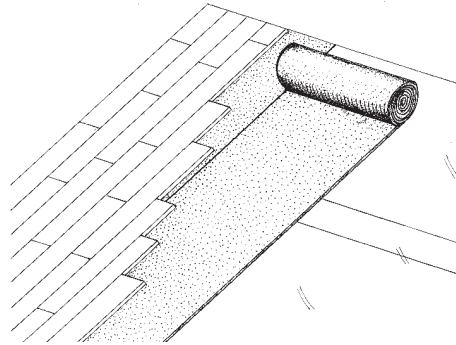
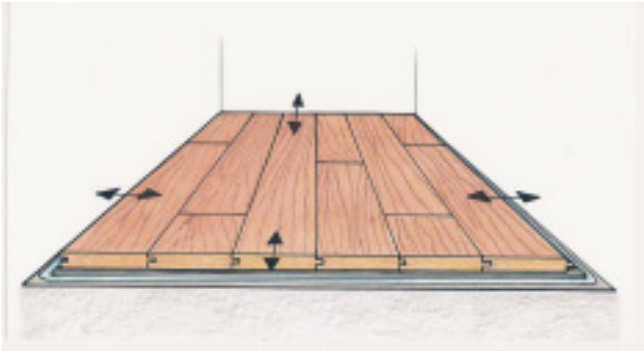


Mohawk's new DuraLoc[®] glueless laminate floating floor system is designed to literally “snap” together. Highly water-resistant, DuraLoc leaves no post-installation glue haze— clean up is a *snap!* Whether your customer chooses “DIY” or professional installation, you'll find DuraLoc an easy-to-install time- and money-saving choice!

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

DuraLoc laminate floor must be installed as a floating floor—it cannot be glued, nailed, or stapled to the sub-floor in any way. You'll need to maintain a 1/2-inch expansion gap throughout the complete perimeter of the room in which you're installing the product. You can install DuraLoc over most dry, stable sub-floors—but *never install it over carpet*, as carpet does not offer the support required for a floating floor system. *Please note: If you're installing in "dry" regions of the country (mountain or desert areas), a 1/4-inch expansion space is required.*



Required Tools

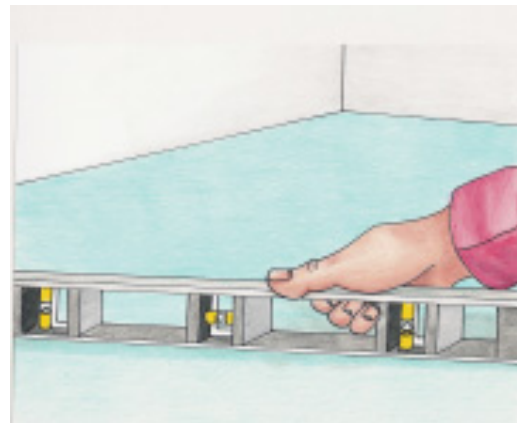
In planning an installation, you'll need the following tools and supplies:

- ✓ Mohawk's Professional Choice or Silent Choice foam, or Mohawk Professional Choice Moisture Guard (MG) or Silent Choice MG, which includes an attached moisture barrier (for use on concrete sub-floors that require a complete moisture barrier);
- ✓ Mohawk's Professional Choice Installation Kit, which includes pull bar, push block, spacers, adhesive scraper, and masking tape;
- ✓ Mohawk's Professional Choice Adhesive;
- ✓ Mohawk Sealant;
- ✓ Fine-tooth handsaw or power saw/table saw;
- ✓ Hammer (minimum 16 oz.);
- ✓ Pencil, tape measure, utility knife, cotton cloth;
- ✓ Safety glasses;
- ✓ Moldings and transitions.

PRE-INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS

Sub-Floor Inspection

Before beginning the installation, determine that the sub-floor is level, according to the following specifications (right). The sub-floor must be level within 3/16 of an inch over a 10 ft. radius. If the sub-floor is above the 3/16-inch mark, it must be leveled to the acceptable 3/16-inch measurement before beginning your installation.



