

Casabella® LAMINATE FLOOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Retailer/Installer/Owner Responsibility

Carefully inspect all Casabella Laminate flooring prior to installation for defects/objections:

Materials installed with visible defects are not covered under our warranty. **This is an industry standard.** Accepting or rejecting the material must be done on full cartons not plank by plank. Casabella Laminate flooring has one of the lowest warranty rates in the industry and the highest manufacturing standard in the industry. We want you to be satisfied with your purchase.

You MUST, as the final inspector, inspect for proper color, finish, style, and quality PRIOR to installation. **Verify that the flooring is the correct material.** Care should be taken at this time to remove or repair particular characteristics you do not desire.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INSPECT THE FLOORING BEFORE IT IS INSTALLED. IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE FLOORING PRIOR TO INSTALLATION, CONTACT YOUR DEALER. DO NOT INSTALL THE FLOORING. IF YOU INSTALL THE FLOORING, YOU HAVE ACCEPTED ITS MANUFACTURED APPEARANCE.

MANUFACTURER SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COSTS INCURRED WHEN PLANK(S) WITH VISIBLE DEFECTS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. A VISIBLE DEFECT IS ANY DEFECT THAT EXISTS BEFORE INSTALLATION AND WAS VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE. IF YOUR LAMINATE FLOORING IS INSTALLED PROPERLY AND NOT DAMAGED BY EXCLUSIONS NOT COVERED BY OUR WARRANTY, CASABELLA LAMINATE, WILL ALWAYS WARRANTY THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR FLOORING AS PER THE WARRANTY AGREEMENT.

The use of stain, filler, or putty stick for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.

An 8% cutting allowance, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (Some installations will require a higher percentage.)

CAUTION: WOOD DUST

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified wood dust as a nasal carcinogen. The sawing, sanding, and/ or machining of wood products can produce wood dust that can cause respiratory, eye, and skin irritations. Equipment should be equipped with a dust collector to reduce airborne wood dust. Wear an appropriate NIOSH designated dust mask to reduce exposure to airborne wood dust. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes. In cases of severe irritation; seek immediate medical attention. For further technical or installation questions or to request a Product Specification Data Sheet contact the manufacturer. 1-281-766-1600

BE CAREFUL TO SELECT THE INSTALLATION THAT MATCHES THE PRODUCT YOU PURCHASED

INSTALLATION WHEN USING A LOCKING SYSTEM:

A. WHERE CAN THE FLOORING BE INSTALLED?

Install **CASABELLA® LAMINATE** in most rooms and most grade levels WHEN PROPER PREPARATION IS USED, AND AREA MEETS MOISTURE TEST REQUIREMENTS.

B. LAUNDRY ROOM FLOORS ARE NOT OK:

Do not install CASABELLA® LAMINATE in areas of excessive moisture or excessive humidity. Moisture damage from water dispenser that is not cleaned up timely is not covered by this warranty.

PREPARATION OF FLOOR:

Install CASABELLA® LAMINATE on concrete, ceramic tile, terrazzo, marble or stone sub-floors that are smooth, level and well bonded. CASABELLA® LAMINATE may also be installed on wood or wood product sub-floors that are clean, well bonded and smooth.

DO NOT INSTALL OVER CARPET OR ANY CUSHIONED BACKED PRODUCT. DO NOT INSTALL OVER ANY PRODUCT THAT IS NOT PROPERLY ADHERED.

1. Sub-floors **MUST BE CLEAN, DRY, LEVEL, AND WELL BONDED.**
2. Remove all existing trim throughout the room.
3. Measure the door clearance. If the door will not clear the floor, the door must be trimmed to fit from the bottom.
4. Install plastic sheeting on sub-floors. Always use moisture barrier plastic sheeting on any below grade floor and on all concrete floors. Overlap the plastic sheet 6-8 inches and tape the plastic sheeting with 2inch plastic or clear vinyl tape.
5. Use ¼" spacers to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor. In large rooms, a ½" expansion gap may be preferred. **IMPORTANT:** this ¼" gap must be maintained around cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any other obstacles in floor.
6. Always work from left to right. Planks should run lengthwise against the longest wall, and if possible, parallel to incoming sunlight.
7. Always install tongue side facing wall.
8. A CASABELLA LAMINATE approved UNDERLAYMENT MUST be laid down prior to applying CASABELLA® LAMINATE.

