Hayfield Light Grey Oak

Installing Wickes Laminate Click Flooring

Any single unit of furniture placed on a fitted laminate floor should not exceed 115kg in weight. Fitted kitchen units should not be fitted over laminate flooring.

This Laminate wood flooring is designed to appear as a natural product and will show variation in colour and appearance. Variations in colour and appearance are characteristics of real wood flooring and these should not be considered as defects in this laminate flooring.

Packs must be stored in dry, cool, moisture free conditions and should be opened on site only when they are ready to be installed. Always store laid flat. Ensure that the flooring is left in the area where it is to be laid for 48 hours in unopened packs prior to laying, as the flooring needs to acclimatise and adjust to the environment in which it will be installed (Fig 1).

If the room is wider or longer than 8m, you should split the installation into two parts by using an expansion gap. Please be sure to leave an expansion gap at every doorway. This gap can be hidden using a T-Bar moulding.

Do not begin installation until all other building operations are completed. All wet trades should be completed and fully dry. If installing in winter, the central heating system should have been running for a minimum of 7 days to control the atmospheric humidity.

The room temperature should be between 15 and 30°C and the ambient relative humidity should be between 40% and 70% RH. This is the level that most houses usually maintain when occupied. It is recommended that when installing the planks are taken from various different packs at random to give a more even appearance.

PLEASE NOTE: If there are any visible defects or the quality is incorrect DO NOT INSTALL IT! Immediately advise your store. If the floor is installed it will be deemed acceptable and correct.

Subfloor Requirements: Dry Subfloor

CONCRETE / SAND CEMENT SCREED / ANHYDRITE SCREED

The subfloor needs to be dry to a maximum moisture content of 75% Relative Humidity (RH) or 65% RH when there is underfloor heating. Ensure that you use a 1000 gauge damp proof membrane sheet, overlap joints by 250mm and apply tape (ideally a plastic tape i.e. Sellotape - not a paper based tape) to seal the joint. Ensure the membrane finishes above the floor level (Fig 10).

This can be cut off above the floor once installed and fixed behind the cover trim (Skirting or Beading).

AS A GUIDE: For sand/cement screed, approximately one day should be allowed for each millimetre of thickness for the first 50mm, followed by one and a half days for each millimetre above this thickness. It should be noted, however, that even under good drying conditions (20°C and 65% RH), a 50mm thick sand/cement screed needs at least two months to dry.

NOTE: If you have an anhydrite screed you should NOT use a liquid damp proof membrane to speed up the floor installation. You will need to wait until it has dried sufficiently. The process can be accelerated by the use of dehumidifiers to allow earlier installation. Ensure that you follow the instructions of the screed manufacturer. As a general rule, the drying time is similar to sand/cement screed.

WOODEN SUBFLOORS: The subfloor should be below 14% moisture content (MC). In most cases there should be no problem keeping with this limit.

Subfloor Requirements: Flat Subfloor

ENSURE THAT THE SUBFLOOR IS FLAT

It is essential that the subfloor has a tolerance of a gap that is no more than 2mm showing under a 1m long straight edge. If the substrate is not level, you should use Wickes 'Floor Levelling Compound' before the wood floor installation commences and always follow the instructions provided on the packaging. When installing over a wooden subfloor ensure that it is securely fixed down before starting the installation.

Underfloor Heating Within Subfloor

This flooring is suitable for installation over underfloor heating providing the underfloor heating has been in operation for at least 2 weeks. The heating should be running when the floor is installed. The heating should not be more than 27°C.

For full instructions on installing this laminate flooring with underfloor heating, please visit: https://uk.kronospan-express.com/en/express-services/downloads

Underlay Selection

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR LAMINATE IS FITTED ON A FIRM LEVEL SURFACE. FOAM UNDERLAY SHOULD NOT BE USED

This flooring is laid as a floating floor (i.e. onto underlay and not fixed to the ground). There are various combinations of underlay available:

FOR CONCRETE / SAND CEMENT SCREED / ANHYDRITE SCREED:

Use an underlay suitable for use with laminate flooring and concrete substrates, which is a minimum thickness of 1mm and maximum thickness of 3mm, with a minimum compressive strength of 60kPa. Only use foam underlay specified for laminate flooring or a high density fibreboard.