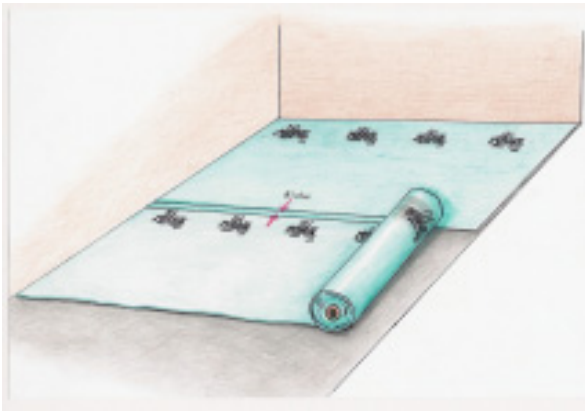
Organic (Wood) Sub-Floors

If you're installing DuraLoc over an organic (wood) floor, *do not use polyethylene film (PE film)*. When installing DuraLoc on organic sub-floors, use Mohawk's Professional Choice or Silent Choice foam. Roll out and place the foam edges against each other (do not overlap). If needed, tape the seams.



Concrete Sub-Floors

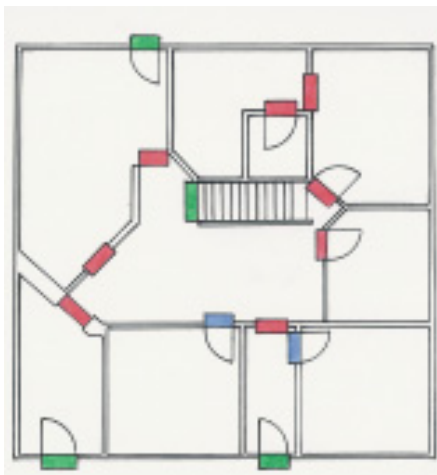
If you're installing DuraLoc over a concrete floor, *always use a 6 ml PE film (below)*. Mohawk Professional Choice MG and Silent Choice MG combine PE Film with cushioning and sound-reduction properties. When installing DuraLoc on concrete sub-floors, use Mohawk's Professional Choice MG or Silent Choice MG foam underlayment. You'll place the white foam side facing up and the plastic side facing down. Butt the edges of the foam, overlapping the poly moisture barrier. Peel off the protective coating and activate the double face tape on concrete sub-floors.



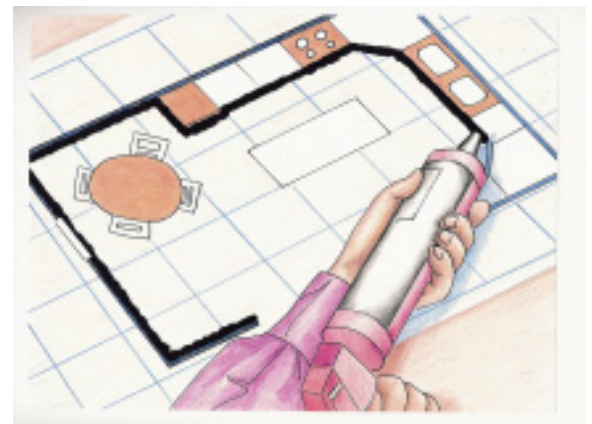
- ✓ If the installed floor is located over radiant heat, check that the sub-floor's surface does not exceed 84° F.

Wet areas

When installing DuraLoc in a bathroom or in other potential "wet areas," please note that you'll need to install the laminate like a glued floating floor system (See Section 1.7 for instructions—glue the top of the tongue and the bottom of the groove).



You'll also fill all expansion areas with Mohawk Sealant, an acrylic-silicon caulking material (above right).



Large Rooms

Use room transitions if the installed area is greater than 32 feet X 25 feet (left). Transitions enable the floating floor to expand and contract to compensate for changes in seasons—low humidity in the winter and high humidity in the summer.

