

Metro Sculpted Laminate Flooring Glueless Floating Installation Guide

INSTALLER / OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

- It is the Installer/Owner's responsibility to carefully inspect ALL materials BEFORE installation as to the accuracy of the order and the conditions/quality of product such as milling, laminations, dimension, grade, color and finish.
- If the flooring is not acceptable for any reason or appears to be doubtful, do not install and contact your supplier. Once the flooring is installed, it is deemed to have been "accepted" by the owner even if the owner was absent at time of installation. Warranties & Claims DO NOT cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.
- He/she must use good judgment and reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with visible defects or imperfections. NOTE: The industry standard for allowable waste by the manufacturer is 5% to offset visual or milling defects during manufacturing process.
- "Racking the Floor"** As you install the floor, blend the laminate planks from several cartons to provide a random look throughout the installation.
- Performance of the floor is highly dependent on proper installation. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine if the job site subfloor and job site conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for laminate flooring installation.
- Warranty does not cover problems resulting from or associated with the subfloor, job site environment or installation deficiencies.

ACCLIMATION

Flooring should be at the job site at least 48 hours least 4" space under and around the each carton to allow air to circulate evenly. Do not open cartons until ready to install. Prior to installation to allow the laminate flooring to adapt to the temperature and moisture contents of the new environment. Cartons should be placed in the center of the installation site area. Keep away from the air vents, outside walls or windows. Do not store directly on the concrete. Flooring should be kept flat with the proper support at both ends and stack cartons to provide at eating and air conditioning units must be operating at least 7 days prior to the delivery of the flooring and maintain a consistent room temperature between 65-75°F and a relative humidity of 45-55%. This environment should be kept at the time of installation and after the installation all year around.

SUBFLOORS AND JOBSITE CONDITION

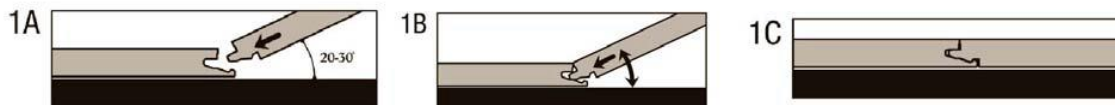
Laminate Flooring can be installed on, above, below grade or on almost all types of floors (existing stone floors, ceramic tiles, terrazzo, marble, PVC, linoleum floors and resilient (VCT) vinyl composition tile) providing they are clean, sound, dry and smooth.

- Must be checked for moisture. (Maximum moisture reading for wood subfloor is 14% and for concrete subfloor is 4.5%.)
- Must be clean, structurally sound and flat and level at 3/16" in a 10' radius or 1/8" in a 6' radius.
- Concrete subfloor must be completely cured and at least 90 days old.
- A moisture vapor barrier such as minimum of 6 mil polyethylene film should be installed between concrete and ground. Make sure the basements and crawl spaces are well ventilated.
- If installing over a crawl space or a concrete floor, use of polyethylene vapor barrier is required along with a minimum 2mm thickness foam underlayment. We recommend 2 in 1 Moisture Blok or 3 in 1 Sound Blok Plus underlayment by Forest Accents.
- Forest Accents laminate flooring needs room to expand. An expansion gap of 10-15mm (3/8" – 5/8") should always be left around the perimeter of the room (e.g.: between the flooring panels and the walls or any other fixed elements, such as heating pipes or door jambs). The expansion gap can be covered up with baseboards, quarter round, or the appropriate floor molding. T-moldings (at least 2cm (1") in width) must be used between adjoining rooms, hallways and doorways. T-moldings must be used in the middle of rooms measuring 10 meters (33') in the direction of the panel length and more than 8 meters (26') in the direction of the panel width.

GENERAL

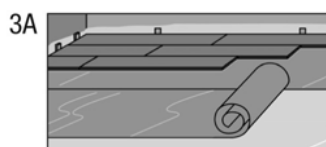
Uniclic® is a revolutionary system for installing laminate floors without using glue. The panels can be clicked together simply thanks to the ingenious shape of the tongue and groove.

Method A (Angle-In installation method): Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down while exerting forward pressure. The panels will automatically click into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove, or the groove on to the tongue. The tongue into the groove is the easiest method. (See diagrams 1A --- 1B --- 1C.)