Ensure the damp proof membrane sheet is overlapped by a minimum of 250mm and where possible is brought up the walls so that it can be cut off above the new floor level and fixed behind skirting or other trims as appropriate (Fig 2).

FOR WOODEN SUBFLOORS:

Polythene damp proof membranes should not be used on top of wooden subfloors.

WOODEN SUBFLOORS AT GROUND FLOOR LEVEL

High density fibreboard underlay laid in a brickbond pattern maximum 5mm

Ensure airbricks or other ventilation points are free of obstruction.

Note: High density fibreboard underlay on top of existing floorboards laid in a brickbond pattern (Fig 3) will allow you to lay your flooring in the same direction as the existing floorboards. Use of other flooring underlay roll will require the flooring to be laid at 90 degrees to the existing floorboards (Fig 4).

WOODEN SUBFLOORS ABOVE GROUND FLOOR

High density fibreboard underlay laid in a brickbond pattern maximum 5mm

Start The Installation

After ensuring the subfloor is level to within 2mm in a 1mtr span, clean the subfloor. Sweep or vacuum the subfloor to ensure a clean and dust free surface. Do not lay on carpet. The next step is to install the selected underlay (Compressive Strength ≥ 60kPa). The first row of flooring should be laid with the tongue facing the wall. Start installation from the upper left corner.

Bathroom floors can be installed as normal, with an expansion gap of 10-12mm around the full perimeter, bath & pottery.

Important note for bathroom installation:

Extra care must be taken when using laminate flooring in bathrooms due to the increased risk of water damage.

Make sure that any spilt water is wiped from the floor immediately and that you use a bath mat when getting out of the bath / shower. Ensure that after bathing / showering this mat is removed from the floor to dry.

A damp mat must not have prolonged contact with laminate flooring.

The use of a joint sealant such as Quick-Step Hydrokit sealant or ClickGuard Clic Seal Laminate Floor Waterproofing Joint Sealant is recommended for domestic bathrooms and for commercially-utilized rooms for additional protection against the effects of moisture. Make sure that you apply laminate flooring joint sealant down the long and the short profile before clicking together - (and wipe away any excess immediately after clicking together!) – in order to achieve optimum moisture resistance. Under no circumstances should the toilet, bath or sink pedestal ever be screwed directly to the floor, instead a 10-12mm expansion gap should be left around the base. After installation any gaps around the pottery can be filled with flexible silicone. Perimeter expansion gaps at walls can be covered by skirting and a door bar. Fixed objects, like kitchen units, baths & pottery should never be fitted onto laminate flooring.

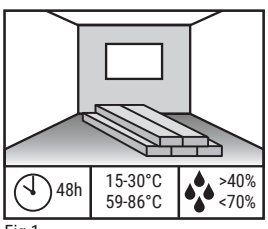


Fig 1

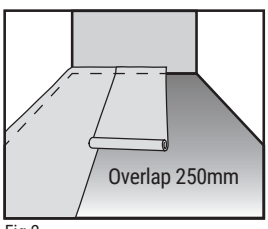


Fig 2

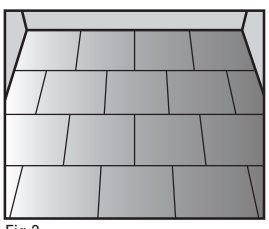
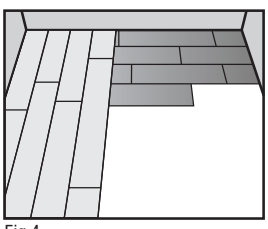


