

**IMPORTANT:** Drawings inside of the word and PDF/WORD IM files are just for reference, good quality drawings in the correct size would be in the original AI file.

## **WATER-RESISTANT LAMINATE FLOORING HERRINGBONE INSTALLATION MANUAL**

Thank you for choosing our flooring. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years.

Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation. Improper installation will void the warranty.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

All wood-based products, even those specifically designed to have increased resistance to moisture, are hygroscopic (they will react to the moisture in the environment) and as a result will expand or contract accordingly. All sources of under floor moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor. Any construction dampness must be completely dry. Although this product has been designed with bathroom installation in mind it is not waterproof and excessive wetting is to be avoided and water spillages dried immediately.

### **I. GENERAL PREPARATIONS**

- Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/damage, including defects or discrepancies in color or gloss; check the edges of the flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.
- It is preferable to lay boards perpendicular to the window, following the direction of the main source of light. For the best result, make sure to always work from 3 to 4 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.
- Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.
- Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products. Store, transport and handle the cartons in a manner to prevent any damage. Store cartons flat, never on edge.
- Flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible, make use of material-handling equipment such as dollies or material carts. Never lift more than you can safely handle; get assistance.
- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 10% of flooring for cutting waste.
- The flooring is intended to be installed in interior locations only. It is not to be installed in areas that are exposed to the elements, such as outdoor areas, semi-covered / "alfresco" outdoor areas, porches, etc.
- Keep the boards in room temperature for at least 48 hours in unopened package before you start the installation. The room temperature must be between 65-85 °F / 18-30 °C and the relative humidity should be maintained between 30-65 % before and during the installation.
- After installation, make sure that the flooring is not exposed to temperatures less than 60 °F / 15 °C or greater than 95 °F / 35 °C at 30-65 % relative humidity.

- For floor surfaces exceeding 4000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 400 m<sup>2</sup> and or lengths exceeding 65 ft / 20 m and overlaps to new rooms and floor surface which do not join symmetrically, use transition moldings leaving min 1/2" / 10 mm gaps.

## II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

- The flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat, dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3/16" / 5 mm within 10 ft / 3 m.
- The product can be installed on substrates with grouts or grooves if these are less than 3/16" / 5 mm in width and 3/16" / 4 mm in depth. Depressions, deep grooves, expansion joints and other subfloor imperfections that do not meet this requirement must be filled with patching & leveling compound prior to installation.
- Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, any foreign matter and contaminates.
- A vapor barrier to be installed over concrete substrates. In the case installation is done over a wood substrate on or below-grade a vapor barrier must be installed if there is not a vapor barrier existing in a well-ventilated crawl space. Excessive subfloor moisture can be a breeding ground for mold, mildew and fungus – all of which can contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment, a minimum 6 mil / 0.15 mm plastic poly sheeting should be used as a moisture barrier.
- The subfloor must be dry, concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8 lb / 3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 100 m<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869) / 90 % RH (ASTM F2170) with a PH limit of 9 / max. 2.5 % moisture content (CM method / ASTM F2659).

**Note:** It may not be the floor covering installer's responsibility to conduct these tests. It is, however, the floor covering installer's responsibility to make sure these tests have been conducted, and that the results are acceptable prior to installing the floor covering. When moisture tests are conducted, it indicates the conditions only at the time of the test. The floor should not be installed on subfloor with excessive moisture emission.

### WOOD SUBFLOORS

- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wood floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.
- Timber subfloors must have no more than 12% Mc (moisture vapor content).
- Nail or screw every 6" / 15 cm along joints to avoid squeaking.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil / 0.15 mm poly-film is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth.
- Lay the flooring crossways to the existing floorboards.
- All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.
- Double-layered APA rated plywood subfloors should be a minimum 1" / 25 mm total thickness, with at least 18" / 45 cm well ventilated air space beneath.

## CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Existing concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue.
- The subfloor must be dry, concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 8 lbs / 3.63 kg MVER (moisture vapor emission rate) per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> / 100 m<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours as measured with the calcium chloride test (ASTM F1869) / 90 % RH (ASTM F2170) with a PH limit of 9 / max. 2.5 % moisture content (CM method / ASTM F2659).
- A minimum 6 mil / 0.15 mm plastic poly sheeting should be used as a moisture barrier between the concrete subfloor and the flooring.

## DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Any type of carpet.
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring.
- Any type of floating floor.
- Hardwood flooring / wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete.
- If the floor has a pre-attached underlayment, the use of an additional underlayment could damage the locking mechanism and will void warranty.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

In-floor Radiant Heat: due to the speed of sudden temperature changes, which has the potential to negatively affect laminate flooring construction, it is not recommended to install over any electrical radiant heating system. Installation over electrical radiant heating systems will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Below instructions are for radiant heating systems using water. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 81 °F / 27 °C. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

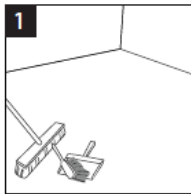
- Turn the heat off for 48 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system.
- The maximum moisture content of the screed is 1.5 % (CM method).
- The room temperature must be between 65-85 °F / 18-30 °C and the relative humidity should be maintained between 30-65 % before and during the installation.
- Floor temperature must not exceed 81 °F / 27 °C.
- Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on 65°F / 18°C and increased gradually 5-degree increments every 12 hours until returning to normal operating conditions.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

Tip: The best idea to maximize the results of your heating system is to have "ON" times with a comfort temperature and "OFF" times with setback temperatures which is normally 4°C lower than your comfort temperature. The setback temperatures are particularly important as these won't let the temperature of your room drop too much, meaning it is much quicker to heat your room back to comfort levels when it's needed.

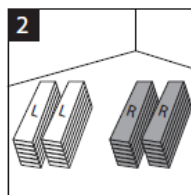
### III. INSTALLATION

**TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED:** Foam Underlay (if not pre-attached) / Spacers / Saw / Adhesive Tape / Min 6 mil / 0.15 mm (or thicker) polyurethane vapor barrier for crawl space and concrete floor installations / Ruler / Pencil / Tape Measure / Construction Adhesive / Wedges / Tapping Block / Rubber Mallet

- Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.
- With a floating floor, you must always ensure you leave a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " / 10 mm gap between walls and fixtures such as pillars, stairs, etc. When installing around pipes, drill the holes  $\frac{3}{4}$ " / 20 mm larger than the diameter of the pipes.
- Do not install heavy fixed objects such as kitchen cabinets directly over the floor planks. The floating installation requires that the planks can move freely.
- **UNDERLAY:** If the floor does not have a pre-attached underlayment, an additional underlayment is recommended in order to improve acoustic performance and absorb some irregularities on the substrate. Best results can be expected with an underlayment thickness not more than  $\frac{1}{8}$ " / 3 mm. If the floor has a pre-attached underlayment, the use of an additional underlayment could damage the locking mechanism and will void warranty.



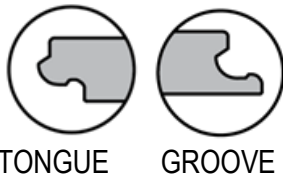
- The subfloor should be even, dry, clean. Carpet staples or glue residues must be removed, and the floor must be clean to ensure proper installation.



- Separating into distinctive piles will make it easier to find the correct plank should the L or R markings be cut off.

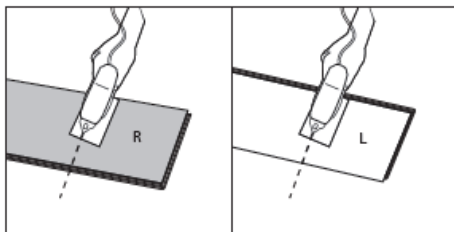
#### CLICKING TIPS

- Place the short end tight to perpendicular plank. Click it into the long end of the parallel panel at a 45° angle. Fold down in a single movement. It is recommended to slightly tap the planks on the edge after clicking them together to make sure they are clicked tightly.
- **NOTE:** If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing.
- **WARNING:** Failure to properly line up the end joint and attempting to force it in while out of alignment could result in permanent damage to the end joint.

