

# Installation Instruction

## Laminate Flooring

Congratulations on the purchase of your new floor. We thank you for your excellent selection of a Twelve Oaks product that is designed to offer you years of use and enjoyment.

Twelve Oaks Laminate Floors uses the authenticated locking system licensed by Uniclick®/ Valinge™. This innovative technology offers great stability and allows for an easy installation, saving you up to 50% of installation time.

### IMPORTANT

- To ensure that your floor is installed properly, Twelve Oaks requires that you CAREFULLY READ AND FOLLOW the installation instructions BEFORE you or a hired authorized professional install Twelve Oaks products. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL VOID YOUR PRODUCT WARRANTY.
- It is the INSTALLER/OWNERS' RESPONSIBILITY to inspect all material carefully BEFORE installation, and ensure the product match what has been ordered/chosen. If you have any doubts or concerns in regards to the quality of Twelve Oaks flooring products, report to your retailer BEFORE installation. INTALLATION IMPLIES ACCPECTANCE. NO CLAIM AGAINST MATERIAL OR LABOR WILL BE ACCPETED BY TWELVE OAKS ONCE THE MATERIAL IS LAID OR INSTALLED.
- It is the INSTALLER/OWNERS' RESPONSIBILITY to ensure the JOB-SITE, AMBIENT, AND SUB-SURFACES CONDITIONS MEET ALL OF TWELVE OAKS' REQUIREMENTS.
- Insufficient subfloor preparation will hinder the performance of your laminate floor. Subfloors must be clean, dry, level and structurally sound. Ensure the subfloors is level within **3/16" in 10' radius (5mm in 3m) or 1/8" in 6' radius (3mm in 2m)**
- A 5% material waste allowance should be included within your total square footage
- Do NOT use a rubber mallet to engage the tongue and groove. Use a tapping block instead. Rubber mallets will leave abrasive market (dull spots) and chipped edges on the floor
- Crawlspace or basement has to be cross-ventilated, and covered entirely with proper vapor barriers (minimum 6 mil black polyethylene).

### TOOLS

Basic tools and accessories: broom or vacuum, chalk line, Uniclick® approved tapping block, laminate flooring surface cleaner, hand saw, jigsaw or cross cut saw, wood/concrete moisture meter, safety ware, straight edge, pencil, tape measure, square, utility knife, spacers

### STORAGE AND HANDLING

It is important to not transport flooring product under raining and/or damp conditions. Handle and unload flooring product with care, and store in a dry and well ventilated place, being sure to provide at least a 4" (10 cm) air space under cartons. Flooring shall not be delivered until the building has been enclosed with windows, doors are in place, and cement work, plastering and all other "wet" work are completed and dry. HVAC systems should be in place and in operation at least 14 days prior, during and after installation of the flooring.

### JOB-SITE CONDITION & PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENT

Exterior grading should be completed with surface drainage offering a minimum drop of 3" in 10' (7.6cm in 3m) to direct flow of water away from the building. All gutters and drainage spouts must be in place. The soil around the house must be treated or graded to provide sufficient drainage.

Do NOT install laminate floors in areas exposed to excessive moisture. Acclimatize the laminate flooring products on jobsite. Material is acclimated once it has reached moisture equilibrium consistent with the ambient temperature and relative humidity of the job site conditions listed below. This usually takes 48 to 72 hours

It is required to maintain the relative humidity level where floor is installed at between **30% and 55%** approximately, and room temperature must be consistently kept at **65-80°F (18-27°C)**. These ambient conditions are specified as pre-installation requirements and must be maintained for the life of the laminate floor, or warranty will become void.

### SUBFLOOR CONDITIONS AND INSPECTION

#### 1) STRUCTURALLY SOUND

Nail or screw down the subfloor (plywood or OSB) if there are any loose areas. It is recommended to install laminate floor over plywood, CDX and/or concrete.

Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated subfloor/underlayment.

## 2) LEVEL & FLAT

Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement. Use a straight edge or level, check to ensure the subfloors is within **3/16" in 10' radius (5mm in 3m) or 1/8" in 6' radius (3mm in 2m)**. Use a cement leveling compound that has strength no lower than 3000 p.s.i. to patch/fill any low areas. Follow the cement leveling compound manufacturer's instruction to avoid overfill in deep voids.

## 3) CLEAN

Inspect to ensure the subfloor is free of any imperfections (nails or screw). Sweep or vacuum thoroughly to make sure there is no wax, paint spills, oil, debris, or anything that could impede adhesion to the subfloor.