Fig 3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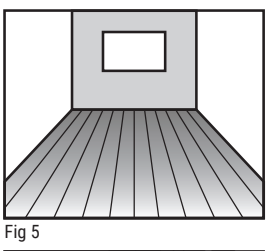


Fig 5

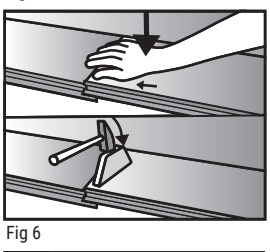


Fig 6

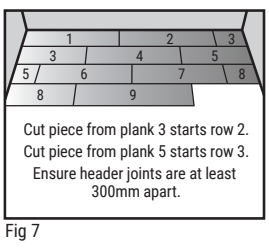


Fig 7

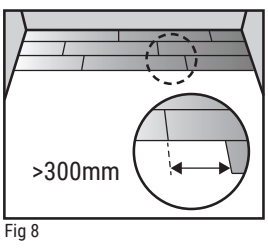


Fig 8

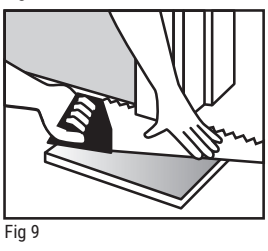


Fig 9

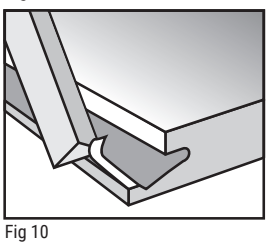


Fig 10

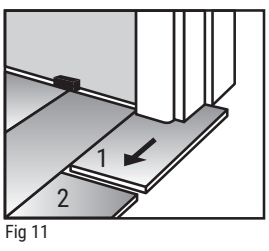


Fig 11

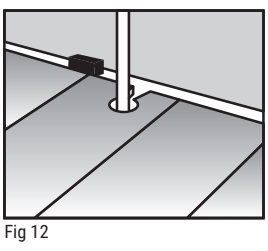
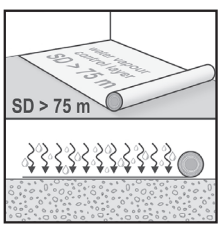
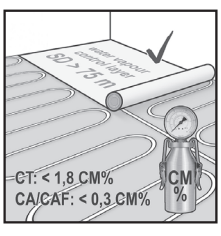
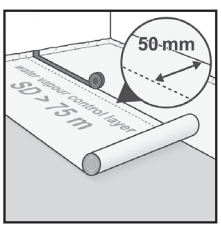
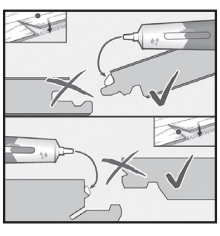


Fig 12









Ensure that you install 10 to 12mm spacers between the flooring and the wall to maintain the correct expansion gap. The 10 to 12mm spacers should be placed (2 per board along the long length and 1 per row at the short end of the board) to ensure a gap is maintained from the wall to the flooring. Spacers are required at both ends of each row.

REMEMBER that this gap is required at all other abutments such as radiator pipes, thresholds, door linings etc. After the flooring is installed the spacers MUST be removed. The gap should then be covered with skirting or beading.

Start the installation so that the long lengths run towards the light (Fig 5). If there is more than one natural light source there is no preference to the direction that the flooring is laid. In a corridor it is advised to lay the flooring to run in the same direction as the corridor.

The first row is laid by fitting the ends together then pushing down on to the tongue (Fig 6). Lightly tap with a tapping block and hammer.