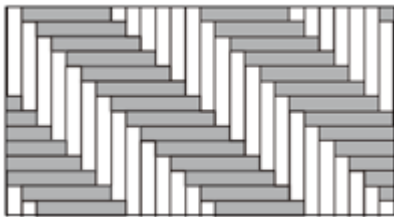


### CUTTING TIPS

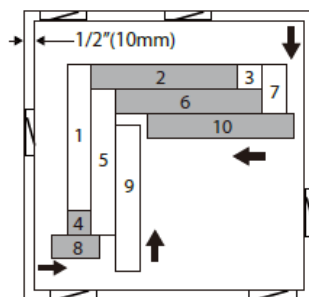
- Make sure you use the correct side of the plank (see images below).
- If cutting with a jig saw, the laminate surface should be turned down. If cutting with a hand saw, the laminate surface should be face up.
- **IMPORTANT:** When cutting this product please use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection, it is advised to cut in a well-ventilated area.



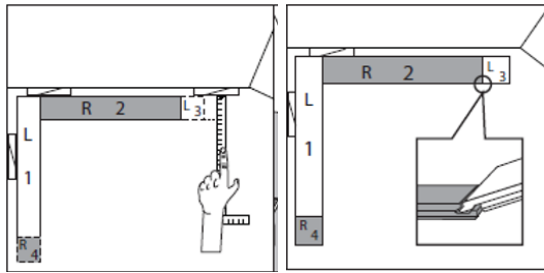
### METHOD 1 – FISHBONE DIAGONAL PATTERN



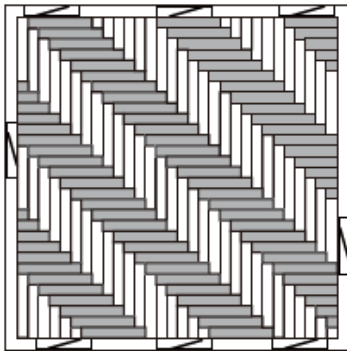
- Using a pencil, a string and a ruler, draw a line at 45° that will be used to align the pattern according to the image. You can then start staggering your spacers across your wall, leaving a 1/2" / 10 mm expansion gap with the wall.



- Start from the left corner opposite from the door. Use an "L" marked plank first and put the tongue sides against the wall. Then take your 2nd plank (marked "R") and place it perpendicularly to the 1st (Refer to the clicking tips on the bottom of the page).

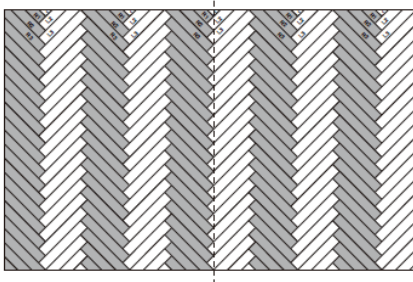


- To install the 3rd (L) and 4th (R) and any other plank that will have the short side against the wall, measure the length of the plank to fit and cut accordingly. Continue the installation according to the sequence.

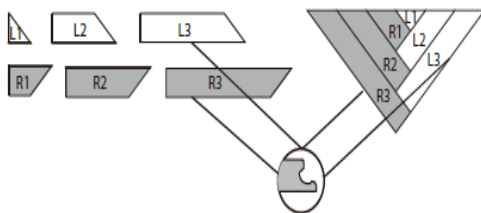


- This sequence is given as an example, it will depend on the shape of the room. It is important to always start with the plank's tongues placed against the walls.

