KRONOSWISS LAMINATE FLOORING

Installation Guidelines

Important note; each project should be installed by a professional flooring contractor or skilled tradesperson. The installation process and method selected is the responsibility of the contractor. You must be satisfied that the contractor is qualified to carry out your site installation. Please check with your reseller to locate a licensed /professional installer for your project.

A thorough understanding and inspection of the specific site conditions needs to be undertaken by the installer prior to commencing work. Site specific circumstances such as proximity to water, river systems, coastal regions along with other climatic extremes may require more complex installations methods and maintenance. If applicable, under floor inspections should be carried out before installation. **Please note: our laminate floors are suitable for installation with Under-Floor heating provided that the heating system selected is a Hydronic In-slab system and is installed and operated as per the heating system manufacturers installation and operating recommendations. Floor performance remains at owner's risk if you proceed.**

LAYING INSTRUCTIONS: LAMINATE FLOORS WITH CLICK/ANGLE TAP PROFILE

Please read the following instructions thoroughly and carefully before laying the floor:

- **The laminate is designed to be installed floating without glue. The Valinge Click system allows the planks to be joined without the need for adhesive or nail fixing to the sub-floor. In some situations a method using cross-linked PVA will be required to allow for easier assembly under door thresholds and tight floor spaces. Refer example diagram, Special Installations.**
- The cartons must be stored in a cool, shaded and protected dry place (ambient temperature of 18 – 25 Degrees Celsius). Never open the packs until the day of installation as to avoid moisture pickup of the laminate.
- During winter months cartons in their original unopened packaging should be acclimatised to the room temperature for at least 48 hours.
- **Each plank should be carefully checked prior to installation**: never install any damaged planks. Do alignment inspections as you continue the installation?
- To better blend and balance the natural batch variation the installer should always work from several open cartons of product to create a balanced and natural visual for your new installation. Planning the install areas is a critical part of the project.
- **The surface-temperature of the sub-floor at installation should be at least 15°C but never exceed 27°C. For optimum performance the ideal relative humidity should be 45% to 55 % but never below 30% or consistently exceeding 60%. Do not heat or cool the area prior to install.**
- A concrete sub-floor should be dry, 2.5-4.5%, clean, and free of any cracks. Irregularities on the sub-floor should not exceed 3 mm in every 3 meters, in all directions. In case there is a need to level concrete sub-floor a cement-based floor-filler should be used and allowed to dry. All wooden substrates must be dry, free of loose or squeaky planks or joists, screw fix or additional nailing maybe required.
- A recognised acoustic underlay with a minimum thickness of, 2 or 3 mm incorporating a PE Moisture barrier or similar must be used on the flooring to reduce sound transmission and to retard moisture ingress. This should be placed over a dry, flat substrate, with joins neatly taped. Joining between the plastic sheets should have sufficient overlap and /or sufficient tight joins to avoid leakage of vapour from underneath. Recommended overlap should be at least 20cm.
- **If you are using an alternate acoustic underlay that does not incorporate a Moisture Film** an age resistant polyethylene membrane plastic sheet (0.2mm thickness) for vapour barrier is required and necessary for a floating-system installation.
- The Underlay / Moisture Film should be kicked up the skirting boards on perimeter walls to avoid moisture ingress.
- Ensure that the sub floor is thoroughly cleaned to avoid mould growth. Should the RH of the sub-floor be above 95%, the flooring should not be installed? **This is strictly prohibited.**
- An allowance of at least 12-15 mm on each edge / perimeter should be provided to accommodate floor expansion. Please allow for expansion around heating tube outlets, connection with tiles and fixed items where the floor is installed. **Room to room expansion at doorways is highly recommended.**
- Use spacing-wedges during the installation to assist in maintaining the correct expansions gaps.
- Bigger rooms (e.g. halls, assembly-rooms) will require a larger allowance for expansion joins. We highly recommend expansion joins within an appropriate section of the room. **As a general guide room widths greater than 6-8 m will require increased expansion provisions. Length runs over 11 m will require increased expansion provisions.**
- If the client objects to these inclusions we recommend the installer keep a record that the client did not wish to include expansion trims. Wherever possible each room should be treated as a separate install, this will assist in reducing floor movement.