Doorways

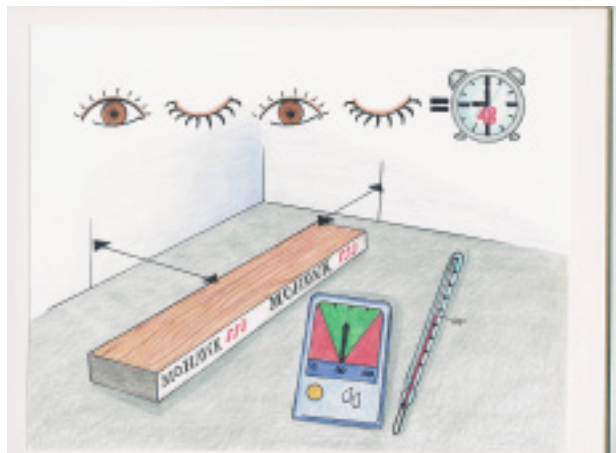
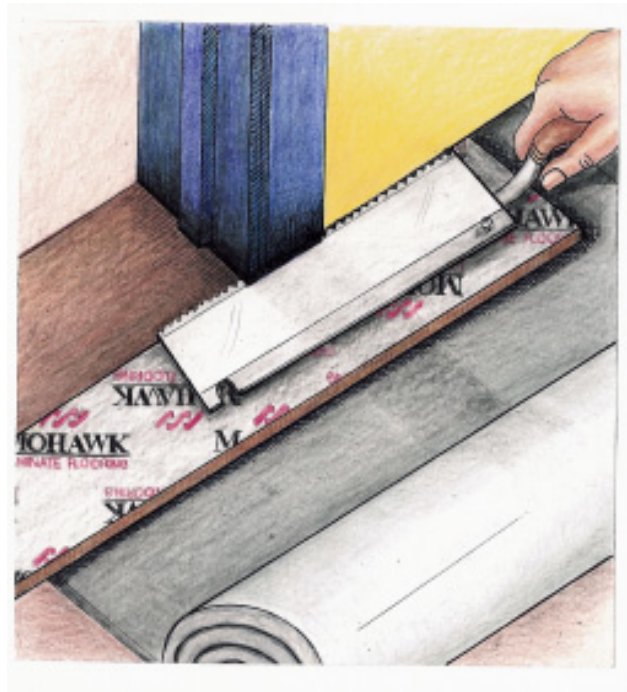
Doorway transitions must be used if a doorway is 4 feet wide or less. Doorways over 4 feet do not require a transition *if the 1/2 inch expansion requirement is maintained*. Door jambs must be properly undercut (right) to allow the laminate to freely expand and contract.

Pre-Installation Product Acclimation

For a minimum of 48-72 hours prior to installation (*below*), acclimate the DuraLoc to the environment (i.e., the rooms in which it will be installed). The room temperature should be between 55-85°, with a 35-90% relative humidity.

Following these steps in acclimating the DuraLoc:

- ✓ Do not open the cartons;
- ✓ Stack the cartons towards the center of the room (not an outside wall);
- ✓ Stack no more than five cartons high;
- ✓ Keep stacked cartons 6 inches apart.



Moisture Test

Always test the sub-floor for moisture prior to beginning your installation (left). If the sub-floor's vapor emission is less than 5lbs/24hrs./1000 sq. ft. (using a calcium chloride test), the 6 ml polyethylene film (PE film) will suffice. If the vapor emission is greater than 5lbs/24hrs./1000 sq. ft., *the floor must be sealed before beginning installation*. If using a Tramex moisture meter, the reading must be no higher than 5. (*For additional information on moisture and laminate flooring, please see Section 5.1 of Mohawk's Laminate Product Guide.*)

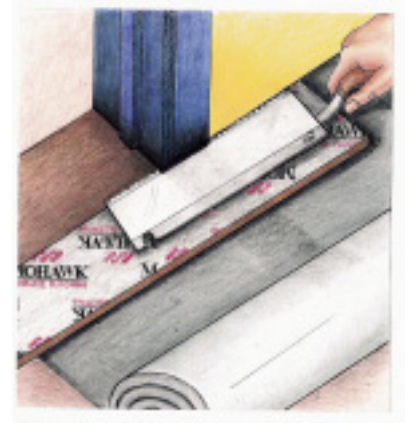
Installation plans

In general, plan to install planks towards the room's light source (windows). Always install planks lengthwise in a hallway.