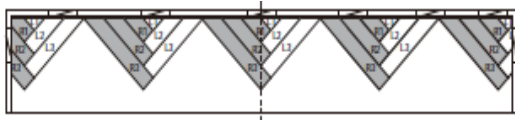
## METHOD 2 – FISHBONE PATTERN



## ONE STARTING SET:



- At first, follow the cutting template on the inside of your box to cut the 6 pieces (L1, L2, L3, R1, R2, R3) needed for one starting set. You will need a total of 6 planks in order to make the required 6 starting set pieces (L1, L2, L3, R1, R2, R3). You won't be able to use offcuts of the same planks within one set.

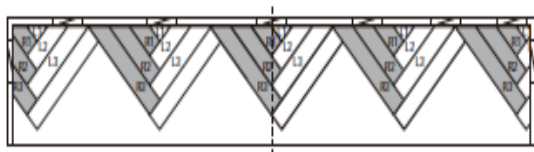


1/2" / 10 mm expansion gap with the wall.

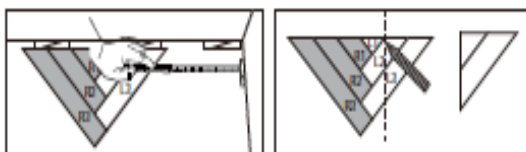
- Align the first starting set with a chalk line going through the center line of the room (to center the installation, make sure the line goes through the tip of the pattern). Always leave a



- Each starting set is 44.76" / 1137 mm wide, measure how many starting sets you will need based on the width of the room. You can connect the starting sets with one full plank.

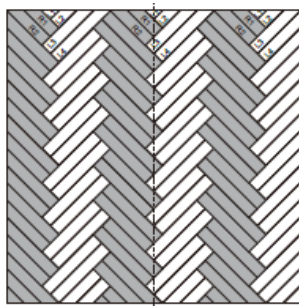


- When you reach the walls on both sides, measure the distance between the wall and the closest starting set. Assemble a new set, mark the measured distance on it, cut the planks (the set can be disassembled for this) and install the planks in the gap.



- Continue this pattern until the room is entirely covered.

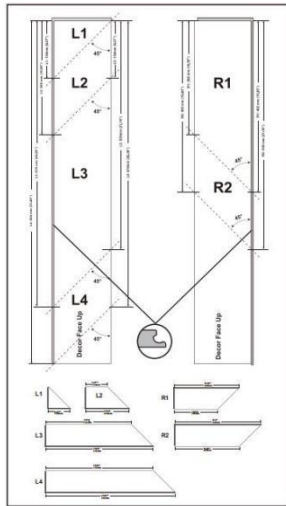
### METHOD 3 – DOUBLE FISHBONE PATTERN



**STARTING SET:  
ATTENTION!**



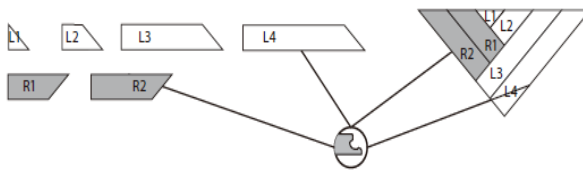




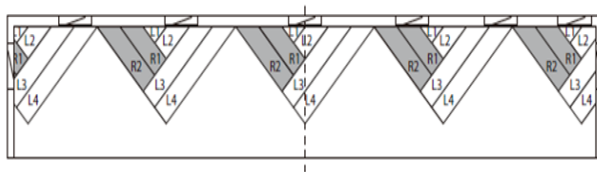
For the double fishbone pattern, the cuts are different than what is indicated in the template inside of the box. Use measurements in below table to cut the 6 pieces (L1, L2, L3, L4, R1, R2) of the starting set to the right size.

