Olney Light 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 flooring is not suitable for use in bathrooms.

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 40-70% 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.

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

For subfloor preparation requirements see Fig 2 and for underfloor heating within subfloor requirements see Fig 3.

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 2mm, with a minimum compressive strength of 150kPa. 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 4).

FOR WOODEN SUBFLOORS:

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

WOODEN SUBFLOORS AT GROUND FLOOR LEVEL

Use an underlay suitable for use with laminate flooring and wooden subfloors.

Foam underlay requirements: minimum thickness of 1mm and maximum thickness of 2mm, with a minimum compressive strength of 150 kPa.

Wood Fibreboard underlay requirements: minimum thickness of 1mm and maximum thickness of 5mm, with a minimum compressive strength of 150 kPa.

Ensure airbricks or other ventilation points are free of obstruction.

Note: Fibreboard Underlay on top of existing floorboards laid in a brickbond pattern (Fig 5) 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 6).

WOODEN SUBFLOORS ABOVE GROUND FLOOR

Wood Fibreboard underlay should be used with a minimum thickness of 1mm and maximum thickness of 5mm, and a minimum compressive strength of 150 kPa.

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. Do not install in a bathroom (Fig 7) The next step is to install the selected underlay (Compressive Strength ≥ 150kPa).



Fig 1

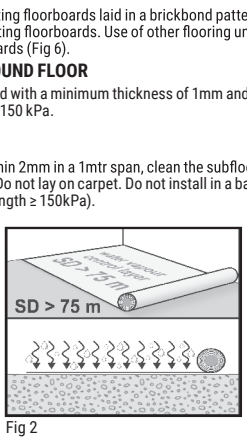


Fig 2

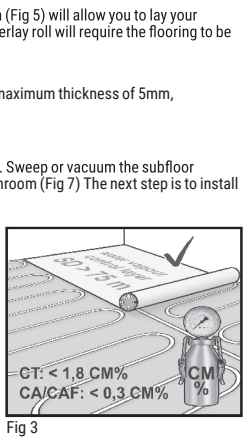


Fig 3

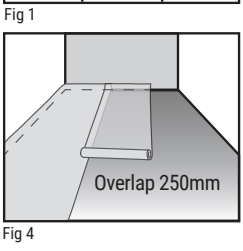
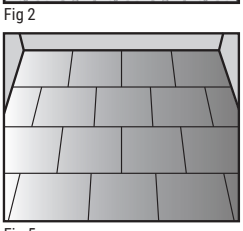


Fig 4


Fig 5

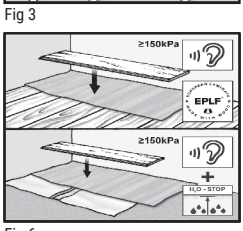
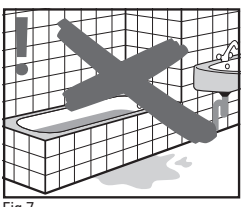
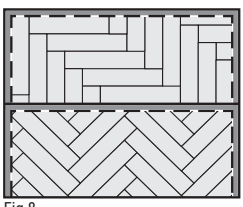


Fig 6


Fig 7


Fig 8

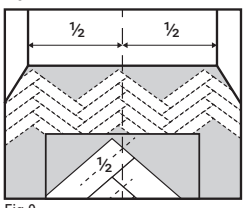


Fig 9

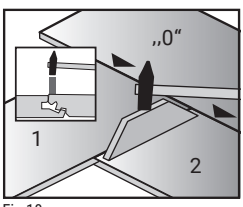


Fig 10

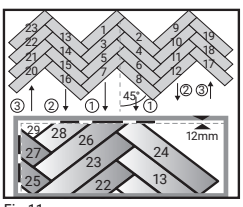
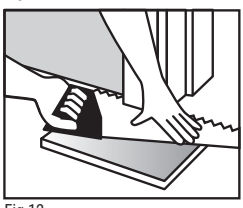
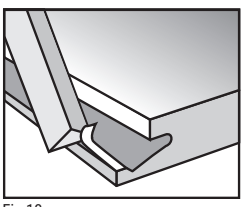


Fig 11


Fig 12


Fig 13

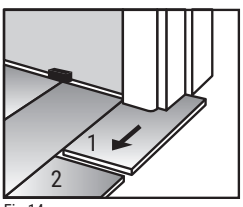
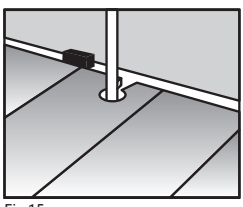


Fig 14


Fig 15

Important note:

Fixed objects, like kitchen units should never be fitted onto laminate flooring.

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 at regular intervals to ensure a gap is maintained from the wall to the flooring. Spacers are required around the perimeter of the room. The expansion gaps at the walls can be covered by skirting and a door bar later.

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

This flooring can be laid in two patterns, 45° herringbone and 90° herringbone, as shown in Fig 8. The main difference with the 90° herringbone laying pattern is that it is started directly from a room corner. These instructions are for the 45° herringbone pattern shown in the lower section of Fig 8. To start, measure the length and width of the room and mark the centre line on the floor. Measure the width of a plank and mark the midpoint. Place the first plank on the floor at a 45° angle to the centreline, ensuring that the midpoint of the plank tongue meets the centre line as shown in Fig 9. (Optional: You can slot the tongue end of this plank into the long edge profile of an auxiliary plank above it to form a T shape to hold the position of plank 1 and 2 at the start. Remember to remove the auxiliary piece once column 1 is completed).

Next place the second plank at a right angle to the first plank with the tongue end of the second plank into the groove of the long edge profile of the first plank and push down on the tongue. Lightly tap with a tapping block and hammer as shown in Fig 10.

Place the third plank in position next to plank 1 placing the long edge profile into plank 1 and the short tongue edge into the long edge of plank 2. Lightly tap with a tapping block and hammer.

Continue placing the planks and locking them into position following the order of the numbered planks in the columns in Fig 11, gradually working outwards towards the edge of the room to form the 'W' shaped herringbone pattern.

Once you have installed the planks as close to the edge of the room as possible you will be left with triangular-shaped spaces around the edges. These spaces will need to be filled with planks cut to size to continue the pattern. To do this measure the space between the last whole plank and the wall and mark the length on the edge of the next plank, ensuring you allow for a 10-12mm expansion gap. Using an angle finder mark a line across the plank at a 45° angle and cut to size so that the plank fits parallel to the wall.

Continue cutting and laying the planks in this way until the triangular space is filled with the last piece being a triangle. Ensure the edges are aligned parallel to the wall, with a 10-12mm expansion gap. Continue to fill each triangular gap around the edge of the room with cut planks.

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 12).

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 13) 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 14).

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 15). 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

Domestic

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