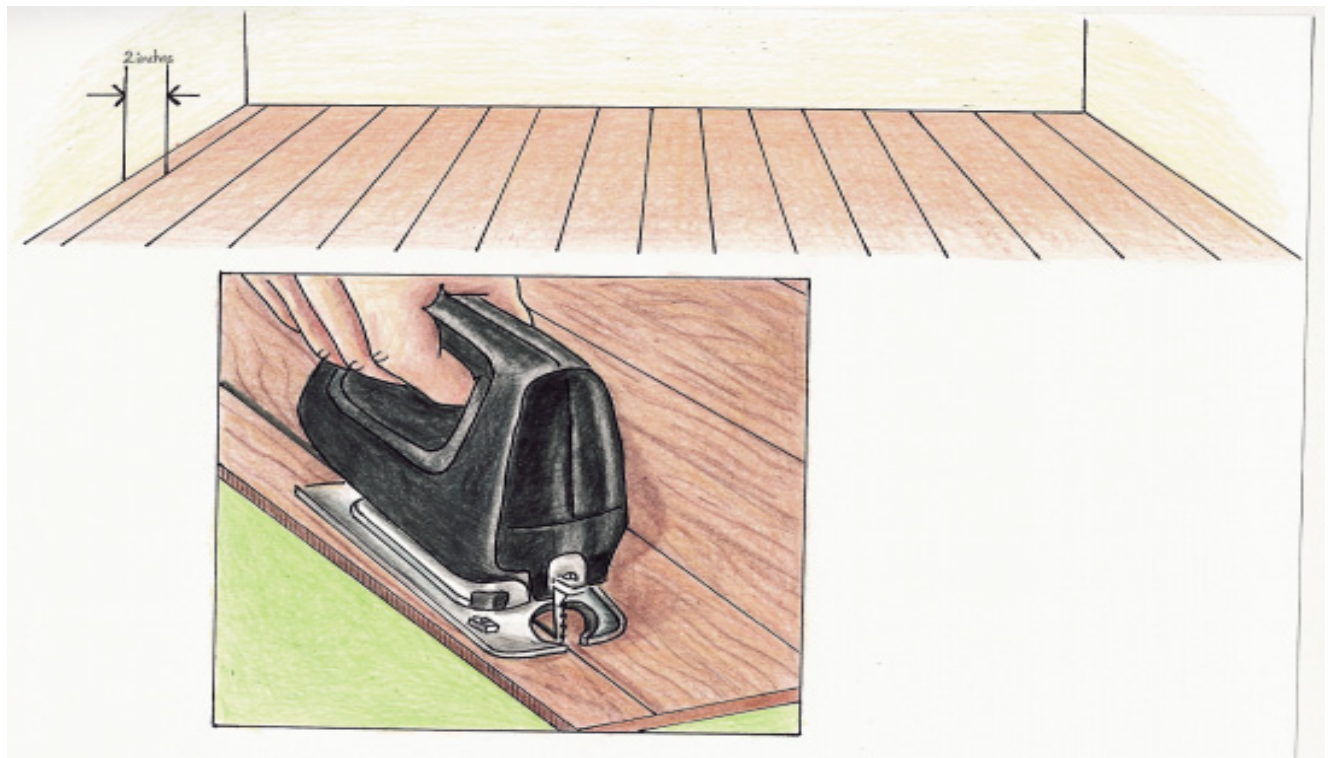


INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

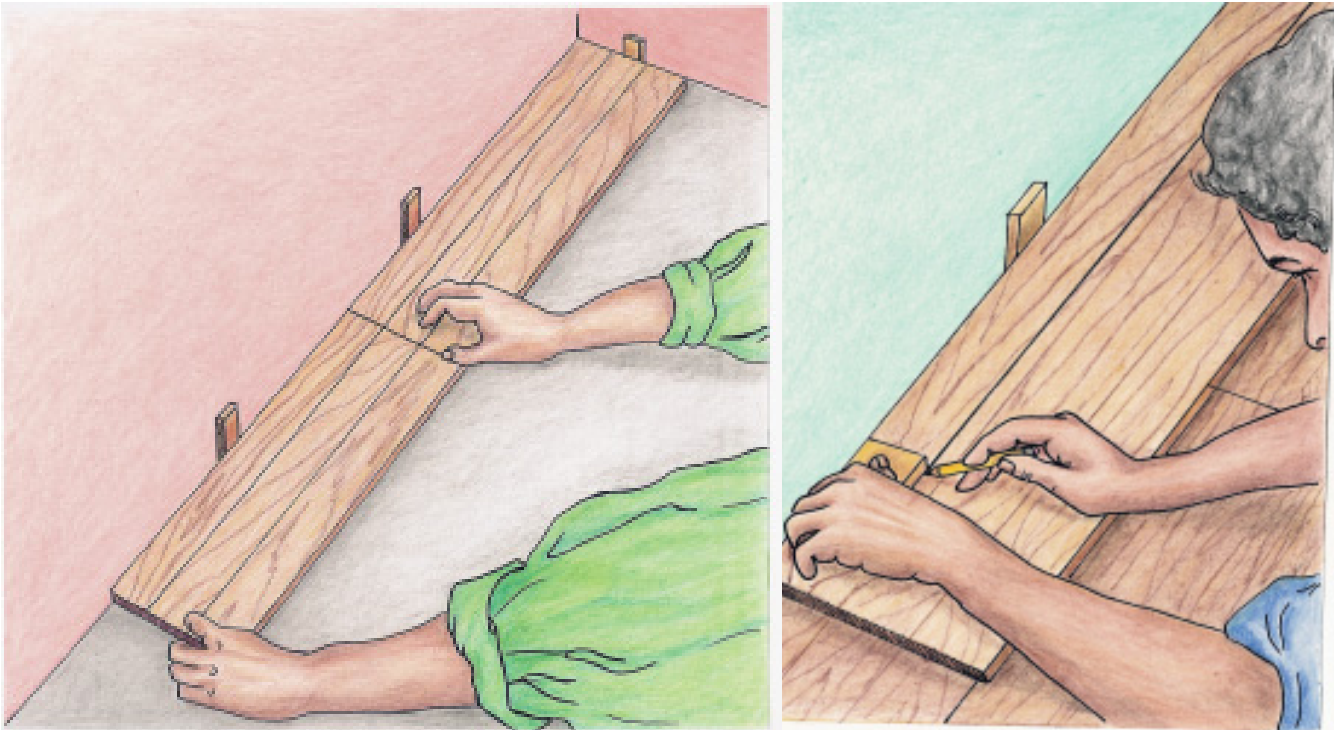
First, clean all loose debris on the sub-floor, vacuuming if necessary. Install the appropriate underlayment (Mohawk Professional Choice or Silent Choice foam or Professional Choice MG or Silent Choice MG) and install the metal (T) part of all transitions, making sure to leave an 1/4-inch expansion space.



Next, measure the room. Lay out the room, *ensuring that there will be at least a 2 inch-wide plank positioned for the last row (below, top)*. If you find that the line of the initial installing wall is not straight, you'll need to scribe and cut the first row of planks before beginning installation (*below, bottom*).