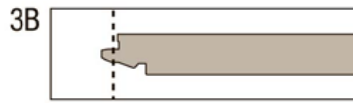


Start installation

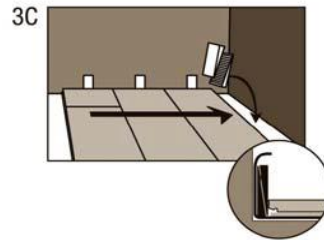
- First install the underlayment, per width and gradually as you progress. Let the membrane run up the wall a bit before cutting to size. A molding will be attached to this later. **See diagrams 3A.**



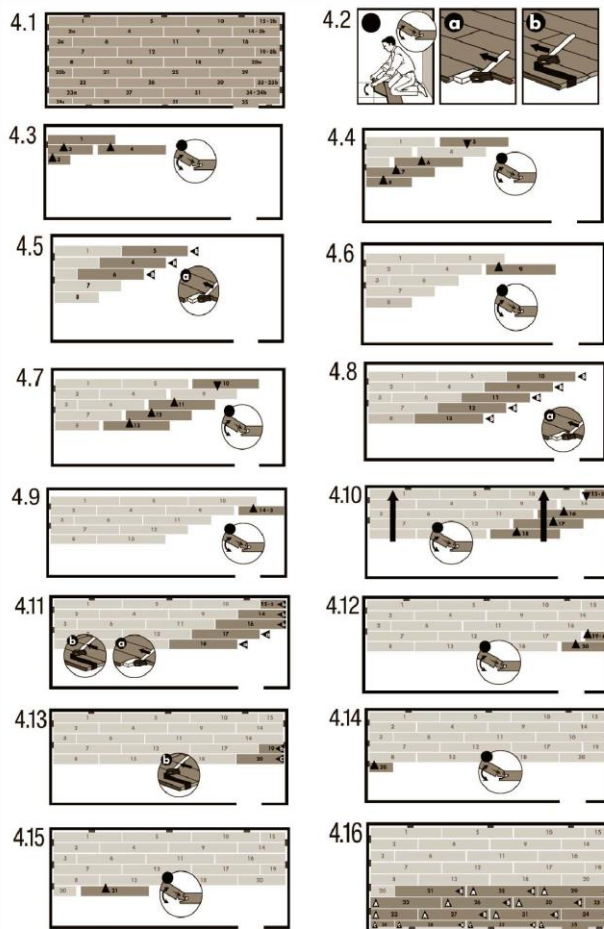
2. Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both the long and the short sides. (See **diagram 3B.**)



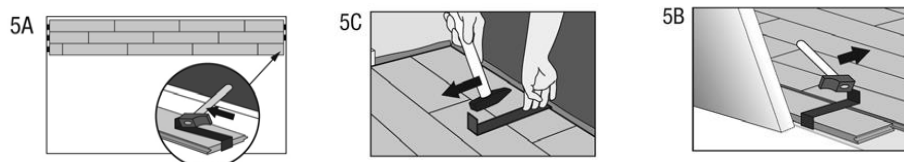
3. Put the plank with the sawn off sides against the walls. Put spacers from the installation kit between the planks and the wall. This will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: 3/8". (See diagram 3C.)



4. The diagrams below indicate where the Uniclic® panels are clicked together by angling up and down or where they are tapped together flat. **IMPORTANT** – When using the flat tap method along wall lines be sure that no installation tool impacts the sides of the planks which could cause damage along the plank edges. Follow the diagrams precisely. (See diagrams 4.1 through 4.16.)



In places where it is too difficult to install the Uniclic® planks with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can tap them together using the pull bar and a hammer. (See diagrams 5A --- 5B - 5C.)



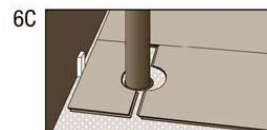
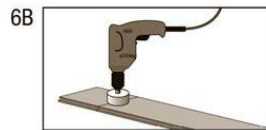
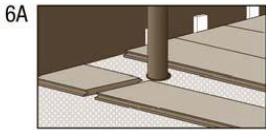
There must be an 3/8" expansion joint between the last row and the wall. Keep this in mind when sawing the last row of panels.

Wet Areas

Since prolonged water exposure could damage your laminate flooring, the following installation recommendations should be closely followed. Wet areas would include, but are not limited to, bathrooms, powder rooms, kitchens, mud rooms, foyers, and laundry rooms. Neither flooring panels nor flooring accessories are recommended for extreme humid applications such as in saunas or swimming pool areas. An expansion area of 3/8" must be provided around all vertical obstructions including walls, permanent cabinets, pipes etc. All perimeter expansion areas must be completely filled in with a water repellant sealant. When applying sealant, it is helpful to first apply a strip of masking tape parallel to and approximately 1mm (1/32") from the edge of the flooring. Then fill the expansion area with sealant, remove any excess with a plastic scraper or putty knife, then remove the tape. Let dry for 24 hours.

