 2" (50mm), excluding the tongue, the width of the first row of planks will have to be cut accordingly.
2. With the tongue sides of the plank facing the starting wall, begin laying the planks from left to right. Refer to the illustration below to determine the tongue side and groove side. **Place 5/16" spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall (Fig. 3).**
3. The planks of the first row are fit together by inserting the shorter end at a low angle into the grooved end of the previous plank (see Fig. 4) and lowering it down flat until the joint closes (see Fig. 5).
4. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 5/16" (8 mm) from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 8" (20 cm), the length of first plank in the row must be cut. This will allow for a longer piece at the end of the row. **The first and last plank in each row must be at least 8" (20 cm) in length.** If the starting wall is irregular, scribe or trace the contour of the wall on the first row. Detach planks and cut along the scribe mark. Reinstall the first row of planks.
5. The remaining piece cut from the last plank in the first row will serve as the first plank in the second row provided it is at least 8" (20 cm) long. Always stagger end joints from row to row a minimum of 8" (20 cm). **When cutting planks, make sure that the teeth of the saw blade are cutting into the decorative surface. Best results are achieved when using carbide tipped cutting blades.**
6. Position the first plank of the second row with its width against the wall and its length along the planks of the first row. Remember to place a 5/16" spacer between the wall and the plank. Fit the longer side of the first plank of the second row in the same way as described above for assembling the first row (see Fig. 6).
7. Position the second plank of the second row. Always fit the end joint first as described in point 3. When fitting the end joints, always make sure to position the long side of the plank as close as possible to the planks of the previous row. This will help you fit the longer sides of the planks together.
8. Position the help tool under the facing right corner end of the plank last installed (see Fig. 7). Insert the tongue of the long side into the groove of the plank on the previous row. The installation help tool maintains the required angle needed on the previous plank (see Fig. 8). Remove the installation help tool and lower the plank to fit using gentle hand pressure on the left and right ends until the joint closes.

NOTE: To fit the planks together on the long side, always lift the previously installed plank with the plank you are installing once the end joints are fit. Never lift the planks higher than the height provided by the installation help tool. Placing masking tape over the seam of the previously installed plank will help to keep the plank securely together while you continue to install the row.

9. Continue working from left to right, plank-by-plank, row by row. Remember to place a 5/16" (8 mm) spacer between the wall and the last row of planks.
10. In areas where it is difficult to fit the planks, such as around door moldings, it is necessary to remove the lip on the groove edge of the planks you are fitting into. This is done by lightly sanding or planing off the lip on the groove side of the plank. This will allow you to install the plank laying flat. A small bead of Tarkett Laminate Glue should be applied to the top of the tongue before positioning the plank. After plank has been positioned, immediately wipe any excess glue off the surface with a damp cloth and warm water.

Installing with Glue

For areas of the home that may come into frequent contact with water or moisture (i.e. exterior door entrances, in front of kitchen sinks or in powder rooms), installing with glue is the ideal method.

Instructions:

1. Apply a continuous bead of glue on the top of the tongue of all planks. Assemble as per instructions. When properly assembled, a small amount of glue will appear along the entire length of the glued joint.
2. Remove excess glue promptly with a plastic spatula followed with a clean, damp cloth. Rinse the cloth often in clean warm water during this process. Note: It is important to remove glue promptly as glue dries quickly.
3. Let dry for 12 hours.

Finishing the installation

Remove spacers from the perimeter. Install moldings around the perimeter of the room to cover the 5/16" (8 mm) space. Fasten moldings into the wall, not through the flooring. Pre-drill quarter rounds before nailing into the wall.

Place felt or other protectors under furniture legs or any heavy objects left in place for a long period of time. Always lift heavy furniture. **Pulling or dragging heavy furniture will damage the floor.** Damp mop with a neutral floor cleaner such as Tarkett SureShine Floor Cleaner or a household cleaner in lukewarm water. Do not use abrasive cleaners.

