

The
GARRISON
Collection



Garrison Laminate and Luxury Laminate Installation Instructions

Preparation

Garrison Laminate and Luxury Laminate can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings except for carpet. **Do not install in bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, or any other areas susceptible to water or excessive moisture.**

Typical Tools Required

Broom, Electric Saw (carbide blade), Eye and Ear Protection, Glue, Hammer, Painter's Tape, Pencil, Pull Bar, Straightedge (6 ft), Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Wall Spacers (1/4"), Wood Chisel.

Acclimation

- No acclimation period is required when installation site conditions are climate controlled prior to and during installation of Garrison Laminate Flooring Products. This means that Garrison Laminate Flooring products can be installed faster and more efficiently than conventional alternatives.
- During the installation period, temperature should be maintained between 65° F to 85° F and relative humidity should be between 30% to 55%.
- Do not store cartons near heating/cooling ducts or direct sunlight.

Subfloor Preparation

- Fill any low spots in the subfloor greater than 1/8" in 6 feet with a Portland cement leveling compound. Check this by using a 6' straight edge. Remove any high spots by sanding or grinding.
- Remove any existing floor molding (if any) except for the wall baseboards.
- To undercut door frames, lay a loose plank upside down against the frame and on top of the underlayment.
- This will be your guide for proper height to allow installed planks to float under the door frame. Saw the bottom of the doorjamb case molding back to the wall studs so that 1/4" expansion gap is maintained when laminate is fitted under doorjamb case molding.
- Sweep the subfloor clean.
- Undercut doorjambs for a professional fit. Doorways less than 6' wide require T-Molding.

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. Wood machining power tools 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 by using proper safety glasses and protective clothing. In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes.

Attention California Installers and Consumers.....WARNING

Installation of this product and any wood product may create wood dust, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer.

Subfloor Moisture Testing

- On Concrete Subfloors – Always test a concrete subfloor for excessive moisture before installing over concrete, concrete covered with ceramic tile, marble, stone, vinyl tile, or linoleum. To test concrete, use a properly calibrated and reliable concrete moisture meter. The maximum allowable moisture content percentage for concrete is 4%. If the moisture meter readings are above 4%, have a qualified floor covering contractor perform a Calcium Chloride moisture Emissions test. The maximum allowable reading for a Calcium Chloride Test is 5lbs./1000 sq. ft./24 hours.
- On Wood-based Subfloors – Moisture content of the wood subfloor must not exceed 12% when checked using a pin-type wood moisture meter. Whenever readings are higher than 12%, full evaluations of the joist systems, crawl spaces or basement areas beneath the wood subflooring are also necessary.

Installing Underlayments

- Read the installation guidelines included with your chosen underlayment, and strictly follow those instructions when installing your underlayment.
- Unroll one width of underlayment along the longest wall. Always work from left to right. Planks should run lengthwise against the longest wall, and if possible, [4] parallel to incoming sunlight.
- Rooms larger than 26 x 40 feet (1,040 sq. ft.) require T-molding for expansion. Floor spans should not exceed 40' in any direction.

Start of Installation

- The width of the first row of planks should be approximately the same width as the last row. This may require cutting the first row plank to a shorter width. Measure across the room (inches) and divide by the width of a plank to see how many full width planks will be used and what size width will be needed for the last row. The last row should never be less than 2" in width.
- Use 1/4" spacers to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor. Quarter Round molding will cover this expansion gap. IMPORTANT: this 1/4" gap must be maintained around cabinets and any other obstacles in floor.
- INSPECT EACH BOARD CAREFULLY FOR DAMAGE PRIOR TO INSTALLING IT.
- Do not install damaged planks.
- Check groove on plank to make sure it is clean and free of debris.

Installation Steps

- Assemble three or four rows well away from the starting wall. Begin by placing the tongue of the short plank toward the starting wall.
- To start the first row, press the end seam of the second plank at an angle to the end seam of the first plank, and then lock them together by laying the plank down. Complete the entire first row in this manner.
- To measure a shorter plank section for the end of the first row, place the final plank face down with the short tongue of the end seam toward the wall. Remember to allow for a minimum 1/4" expansion space. Draw a pencil line where this plank is to be cut.
- 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.
- Use a cut piece of board from the previous row to start the next row. This starting plank section must be at least 12" long. If the piece is too short, start with a new board. Cut the new board in one-third, one-half or two thirds length sections, depending upon what is required to maintain the random stagger from one row to the next. Always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 12 to 16 inches from one row to the next.
- Place the short start board for the second row firmly against the side seam of the start board in the first row, but do not fold it down to lock it into place yet.
- Attach the second plank of the second row to the first planks end seam; but again, do not fold these planks down into the locked position. You can easily construct wood wedges to help hold these planks in place in the unlocked position.
- After you have connected three or four planks of the second row in this manner, you can now go back and lock the side seams of the first planks into position.
- Use a carton of planks as a weight to hold down the locked planks. Remove the wood wedges and lock each plank as you move down the remainder of each row. If needed, you may use a short length of a two-by-four as a tapping block to help with your alignment when constructing the starting rows. Remember to do this by holding the block firmly in your hand while tapping gently against the leading edge of the plank.
- NEVER use a hammer for this task because you may damage the plank edge and the locking ridge!
- Once you have assembled three or four start rows, you can slide these rows into position against the start wall of the room. Remember to allow for proper expansion spaces, and use the spacers to maintain those expansion areas along all walls and around any fixed objects within the flooring area. As you finish the rows in rooms with long spans, continue to stay three or four planks ahead of the locked side seam position planks. Use the wood wedges to help maintain the raised, unlocked plank positions.
- If the starting wall is uneven, the planks must be adapted to its contours. You can scribe the contour of the wall onto the first row of planks by using a ruler and a pencil to follow along the contour of the wall. Do not forget to allow for the minimum 1/4" expansion space from the wall. Disassemble the first row, cut the planks along the line you have drawn, and then reassemble. You must still use the spacers to maintain the expansion space along this wall.
- To remove the first row for cutting, lift the planks a few inches and tap along the joint. Cut the planks as required. Re-connect all of the first row end seams and replace the first row by pressing the first row into place with the groove toward the edge of the planks that are already in position.
- You may have to disassemble the flooring due to obstructions, etc. Just lift the row of planks a few inches and tap along the joint.
- The released planks can then be pulled apart by sliding them out horizontally. Never bend connected planks downwards; this will damage the planks' locking ridges.

- Measure and cut the planks in the last row to fit. Remember to allow for a minimum of 1/4" expansion space from the wall.
- Use a full width scrap plank to mark your cutting line on the last row.
- 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.

Remainder of Floor

Now you can continue to add additional rows using the same method of assembly. Work on top of your start rows and pull the planks toward you to position them before locking them into place.

Randomly pull planks from 3 cartons at a time to ensure random appearance. Use cut pieces from the end of each row as starting planks. Always stagger end joints a minimum of 12"; make random so as not to show a repeating pattern.

All joints should be a tight fit with no gaps. Stop and reconnect if a joint is not tight or if all edges are not even with adjacent planks. These planks can be engaged and disengaged several times if needed to help make a correct installation.

When cutting the last row, place a full row of planks directly on top of the previous row of installed planks (keeping the tongue in the same direction as that of the installed planks). Use the full width of a scrap piece of plank as a guide. Place a pencil next to the edge and trace a line down the planks following the contour of the wall. Cut planks on the pencil line and then connect the last row.