

LAMINATE GUIDE




**COYLE
CARPET
ONE**
FLOOR & HOME®

Beautiful Made Affordable
FLOORING COUNTERTOPS CABINETS

Thank You
for choosing to buy local.



In a city filled with so many choices, we thank you for choosing us. Your business is truly appreciated and we're grateful for the trust you've placed in us.

We hope you enjoy your Floor & Home goods for many years to come.

Laminate flooring styles consist of authentic wood visuals, rich ceramic looks as well as natural stone designs with different surface textures to beautifully accommodate any room in your home.



Laminate flooring is a hybrid floor covering made of particleboard wood. It installs similarly to real hardwood since it has a modernized tongue-and-groove style of joining boards. Laminate flooring brings the beauty of a natural wood floor with the easy maintenance of a sheet vinyl floor together so you can have the style you want and the carefree maintenance you need.

Laminate is always installed as a floating floor. This means that it does not have the nail-down installation process of hardwood or engineered wood. Floating floor installation has increasingly become the method of choice for many types of floor coverings. This is due to its ease and simplicity. Additionally, this type of installation saves money and helps installation go a lot faster.



MAINTAINING LAMINATE FLOORS

While laminate flooring is remarkably durable, it is not indestructible. However, by observing the following precautions, you can expect years of beauty from your laminate floor.

- Use a dust mop or wipe occasionally with a damp cotton or cloth mop. If heavier cleaning is needed, an occasional damp mopping with a manufacturer recommended cleaning product or other mild cleaning product is suggested.
- Do not use soap or detergent-based cleaners, wax-based products, or any type of polish as they leave a dull, filmy residue.
- Do not flood your floor with water or clean with a steam cleaner.
- Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar head unless the beater bar is switched off.
- Be sure to keep pet nails trimmed and paws clean as well as free of dirt and gravel that may scratch your floor.



- Remove spills promptly by using a soft cloth and a manufacturer recommended cleaner.
- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt and grit which act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep daily. The vacuum should be brushless, or able to have the option to turn the brush off. Be certain that the wheels of the vacuum are clean and do not damage the finish.

- Place protective pads beneath furniture legs, tables, and other easily movable furniture to reduce scratches. Replace plastic casters on chairs with rubber wheels and lift rather than slide heavy objects across the floor.
- Remove shoes with spiked or damaged heels before walking on the floor—Spiked or stiletto high-heel shoes may cause damage to laminate floors due to the extremely high compressive force they generate. Such footwear can produce dynamic loads in excess of 1000 pounds per square inch even when worn by someone of slight or average build. As added protection, use dirt-trapping walk-off mats at all exterior doors to help keep sand, dirt, and grit off your laminate flooring.
- Relative humidity in the area of use must be kept within a normal range. Laminate flooring will perform best when the interior environment is controlled to stay within a relative humidity range of 30-50 percent and a temperature range of 60 degrees to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Use of a hygrometer (humidity gauge) is highly recommended.



HOW LAMINATE FLOORING IS MADE

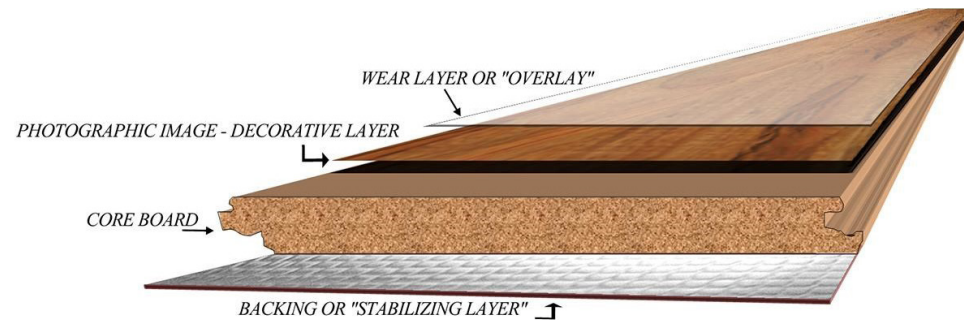
Sometimes laminate flooring is incorrectly called 'laminate wood flooring'. Laminate is wood only in two minor respects. First, laminate floor is made of pressed wood. Second, the top only looks like wood or stone, because of an accurate photograph wear layer.