Plank	Groove side	Tongue side
L1	134 mm (5.27")	0 mm (0")
L2	268 mm (10.55")	134 mm (5.27")
R1	402 mm (15.83")	268 mm (10.55")
R2	536 mm (21.10")	402 mm (15.83")
L3	670 mm (26.38")	536 mm (21.10")
L4	804 mm (31.65")	670 mm (26.38")

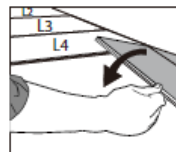
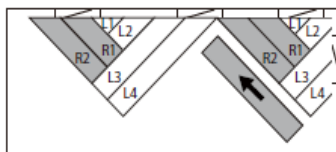
### ONE STARTING SET:



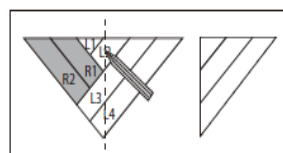
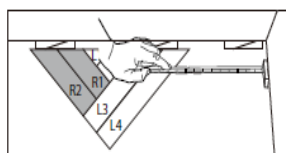
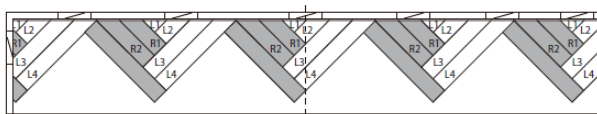
- You will need a total of 6 planks in order to make the required 6 starting set pieces (L1, L2, L3, L4, R1, R2). You won't be able to use offcuts of the same planks within one set.



- Align the first starting set with a chalk line going through the center line of the room (to center the installation, make sure the line goes through the tip of the pattern). Always leave a 1/2" / 10 mm expansion gap with the wall.



- Each starting set is 44.76" / 1137 mm wide, measure how many starting sets you will need based on the width of the room. You can connect the starting sets with one full plank.



- When you reach the walls on both sides, measure the distance between the wall and the closest starting set. Assemble a new set, mark the measured distance on it, cut the planks (the set can be disassembled for this) and install the planks in the gap.
- Continue this pattern until the room is entirely covered.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend to scrape off the sealer on the edges with a sanding paper on the locking system, then apply a hard-setting waterproof wood adhesive inside the locking system at the short side of the planks for additional engagement, avoid using adhesive excessively and be sure to immediately wipe away any excess that comes out to the floor's surface.

### HOLES FOR PIPES





Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 7/8" (20mm) larger. Saw off a piece and lay the board in place on the floor. Then lay the sawed-off piece in place.

## DOOR MOLDING AND SKIRTING



Lay a board (with the decorative side down) next to the door molding and as shown in the figure. Then slide the floorboard under molding.

### FOR BATHROOM, LAUNDRY ROOM OR COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS

It is important to seal any cut planks to ensure superior and warranted performance. When a flooring plank is cut to fit (either end cuts or side cuts), a sealant is always required around the perimeter of the installation.

- Fill the expansion spaces with a 1/2" / 10 mm compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with a flexible 100% silicone sealant to the entire perimeter of the installation. Do not use an acrylic sealant.
- Prior to installing moldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will contact directly with the flooring surface.
- Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.
- Apply silicone sealant at connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.
- Branded and generic silicone tubes are available in any local home center or hardware location.
- If a watertight installation is required, apply a hard-setting waterproof wood adhesive bead across the bottom of the tongue on both long and short side prior to installing the floorboard. Avoid using adhesive excessively and be sure to immediately wipe away any excess that comes out to the floor's surface.

## FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

Replace molding or wall base. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. In areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, the use of a transition molding is required to cover the exposed edge but do not pinch the planks. Leave a 1/2" / 10 mm gap between the planks and the adjoining surface.