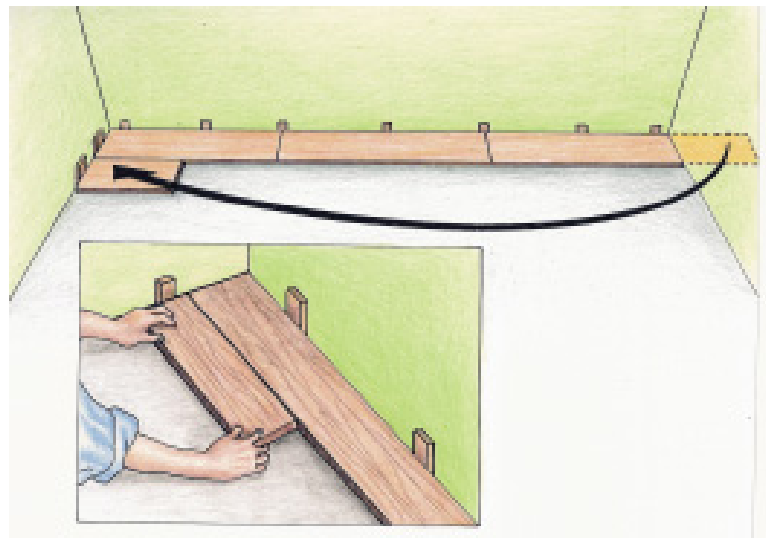


Lay the first plank with the groove *towards* the wall and place spacers (where needed) between the wall and the plank to maintain the 1/2 inch expansion gap (*below left*). Mark and cut the starting planks to conform to the wall (*below right*).



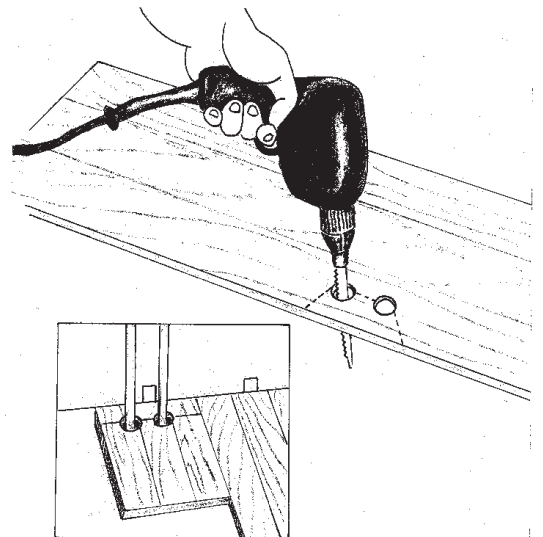
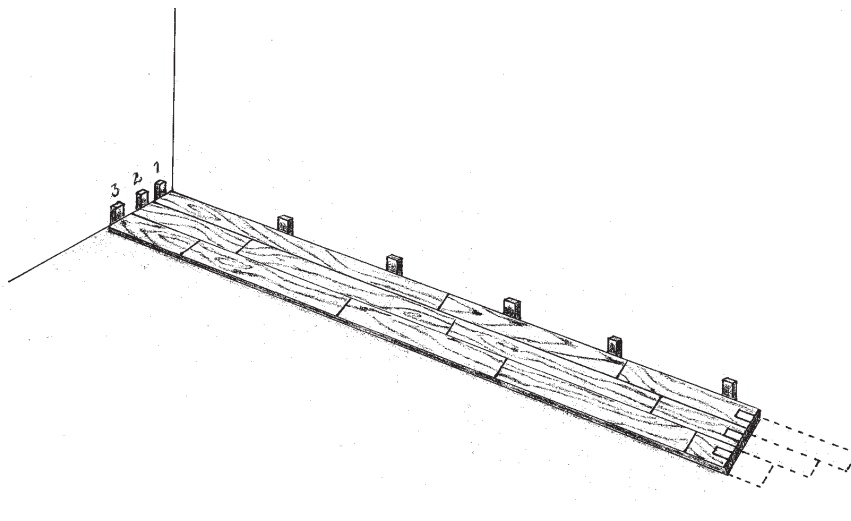
You'll use a "Random Plank" technique to install DuraLoc. *Be sure to inspect each plank before installing.* To begin, start in the room's left corner. The first board in the first row should be a full plank. The first plank in the second row should be a 2/3 plank, and the first plank in the third row should be a 1/3 plank. These will serve as the starter pieces and form the strong base needed to keep the floor square throughout the installation. (*below left, right*)