Sub-Floors:

- ◆ Test floor for excessive moisture before installing over concrete, vinyl tile, concrete covered with ceramic tile, marble, stone, or linoleum. To do so, cut 3' x 3' squares of polyethylene plastic (one plastic square for every 200 sq. ft. of floor space). Spread plastic around different areas of the subfloor for a more accurate evaluation. Firmly tape down all edges of the plastic sealing them directly to the existing subfloor. Leave plastic down for 24 to 48 hours. **Look for moisture under the plastic or for the cement to darken, this indicates excessive moisture.**
- ◆ Always perform a Calcium Chloride Moisture Emissions Test. The maximum allowable reading is 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft/24 hours. You MUST retain your test and results to have a valid warranty.
- ◆ Concrete Sub-Floors – use minimum 6-mil polyethylene (plastic) sheeting as a vapor barrier. Roll out the plastic, overlapping the seam area 6 to 8 inches and tape the seamed with a 2" clear plastic sealing tape.
- ◆ Wood Sub-Floors – no additional plastic vapor barrier should be installed but subfloor must meet moisture restrictions. If moisture levels are too high, this must be alleviated before flooring is installed. Your contractor will need to diagnose your individual site conditions to solve this issue.
- ◆ WATER/PET RESISTANT FLOORS require that the entire perimeter of the installation must be sealed with 100% silicone sealant. All expansion spaces must be filled with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and covered with 100% silicone sealant. You must apply 100% silicone sealant to all moldings at the point of contact with the flooring surface and at all connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.
- ◆ Installations exceeding 4,356 sq. ft. must have the proper expansion joints installed.

BEGIN INSTALLATION:

- ◆ Begin the installation in the left-hand corner. Place the plank a minimum of ¼" from the left wall. Use spacers throughout all perimeter areas to ensure the correct expansion space is maintained. **(a)**
- ◆ Place the second plank tight against the short end of the first plank. **(b)**
- ◆ Fold down into the locked position with a single movement. **(c)**
- ◆ Place the final plank face down with the short side towards the wall. The remaining expansion space should be at least a minimum of ¼" from the wall. Draw a pencil line where the plank is to be cut. **(d)**
- ◆ Place the plank face down on the work surface and cut to size with a power saw. If you are using a hand saw, use a fine-toothed blade and cut the planks face up. **(e)**
- ◆ Begin the second row. The first and last planks in the rows should have a minimum length of 24 inches. **(g)**
- ◆ The minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 24 inches. **(g)**
- ◆ Connect the planks in the following rows by aligning the end seam of each plank directly above the end seam of the preceding plank. Insert the long side seam at a slight angle first and as the top surfaces meet, rotate the plank down into the locked position. **(h)**
- ◆ The distance to the walls can be adjusted when three rows are completed. **(i)** Remember to place the flooring a minimum of ¼" from all walls or other vertical obstructions such as cabinets, pipes, or columns. **(j)**
- ◆ In areas such as a doorjamb or cabinet kick base where planks cannot be angled to lock into place, use a wood chisel to remove the locking ridge from the bottom of the plank groove. Apply a 1/8" bead of tongue and groove adhesive to the bottom groove and gently tap the plank into place using a pull bar and hammer. Next, apply enough strips of painter's tape across this seam to hold the joint securely in place until the adhesive sets. Using a clean, soft cloth, carefully clean up any excess adhesive on the surface of the planks. **(k)**
- ◆ On the first and/or last row where there is no polymer tongue on the short side, glue the joint with Clear Elmer's glue where they join on the short end. **(l)**

DISASSEMBLY WHEN USING A LOCKING SYSTEM:

Your floor can be disassembled very easily, enabling replacement during installation and also during use. **(m)** Disassemble the panels by sliding them apart horizontally at the end seams. **(DO NOT FOLD CONNECTED PLANKS UPWARDS!)** **(n)**

RADIATOR PIPES:

- ◆ Drill the holes ¾" larger than the diameter of the pipes. **(o)**
- ◆ Remove all spacers.
- ◆ Install molding and transition pieces. Attach wood color coordinated molding or your desired trim and transition pieces using nails, screws or adhesive. **NEVER ATTACH ANY MOLDING USING NAILS, SCREWS OR GLUE DIRECTLY TO DIAMONDLIVING FLOORING.**

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Doorways: Attempting to continue installing rows through a doorway into another room can be difficult because the narrow opening is a very small base upon which to continue consistent, straight and even rows into the next room.

T-moldings are available to install in doorways when joining flooring room to room.

To achieve alignment of plank rows from room to room, it is best to use a master reference line to run through the doorway to the far ends of each room involved. Position the line so that it is square and parallel from each room's corresponding wall. Use this line to align the plank rows from room to room.

The maximum install in any direction is 66 feet before a transition is required.

Pipes, vents and other fixed objects: Each can be unique, but the general rule is to measure very carefully before you cut and remember to leave a 3/4" expansion gap between the object and the flooring. You will cover expansion gaps with molding, vent covers or pipe rings when the floor is complete.

Installation on Stairs: Working from the top step down, flooring should be installed using adhesive and screw type fasteners or nails. All stair nose moldings must be glued and nailed, or screwed every 8", for your safety.

Glue down over cork: Using Casabella Laminate Approved flooring adhesive, CASABELLA® LAMINATE can be installed over a structurally sound concrete sub floor that is covered with full spread, permanently bonded acoustic cork. Cork thickness should not exceed 1/4" (6.35mm), with a density between 11.4 and 13 lb / cubic foot. Install cork in accordance with cork manufacturer's recommendations. Acoustic cork should be pure cork with a polyurethane binder.