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- The widely used formula to calculate the expansion (for floating-system) across the width of the installed floor is 1.5 mm expansion for every 1 meter of floor width.
- We recommend the planks to be installed lengthwise against the longest wall of the room, starting from the corner furthest from the entrance. This will enhance the visual appearance.
- The plank in the last row must not be less than 300 mm. Therefore measure and plan the floor before the installation begins to calculate the first and last plank.
- **REMEMBER: Check your floor continuously** during installation. Installed defective boards can be easily replaced **No claims will be entertained for any plank defects after installation. If in doubt leave it out,…. or cut it out!**
- When installing the laminate floor through several adjoining-rooms, **expansion-joins must be provided at doorways to allow for normal expansion and contraction. When using the floating-system installation in a corridors and hallways, length-wise installation is required.**
- When the floating-method of installation is employed, skirting-boards should be installed by fixing them directly to the adjacent wall, never fix them onto the floor-boards. This is to allow the floor to move freely without restrictions from skirting or door jambs etc.
- Your laminate floor is ready to walk on immediately after installation. If the floor requires cleaning after installation please make sure cleaning and maintenance is done as per the instructions detailed below. Any cleaning should be done using only damp-dry mop, **never use a wet mop/ cloth or stem mop to clean the floor. Excessive moisture can and will damage your new floor.**
- Claims regarding visible defective floor planks must be made prior to installation. **Each plank should be inspected to ensure that the quality is acceptable. No claims relating to surface defects can be accepted after installation.**
- The laminate flooring should not be exposed to direct UV / Sunlight, please use sun blinds or window / door coverings to protect the floor surface from excessive heat exposure. Damage will occur that is not covered by our warranty.

DIAGRAMS LAMINATE FLOORS WITH CLICK / ANGLETAP PROFILES.

Sawing / Cutting tip; Laminate floors require attention to detail when cutting, if you are using a cross-cut hand saw or electric drop saw, the surface of the plank should be face up to avoid chipping. If you are using a hand held electric sawing device such as a jig saw then it's recommended you place the surface, face down to avoid chipping. This will help you achieve a professional look and keep your plank waste to a minimum.

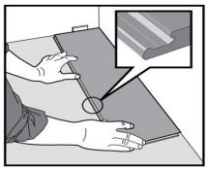

Fig 1. First plank, first row.
Place a spacer of 12-15 mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall.
Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances 12-15 mm.

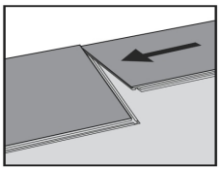

Fig 2. Second plank, first row place this plank gently and tight to the short end of the first one. Angle or drop short end into place. Lengthways tap maybe required to secure tightly. **Please make sure both long edges and short ends are tight with no visible gaps.**

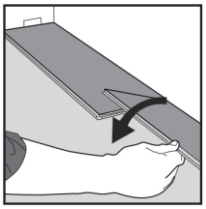

Fig 3. Fold / angle the panel down. During the angle / fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other. Afterwards press down or slightly tap down at the short end or long edge of the installed plank till its flat. No major force is or required.

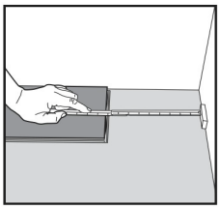

Fig 4. At the end of the first row, put a spacer 12 - 15 mm, to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.

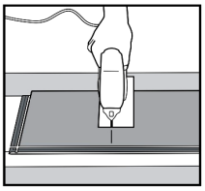

Fig 5. Cut with a jig saw – visual surface face turned down to eliminate/reduce damage to the face panel. Or if cutting using a hand saw, cut it with the visible face up. Then install it as previous plank.

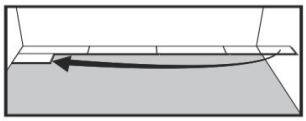

Fig 6. *Starting* the Second row First plank should be a min length of 300-500 mm. Put a 12- 15mm spacer against the wall and measure the last piece. If it is shorter than 500mm a new starter piece should be used. Drop or insert the plank at an angle into the previous row and tap (on the long side) it in using a tapping block till flat.

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Installation Continued;

Fig 7. General distances between short ends. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 300-500 mm. This improves the stability of the floor.

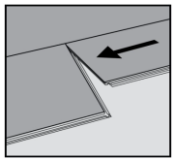


Fig 8a Second plank, second row place the panel at an angle into the groove of the previous row making sure that the end of the panel is tight/flush to the short end of the previous panel. Lengthways tap maybe required to flush and secure short end join.

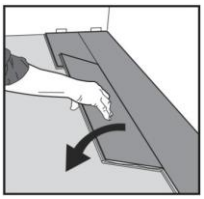
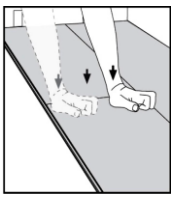


Fig 8b Fold or angle the panel down with a slight press to the left to the short end of the previous panel. Again using the tapping block tap it against the long end into the previous row. During the fold /angle down, make sure the panels are tight against each other.



Figs 8c As it flattens itself to the floor press or gently tap the top of the short end of the installed panel until its flat. Finish installing this plank by tapping it with a tapping block on the long side to ensure secure installation.

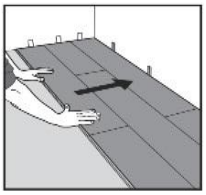


Fig 9. After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacer's 12- 15 mm. Once the adjustment is done against the main wall, continue to install till the last row.

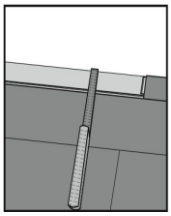


Fig 10. Last row (and perhaps also first row). The Minimum width of the last plank should be NOT LESS than 50 mm. Remember distance to wall is 12-15 mm. Tip! Put a spacer before measuring Cut the panels lengthwise and glue the short ends. See instructions below.