When you get to the end of the row, cut the piece to fit at the end and use the off cut to start the next row (Fig 7) ensuring the end joints are staggered and kept apart by a minimum of 300mm (Fig 8). This is important to retain the strength in the flooring system and to provide a natural appearance. The next row is laid by placing the long edge profile (tongue) down into the groove of the first row at a 20-30° angle. Continue to install by locating the next panel's long edge and sliding it along to meet the previous (1st) panel, then folding it down and clicking the short edge in as you tap ends down with a tapping block and hammer. When you get to the doorway you will need to cut under the architrave and door casing so that the flooring fits underneath. Ensure that you allow for expansion too when you cut the flooring to go into the doorway. To cut the door frame at the correct height it is best to lay a piece of flooring upside down and then use this as a block to rest the saw blade flat on the surface so that the cut is at the correct height (Fig 9).

Flooring installed through doorways must be divided with an expansion gap which should be covered by a threshold or moulding.

Adhesive should not normally be used when installing this click system flooring. However, it is sometimes easier to remove a part of the lock system (Fig 10) so that the flooring can be tapped together. PVA adhesive should be applied to the face of the groove so that the joint remains strong. This method is particularly helpful when installing a board under the door frame into doorways (Fig 11).

In many cases the door will also require easing to allow it to open and close freely. If this is the case make sure that the door can be removed before you install the flooring into the doorway.

If you have radiator pipes in the room you will need to cut a hole so that the flooring can be fitted around the pipe. The best way to do this is to cut a hole 35mm diameter using a self feed drill bit and then cut away the flooring to leave a keyhole shape that can be placed around the pipe (Fig 12). A pipe surround should be used to cover the hole.

Maintenance and Care

The following tips should be followed to help keep your new wood flooring in good condition.

- Maintain the ambient temperature and humidity between 15 and 30°C and 40-70% RH. This is the comfort zone for most people
- Install a door mat to protect the floor from dirt and grit
- Fit chairs, tables and other furniture legs with felt pads to prevent scratches on the flooring
- Castor cups should be used where appropriate
- Desk swivel chairs on castors should be on plastic protective mats, and have soft material wheels
- Immediately wipe up any spills
- Vacuum or sweep any dust or loose particles, taking care not to scratch the floor finish
- Do not wet mop flooring as saturation may cause damage - use a suitable spray or cloth solution
- Please ensure that this product is not to be cleaned with a steam cleaner. This will render the guarantee invalid

Guarantee

This Guarantee is issued by Wickes Building Supplies Limited. Please keep this document and your proof of purchase safe as together they will act as proof of your product guarantee. Please keep a sample off cut in a safe place in case there are issues and a colour match is required.

Subject to the terms and conditions below, Wickes guarantees that from the date of purchase and for the period shown on the front of this instruction leaflet:

- The decorative laminate surface will not wear through
- The floor will not stain

This Guarantee is made subject to the following conditions:

- The flooring must be used indoors and installed and used in accordance with the instructions and any accompanying literature contained inside each pack
- Any claim for surface wear must not have been as a result of incorrect maintenance or accidental damage including scratching, impact or cutting
- The surface wear must be readily visible to expose at least one area of approx. 12.5mm square of base paper
- The correct underlay and or vapour barriers have been used as required for the sub floor in question
- As laminate flooring is made from natural materials, it is inevitable that there will be a change in the colour of the product over time, particularly if exposed to direct sunlight. Such difference and changes are not defects and are therefore not covered by this Guarantee.

Domestic

If we accept a claim under this Guarantee we will repair or replace at our option the affected product. This Guarantee covers only the cost of repairs or replacement of defective materials. No claims for consequential losses will be accepted. Reasonable access by Wickes and/or its contractors must be made available by the customer during normal working hours in order to inspect and/ or correct any faults.

If the product is no longer available we will replace it with an alternative product of equal value and specification. The above remedy is the customer's sole and exclusive remedy for claims under this Guarantee. This Guarantee constitutes the entire agreement of the parties and no variation or amendments shall be valid unless in writing and signed by an authorised representative of Wickes Building Supplies Limited.

If you have purchased the above products from us as a customer, we recognise that you may have additional rights under statute and we confirm that this guarantee does not affect your statutory rights.