## IV. MAINTENANCE

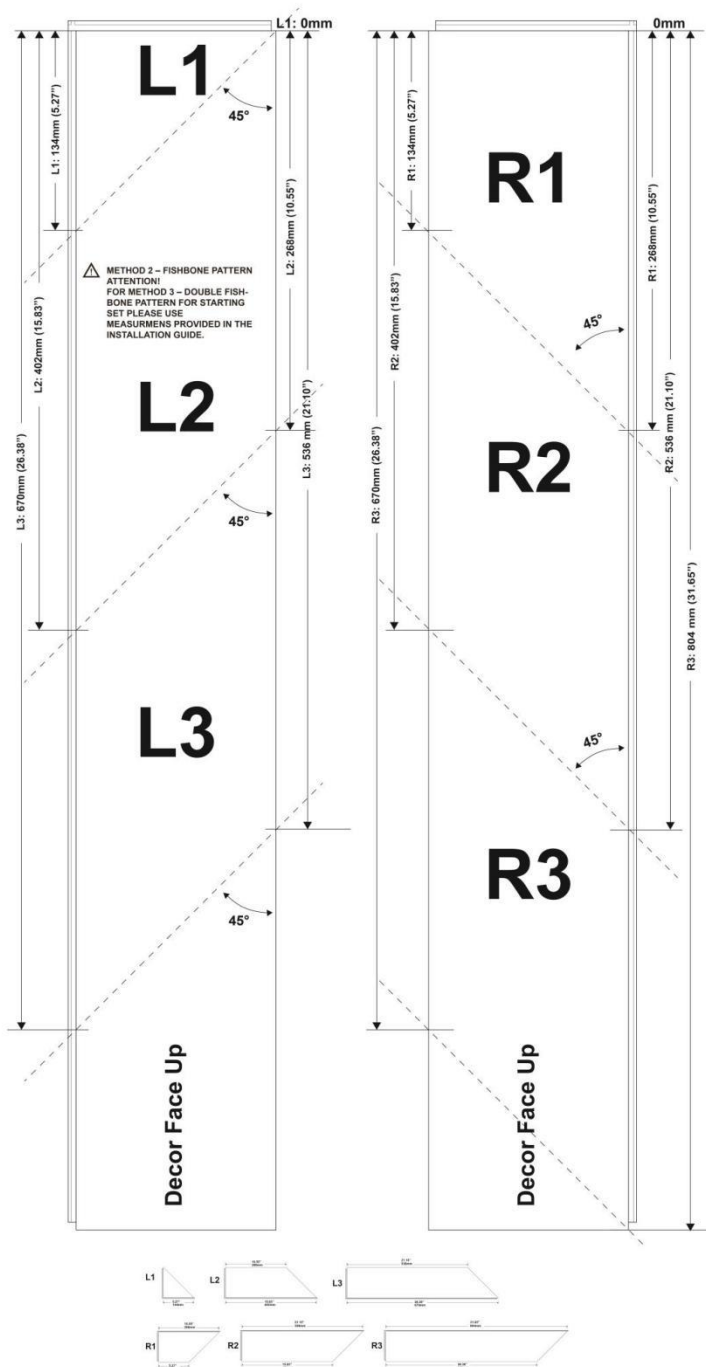
- Sweep or vacuum daily using soft bristle attachments.
- Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
- Damp mop as needed and use cleaners recommended for laminate flooring. Avoid using too much water.
- The use of residential steam mops on this product is allowed. Use at lowest power with a suitable soft pad, and do not hold a steam mop on one spot for an extended period of time (longer than 5 minutes). Refer to the steam mop's manufacturer instructions for proper usage.

- Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. Do not use mats with a latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach or wax to maintain the floor.
- Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor.
- Never wax, polish or use soap. Doing so may damage the wear surface, causing it to be slippery or to have unattractive smudges.

## **V. DISASSEMBLING**

To disassemble, simply lift the planks one by one following the opposite sequence as the installation.

For further information regarding this luxury vinyl floor product, please contact [customerservice@theflooringstore.uk](mailto:customerservice@theflooringstore.uk). The address is: 113 Vox Studios, 1-45 Durham Street, London SE11 5JH UK.



Plank	Groove side	Tongue side
L1	134mm (5.27")	0mm (0")
R1	134mm (5.27")	268mm (10.55")
L2	402mm (15.83")	268mm (10.55")
R2	402mm (15.83")	536mm (21.10")
L3	670mm (26.38")	536mm (21.10")
R3	670mm (26.38")	804mm (31.65")