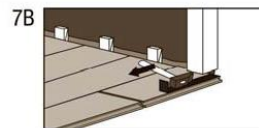
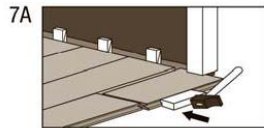
Pipes

In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two panels. Take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 20mm (3/4") for the expansion. Click the panels together on the short side and drill a hole in the center of the joint between the two panels. Now you can install the panels in the floor. (See diagrams 6A-6B-6C.)



Under doorframes

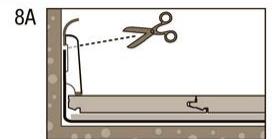
When sawing the panels, ensure that the expansion joint under the door is at least 3/8". If you cannot lift the panel, use an adapted tapping block or pull bar and hammer to tap the panels together with the planks flat on the floor. (See diagrams 7A-7B.)



Finishing

Remove all spacers. Install the molding on the plastic membrane that runs up the wall from under the floor. Never attach the molding to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract under the molding. (See diagram 8A.)

For a perfect finish around pipes, use rosettes or caulking. In places where profiles or skirting cannot be placed, fill expansion gaps with caulking.



Installation over Radiant Heated Floors

- Always follow the instruction from the radiant heating system manufacturer. Below is the general instruction.
- Operation of radiant heat system should be set to run at 2/3 maximum output for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation of flooring to further allow any remaining moisture from concrete to evaporate.
- All radiant heating systems must be set to room temp. (A minimum of 64° F), for at least 4 days before flooring delivery; acclimation, or installation processes may begin.
- Proceed with the floating installation. Use of 2 in 1 or 3 in 1 underlayment is mandatory.
- After completing the installation, do not change the radiant heat setting for 48 hrs.
- 48 hours after the installation, slowly raise the temperature by few degree daily increments over period of one week its preferred temperature for flooring to adjust to the temperature changes in a gradual manner. Avoid dramatic temperature changes at anytime.
- Operate the radiant heating system at the lowest possible temperature required to achieve a comfortable living environment. Never raise the flooring surface temperature setting above 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Dedicated thermostat should be installed to allow the temperature of the radiant heating system to be accurately controlled.

Disassembling

Your Laminate Flooring can very easy be disassembled, which enables replacement during installation and also after made installation when it is needed or desired to replace one or several planks or even the whole floor.

After the installation

Remove all spacers along the walls and install moldings. The skirting/baseboard must be fastened to the walls and never to the floor.

Care and Maintenance

Your Laminate Flooring should be cleaned using a vacuum-cleaner. Use a recommended hardwood/laminate floor cleaner. Place doormats at entrances and use floor protectors, felt pads under chair and furniture legs. See Care and Maintenance Guide for more information.



LAMINATE FLOORING WARRANTY GUIDE

25-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY FOR RESIDENTIAL USE & 5-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY FOR LIGHT COMMERCIAL USE

Forest Accents® warrants that the covered products, in their original manufactured condition, will be free from manufacturing defects and will not stain or show wear through the decorative print layer for the warranty period under the normal residential and light commercial use if maintained in accordance with our guidelines. Forest Accents® warrants that when installed and maintained in accordance with our guidelines, the flooring will not delaminate or separate as a result of manufacturing defect during the warranty period.

PRE-INSTALLATION WARRANTY - INSTALLER / OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Forest Accents® laminate flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards which permits production defects up to 5%.

- It is the Installer/Owner's responsibility to carefully inspect all materials before installation including: accuracy of the order, conditions/quality of product such as milling, lamination, dimension, grade, color and finish.
- Installer must use good judgment and reasonable selectivity and discard or cut off pieces with visible defects or imperfections.
- If the flooring is not acceptable for any reason or appears to be doubtful, do not install and contact your supplier.
- Once the flooring is installed, it is deemed to have been "accepted" by the owner even if the owner was absent at time of installation. We accept no responsibility for liabilities for claims or expenses, including labor costs, where flooring with visible defects or unacceptable material has been installed.
- It is the responsibility of the installer to determine if the job site subfloor and job site conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for laminate flooring installation. We accept no responsibility for the flooring failure resulted from or associated with the subfloor, subsurface, job site environment or installation deficiencies after the flooring has been installed

OUR WARRANTIES DO NOT COVER CONDITIONS AND DAMAGES CAUSED BY :