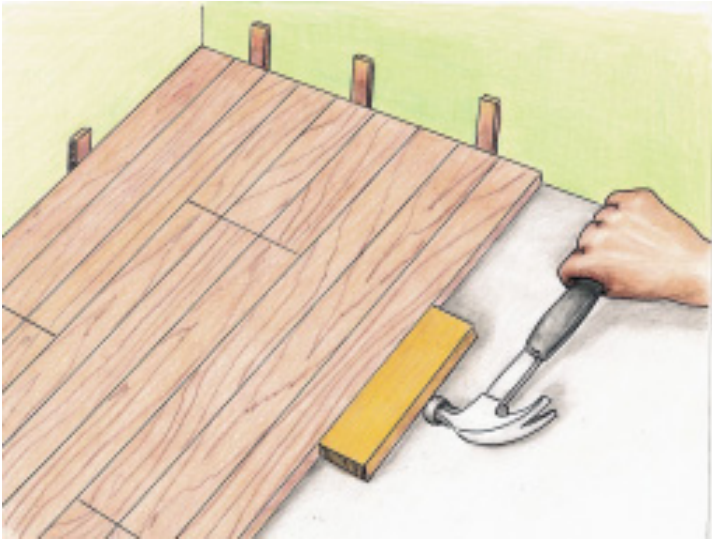
➔ **Please note:** If installing DuraLoc into a light commercial or high traffic residential area, you must glue the entire floor. Apply glue to the top of the tongue and the bottom of the groove, and only glue the length joints. The end joints do not need to be glued. Allow the bead of glue to dry on the laminate surface for at least 10-15 minutes. The glue will become firm and harden.



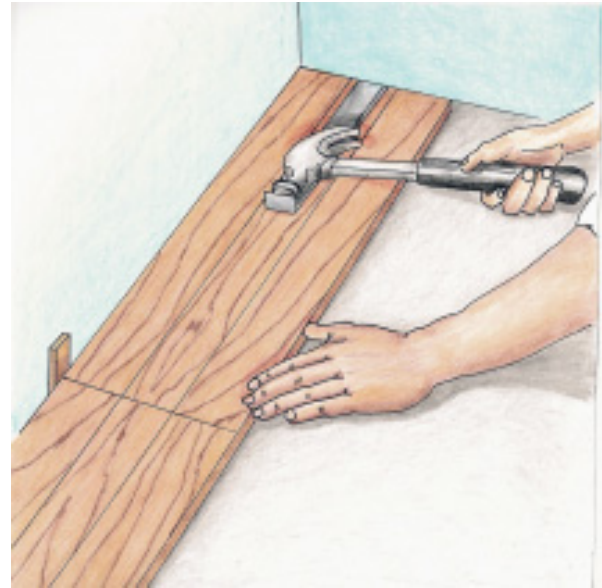
Take a plastic putty knife and scrape off the excess glue. In the same process, take a damp cotton cloth and wipe all excess residue on the laminate surface. If needed, use a dry cotton cloth to buff the plank joints as needed (right) .

- ➔ Note that end joints should be no less than 16 inches apart. Place spacers against the wall to secure the 1/2 inch expansion gap. This includes around pipes, pillars, and all other fixed objects (below), using a 1/2-inch diameter around pipes..