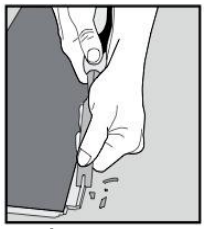


Diagram 1

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Special installations - Small panel widths. Diagram 1 & 2

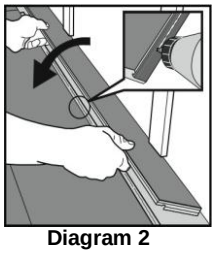
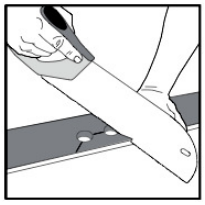


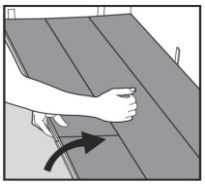
Diagram 2

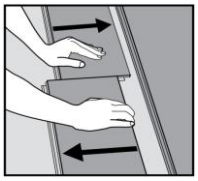
For tight spaces under door thresholds or wall ends etc.

Joining at short ends length cut panels. Cut the tongue at the same time you cut the length of the panel and install as shown above. Please note that the smallest width of a panel is 50 mm at the last row. If it is not, the first row width must be adjusted. This can easily be calculated when measuring the room with before installation. Cut off the locking element with a chisel, push the planks horizontally together. If necessary, place some spacers between the last panel and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the glue.



Radiator pipes, installation at radiators. Drill the holes 20 mm larger than the diameter of the pipes. Cut out the panel (with the thinnest blade possible) as per diagram. Install the plank as per normal. Glue the cut out piece back again.





Disassembling Your floor can very easy be disassembled, which enables replacement during installation and also during use. Separate the whole row by carefully lifting up and slightly knocking just above the joint. Fold up or angle and release the whole long side. Disassemble the panels by sliding horizontally where possible or fold up and angle to release.

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS:

You have purchased a high-quality, prefinished laminate flooring product that will not require any special treatment directly after installation. It is important to note that regular care and maintenance responsibilities are required to better preserve your floor. If you follow these general cleaning and required maintenance guidelines your new floor will perform as intended for many years to come.

- Please ensure that an ideal room-climate is maintained whenever possible. Ideal conditions would provide for approximately, 45-60% Air Humidity and 21-25°C room temperatures. This is a comfortable range for indoor climate and provides for optimal health and assists in the overall performance of the floor.
- **Do not expose laminate flooring to direct sunlight, please use sun blinds or window / door coverings to protect the laminate flooring from excessive heat exposure.**
- Daily cleaning should be done with a vacuum cleaner, static mop or a smooth floor-broom. Any sand or dirt should be immediately removed because they can cause scratches and damage the floor surface. Please ensure no metal screws or sharp edges are evident on the vacuum head. Water or food spillage should be wiped or cleaned up as soon as possible.
- Whenever necessary, the floor surface can be cleaned with a well-rung damp-dry mop. Do not use conventional household cleaning solutions and detergents, they are be abrasive and will damage the surface coating. Never use traditional wax or steel-wool on your laminate floor. PH neutral cleaning solutions are required, please observe and follow manufacturer's instructions.
- It is vitally important that you affix felt strips or suitable protection under any furniture-bases, chair-legs and commonly movable objects. At entry points and for high traffic areas the use of floor mats to remove entry grit and dirt is recommended and will be very useful to help preserve your floor surface coating. **Do not drag or push heavy items across the surface of the laminate floor.**
- **Roller or castor chairs should not be used directly on the floor surface.** Protective mats must be placed on the floor surface.
- Additional surface coatings are not required for your pre-finished laminate floor. Once installed its ready to walk on.
- In case of any plank damage on the surface (e.g. by furniture movement etc.), it is possible to remove damaged planks by pulling up the surrounding area and re-fitting a new plank. Professional advice and assistance from a qualified installer or specialist retailer could assist if the situation arises.

Note; only In-slab hydronic heating will be considered under warranty provisions. Other heating methods are not covered by our warranty. Please review carefully with the heating systems guidelines for installation and operational procedures before installing your laminate floor.

Your new Laminate Floor is a living material that will expand and contract in shape if moisture or humidity is raised. It may also shrink if moisture or humidity becomes very low. As a natural product, damage from these circumstances may lead to irreversible deformation of the floor if the room climate and humidity is left too high or too low for an extended period of time. In winter months for example if the humidity (RH) in a heated room goes below the specified 45 % the floor may be subjected to conditions that may result in plank changes. In this case you should install an air humidifier to prevent damages to your floor. The same may also be necessary with air conditioned rooms.

Disclaimer: Preference Floors has used its reasonable endeavors to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained herein and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be liable for any inaccuracies, omissions or errors in this information nor for any actions taken in reliance on this information. Products must be installed in accordance with relevant installation recommendations and industry best practices.

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