## 4) DRY

Conduct appropriate moisture test from several different areas of the subfloors and record readings. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 4% for concrete or 12% for plywood/OSB. It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to verify and ensure the moisture contents are within the requirements prior to installation.

## Subfloors

### **PLYWOOD:**

3/4" (19mm) CDX plywood subfloor is preferred, but minimum thickness of 5/8" is required. Check the entire subfloor is flat and fastened down with proper fastener.

### **O.S.B.:**

3/4" OR 23/32" stamped exterior grade is approved.

### **CONCRETE:**

Allow a minimum of 60 days for new concrete to cure before installation. If moisture reading exceeds 4% from concrete moisture test, conduct a calcium chloride test. Never install a laminate floor when calcium chloride test exceeds 5lbs/1000 sf./24 hr. The pH level of concrete must register between 6 and 9.

The following tests are required for commercial application. Both tests should be performance prior to installation.

- Calcium Chloride Test (ASTM F 1869): Moisture less than 5lbs/1000 sf./24 hrs.
- RH Level in concrete using In-situ Probes (ASTM F 2170-02): not exceeding 85%

### **OTHER:**

Laminate floor can be installed over ceramic, Terrazzo, and other hard surfaces. It is the installer/owner's responsibility to ensure the surfaces are dry, clean, structurally sound, and level, as described in subfloor requirements. It may be necessary to seal extremely porous or heavily embossed surfaces to ensure a strong bond.

### **RADIANT HEAT**

Though not recommended, Twelve Oaks laminate can be installed over in-floor radiant heating systems provided the subfloor surface does not exceed **85°F or (29°C)** at any point. The jobsite temperature should be maintained at 70°F 48 hours prior, during and 72 hours post installation. Thereafter, the temperature should be gradually increased by no more than 5°F per day to the desired setting, never exceeding to 85°F. Relative humidity of between **35% and 60%** must be maintained at all times.

NOTE: Seasonal gapping of your laminate floor should be expected with radiant heat installation. Twelve Oaks' Warranty will be voided if an improper installation over radiant heat system is demonstrated.

### **PREPARATION**

Remove existing carpet, baseboards, moldings (if applicable), wall-base, and thresholds. Undercut all door castings with a hand or power jam saw using a scrap piece of floor plank as a guide. Ensure doors can still open and close after installing the floor (leave a minimum of 3/8" or 1cm clearance).

For a more realistic look, be sure to blend the planks from several cartons to ensure a good mixture of pattern throughout the install. Always stagger planks 8" between end joints of adjacent plank rows for aesthetic and structural stability purposes. Avoid "H" patterns and other discernible patterns in adjacent rows. Discard any pieces shorter than 8" at the end of any row.

### **INSTALLATION**

#### **IMPORTANT**

- Do not install cabinets or walls on top of the flooring
- To ensure optimal acoustic and stable performances, we recommend using Twelve Oaks All-In-One Underlayment.

- 3/8" expansion gap must be respected between flooring and all vertical rises.
- If installed in a high moisture space (i.e. kitchen, bathroom), it is mandatory to use silicone to seal the expansion gaps
- You can walk on your new laminate floor immediately after installed.

Step 1: To begin installation, roll out the Twelve Oaks' All-in-One underlayment perpendicular to the direction of the floor. Tape edges of underlayment together, no overlaps.

Step 2: It is recommended to find the longest and straightest wall to be the starting point. Lay planks with the tongue side facing the wall. Saw off the tongue of the first plank, along both the short and long edge. For the rest of the planks in the first row, only saw off the tongue on the long side.

Step 3: Insert spacers between the wall and first board, be sure to always leave a 3/8" expansion gap. Align the next plank, and click the end joints into place against the end of the first plank. Carefully interlock the joint profile by pushing down. A slight tap with a tapping block may be needed for a tighter fit. Do not hit plank directly, as it may chip the edges or leave marks on the floor.

Step 4: Continue to click planks together to complete the install area. Remember to insert spacers at the beginning and end of each row for expansion. This is needed to allow you to tap the short ends into place when necessary.

Step 5: For the last row, if necessary, saw off the long edges of the last row of planks. Place and tap the edges of the last row with the previous row using tapping block. Remove expansion spacers. Reinstall base and/or quarter round moldings to cover the expansion space. Install transitions pieces such as reducer strips and T-moldings as needed\*.

\*Twelve Oaks carry color-coordinated moulding for each of our laminate SKUs.