MOLDINGS, TRIM & TRANSITION PIECES

Installation Tips:

- * Moldings should be acclimated 48 hours
- * Moldings must be predrilled to avoid splitting whenever they are to be secured with nails or fasteners.
- * The tool of choice for cutting hardwood moldings is a 10" or 12" motorized miter saw with pre-set adjustments for the basic miter cuts at 22.5°, 45°, and 90°. A carbide tipped blade makes the best finished cuts. Be sure the saw blade is positioned to cut into the finished face.
- * When installing Wall Base molding, eliminate the need to putty as many holes on the molding by placing the bottom nail below the finished line of the Quarter Round.
- * On Wall Base or Quarter Round moldings, never restrict the floor's natural contraction/expansion movement by driving the fasteners at a downward angle. Attach the moldings to the wall or vertical surface.
- * Always miter cuts rather than having butt cuts when splicing. Decide the direction of the miter by cutting the molding with the long point oriented in same direction as your natural line of vision when you enter the room.

Wall Base - Borders the wood floor at the base of the wall to give the room a finished look. This molding along with the Quarter Round conceals the required expansion space between the wall and the flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks.

Quarter Round - This molding conceals the required expansion space between the wall/ wall base and the Laminate flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks where a wall base won't fit or at the base of the stairs to provide a subtle blend between the floor and the wall or vertical surface.

Threshold - This molding is used at exterior doorways as a transition between flooring and the doorway threshold. It also can be used to transition a wood floor to different floor types to make them fit together perfectly, such as high pile carpeting or tile. Another typical use for a threshold is to conceal the expansion space between the flooring and a vertical surface such as fireplace hearths and sliding glass doors.

Installation: Lay the threshold molding in place to determine a proper fit. The threshold molding should overlap the flooring by 1/2" to 3/4" leaving the balance for expansion. To attach the threshold, nail into the subfloor behind the lip of the molding. Be sure when nailing not to obstruct the floors expansion space.

T Molding - Doorway molding used to join two wood floors in adjoining rooms. Also used when making

transitions from a wood floor to another floor that is approximately the same height, such as ceramic tile, hardwood, or laminate floors. T-Moldings are also used to provide expansion joints when a floor dimension exceeds the length or a width of 66'.

Installation: A space of 1 1/4" between the two adjoining floors is necessary to properly install the molding. This is to allow for the expansion space. Lay the T-Molding in place to determine proper fit. To attach the T-Molding between a ceramic tile floor and the floor, apply 1/4" bead of construction adhesive to the top edge of the ceramic tile. To attach between two floors, apply the 1/4" bead to the top edge of one side of the only. Seat the molding in place allowing for a minimum of a 1/4" overlap on the wood flooring. Make sure to allow for the expansion space between the T-Molding and the tile. When installing over a wood subfloor, use finish nails to secure T-mold. When installing over concrete, use heavy-duty construction adhesive to secure T-mold.

Overlap Reducer- (Floating Method) Used to join floors that utilize the floating installation method with floors of different heights such as vinyl, ceramic tile, or low pile carpeting.

Installation: To attach molding, pre-drill and nail in appropriate 6" to 8" intervals. Do not nail less than 2"- 3" from the ends of either side. To attach the molding using glue, apply glue to the front edge of the molding. Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor and seat the molding in place. It is important not to attach the reducer directly to the floating floor to allow expansion and contraction.

Overlap Stair Nose – (Floating Method) provides the proper transition for stairways or steps, which have floors that have been installed using the floating installation method. The Stair Nose also provides the proper overhang for a transition from one floor level to the next such as the step into a sunken living room.

Installation: To attach molding, pre-drill and nail in appropriate 6" to 8" intervals. Do not nail less than 2"- 3" from the ends of either side. Also apply glue to the front edge of the molding. Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor and seat the molding in place. All stair nose moldings must be nailed and glued to secure the molding adequately. It is important not to attach the reducer directly to the floating floor to allow expansion and contraction.

Flush Reducer - Used to join floors that have been glued down or nailed down to transition with floors of different heights such as vinyl, ceramic tile, or low pile carpeting.

Installation: To attached molding pre-drill and nail in appropriate 6" to 8" intervals. Do not nail less than 2"- 3" from the ends of either side. To attach the molding using glue, apply glue to the front edge of the molding. Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor and seat the molding in place.

Flush Stair Nose - Provides the proper transition for stairways or steps which have floors that have been installed by either the nail down or glue down installation method. The Stair Nose also provides the proper overhang for a transition from one floor level to the next such as the step into a sunken living room.

Installation: When used on a stair step, the Stair Nose molding should cover and overlap the riser. When used on a step-up to another room, the Stair Nose molding becomes the starting "edge" of the floor. Because of the interlocking of the molding with the floor, the Stair Nose molding should be installed first. Once the molding is in place, the interlocking floor can be installed. Moldings should be installed using adhesive and screw type fasteners or nails.