Wear Layer

Laminate flooring is a surface layer of two thin sheets of paper impregnated with melamine. This top-most surface layer is a hard-transparent type of plastic sheet.

Image Layer

Even when viewed close-up laminate flooring can look realistic. This is due to the laminate's photographic-quality image of real wood underneath the wear layer.



Base Layer (core)

Under the wood-grain photograph, there is approximately a half-inch of wood-chip composite. Any type of wood chip product is inherently susceptible to water damage. Laminate flooring's base is dimensionally stable, but only to a certain degree. It will stand up against some water, but only if this water is quickly removed.

MOISTURE & LAMINATE FLOORS

What happens when water comes into contact with laminate flooring?

Generally, laminate flooring with open edges will maintain its original dimensions after about two hours of submerged water exposure. After about four hours, the flooring begins to soak up the water and unfortunately this is considered the point of no return. Please note that higher temperatures will increase the rate of absorption. Boards that begin at 5/16-inch thick will swell to 7/16-inch thick or even more.



Delamination:

Slowly the image layer and wear layer begin to de-laminate from the top of the board. Because laminate is a dense fiberboard, it takes over two full days to completely dry out. After drying, the laminate flooring will never return to its original dimensions. Given this, it is absolutely critical that water is kept away from laminate flooring as much as possible.

Water on top of laminate flooring:

Laminate flooring can get wet, but only on the top. The sides of the floor, open seams, damaged areas, and bottoms should never get wet. Mop up standing water quickly as water can migrate into the seams. The edge areas of the laminate are more problematic since edges are cut and exposed. If the water has reached the edge or open seams it is important to thoroughly extract the water with a wet-dry vacuum.

Water under laminate flooring:

If water seeps underneath the laminate flooring, the water must be removed immediately. If the water is not pervasive, you may be able to extract it with a wet-dry vacuum.

What happens when humidity and laminate mix?

As the humidity levels rise above 60%, your flooring will expand. Since laminate is installed using a tongue in groove click to lock system, this expansion can push the sides of each plank into each other causing them to buckle.

Low humidity levels can also have an impact on your flooring. When it is extraordinarily dry (below 30% humidity), the flooring shrinks each plank away from the other. This can cause your flooring to separate and expose gaps.

Use of a hygrometer (humidity gauge) is highly recommended to minimize gapping.



WATERPROOF VS WATER-RESISTANT

Some brands will use the term “waterproof” to describe their products while others will say “water resistant”. What’s the difference and what does it mean to you?

Short answer: *Regarding laminate flooring products, the moisture-resistant element generally only relates to the top layer of the product. Waterproof and water resistant are not the same thing when it comes to flooring.*

Unlike vinyl, laminate flooring is water resistant from top to bottom, not bottom to top. This means that if you get water or a spill on your floor, waterproof or water-resistant floor systems will not allow liquids to seep through the interlocks, stopping the potential for mold or mildew to grow beneath your flooring. However, if you have moisture issues with your subfloor, you will still need a vapor barrier for waterproof laminate floors.

These definitions may also vary among manufacturers. To be certain of the water resistance level in a product, be sure to consult the manufactures warranty.



ACCLIMATION

Laminate flooring material needs to acclimate to the moisture and temperature conditions of the installation environment for between 24 and 72 hours before it can be installed. This timing is completely product dependent.

Relative humidity in the area of use must be kept within a normal range.

Laminate flooring will perform best when the interior environment is controlled to stay within a relative humidity range of 30-50 percent and a temperature range of 60 degrees to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Use of a hygrometer (humidity gauge) is strongly recommended.

PLEASE NOTE: If you will be acclimating the product yourself, you must do so at least 72-hours prior to installation. Our warehouses require a 48-hour notice prior to expected date of pick-up. Please plan accordingly and make arrangements with your salesperson in advance.

IN-FLOOR RADIANT HEATING SYSTEMS

The thermostat control for the radiant heating system must be connected and calibrated by a knowledgeable electrician. Coyle assumes no responsibility in completing that action.

To best acclimate the floor, a gradual 'warm-up' is suggested. It is recommended that the floor temperature is increased at increments of three (3°) degrees every day until the floor temperature matches the ambient temperature of the room(s) where it's installed.





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