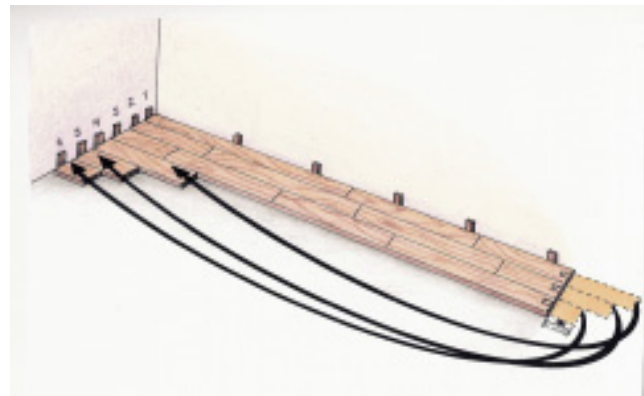
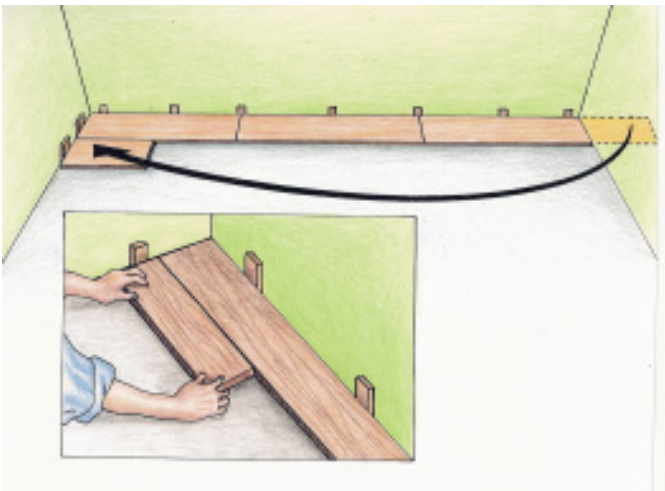


Press (*Snap*) the first three planks together by gently tapping them with the tapping block. (*left*) Start by manually interlocking each plank with the tongue lengthwise and then sideways in the short side groove, taking care to ensure the correct elevation of the planks. Then carefully tap the planks together using the

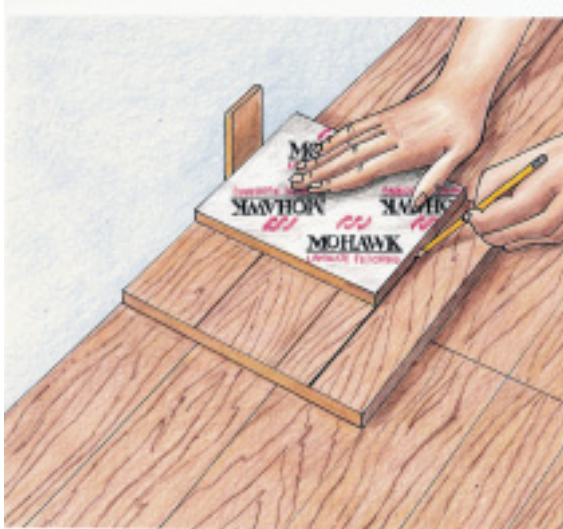


hammer and the push block; first the long joints and then the end joints. Apply only as much force as absolutely necessary to secure the planks together. Once the first three rows have been interlocked, move them into the final position and fix them next to the walls with spacers so that they cannot move (*right*). This serves as the floor's foundation. If the starter wall is straight, you will remain straight throughout the entire floor.

Continue the job, placing, cutting, and snapping the planks together. Try to use the end piece from the previous row to begin the next new row (*below left*). Make sure that you maintain the 16-inch end joint rule! Continue until the installation is complete (*below right*).



Before installing the last row, you will need to scribe planks to the wall. Place uninstalled planks on top of the last row installed, using a piece of plank for a template for the width (*below left*). Make the scribe onto the last row of boards outlining the shape of the wall, then cut the boards with the jig saw. Install the last row of planks and fit the last panel carefully with the aid of a pull-iron (*below right*). Depending on the type of saw used in cutting the planks, cut into the face of the board (laminated) with the blade always spinning into the laminate. The saw blade should be carbide-tipped with a minimum of 32 teeth.



Be sure to remember to leave a 1/2 inch gap between/underneath planks and transitions (*below*).



The flooring must be cut away where fixtures are secured to the sub-floor or where pipes have to run through the floor. This ensures that the fixtures or pipes do not obstruct the floor's movement (expansion and contraction). The opening must be at least 1/2 inch larger than the fixture/pipe (*below, left and right*).