- Failure to follow the guidelines provided by Forest Accents®. Improper installation, maintenance, storage and handling.
- Negligence, accidents, abuse, misuse or installation in inappropriate locations. Our products are made to perform in what is considered to be normal usage for its intended purpose.
- Water damage including but not limited to; wet mopping, spills or standing water or flooding.
- Exposure to excessive heat or moisture regardless of its cause or source.
- Indentations, scratches, scuffs caused by accidents or negligence including but not limited to those caused by sand or other abrasive substances, pets nails, spiked-heeled shoes or dragging furniture and other objects.
- Fire, flooding and other natural disasters.
- Reduction in gloss level of the finish, minor imperfections and irregularities are not considered as a defect.
- Variations in color, grain. Color, shade or texture variations between samples, printed color photography and the actual material.
- Noises such as squeaks and popping caused by subfloor condition or improper installation.
- Products that are sold "AS IS."
- Cupping, delaminating, crowning, cracks, gaps due to excessive moisture, humidity or dryness of the environment or subfloor.
- Gaps between boards caused by normal expansion and contraction through seasonal changes.
- Imperfections or problems that are only visible under certain light or from a certain angle are not considered as a defect. Visible defects should be evaluated by their visibility from a standing position in normal lighting.

In order to be covered under our warranties, you must keep all records including your sales receipt, pre-installation test results. Flooring must be professionally installed and maintained in accordance with our guidelines. Failure to follow the guidelines will void this warranty. Our warranty is not transferable and it extends only to the original purchaser of our product. In the event any conditions covered by the warranties occur, you should contact your supplier in a timely manner and file a claim in writing. Forest Accents® or our designated representative must be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect the condition and obtain samples for evaluation of claim before undertaking any repairs, removal or replacement. We will not be responsible for the cost of any repairs, removal or replacement undertaken before we accept and approve the claim. We exclude and will not be liable or pay incidental, indirect, special or consequential damages under our warranties whether resulting from nondelivery or from the use, misuse or inability to use the product or from defects in the product or from our own negligence. In other words, any loss, expense or damage other than to the flooring itself is not covered under our warranty coverage. Our obligation under this warranty shall be limited to, at its option, a one time repair or replacement of the defective product or refund the purchase price for the defective product that has not been installed in exchange for the defective product. These warranties do not include the removal or replacement of cabinets, fixtures, retail markups, installation or labor provided by others or supplemental costs, including but not limited to, relocation during the repair process such as hotel, meals, or moving and storage of furniture.

To the extent permitted by law and for all non-consumer products, all warranties other than our limited warranties, express or implied, including any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, are disclaimed. If any implied warranty arises under state law, any and all implied warranties (including any warranty of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose) are limited in duration to the period of this written warranty, to the extent allowed by law. The present warranty is governed by the laws of the State where the Forest Accents® head office is located, save and excepting the rules governing conflict of laws and any other law.



LAMINATE FLOORING CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

The surface of Tropics laminate flooring is protected with a crystal finish and impregnated with a moisture resistant Melamine resin décor paper. Tropics Laminate flooring is a very durable flooring option - Care and maintenance is simple and easy!

Preventive Care

- It is essential to keep the environment stable with the room temperature between 65-75° F and a relative humidity of 45-55% all year around to minimize the seasonal changes. Use a humidifier/de-humidifier to maintain the relative humidity.
- Place high-quality floor mats and area rugs near outside entrances and high traffic areas to prevent any abrasive substances from being tracked onto the flooring. If you have laminate flooring in your kitchen, a throw rug with a soft or felt backing should be placed in front of the sink area to catch spills and splashes.
- Attach felt floor protectors on the bottom of furniture legs, including chairs, tables, sofas, etc. that sit directly on the floor. Never place plants directly onto a floor. Always use a pot stand or dish.
- Wipe up any spills and spots immediately with a damp cloth.
- Keep outside shoes off the floor to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substances off the floor.
- Keep shoes with spiked heels or stilettos high heels off the floor. These shoes exert high compression & force which may cause damage and denting to the flooring surface.
- Keep pet nails trimmed.
- Shade windows to protect the floor from exposure to excessive sunlight.
- It is recommended to rotate rugs or furniture periodically to have the floor age evenly.

Regular Cleaning & Maintenance

- Sweep, dust mop or vacuum (do not use the beater bar) to keep dirt and grit off the flooring surface. This will reduce scratching and/or dulling of the flooring finish.
- For deeper cleaning, use a professional laminate floor cleaner. The laminate cleaner should be lightly sprayed or applied to a cloth applicator (not directly to the flooring.)
 - Do not wet-mop or flood-mop your laminate floor.
 - Do not use soap or detergent-based cleaners, wax-based products or any type of wax or polish on laminate floors as these may leave a dull, filmy residue.
 - Do not use steel wool or abrasive cleaners.
 - Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine.
- For tough spots such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, or tar, use mineral spirits on a clean white cloth, then wipe the area with a damp cloth to remove remaining residue.
- For tough spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, allow foreign material to harden. Gently scrape foreign object with a plastic scraper or credit card. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.