Water-resistant Laminate Installation Guide

PrimePlank Collection

General Information Before Installation

Please note: Examine every plank prior to installation. Should any defects be detected, refrain from using the plank and promptly notify your supplier. Prime Floors is not liable for any expenses associated with the installation of defective or incorrect products. While this laminate flooring is specially engineered to be water resistant, they are not waterproof. These products can now be installed in bathrooms; however, standing water should never be left on the surface, and any spills must be cleaned up promptly.

Acclimation is an essential step before installing laminate flooring. Keep the unopened boxes in the room where the flooring will be installed for a minimum of 48 hours beforehand. Ensure the boxes are placed flat on a level surface—never store them on their sides. During the acclimation and installation period, the heating and cooling systems must be functioning, with temperatures maintained between 65°F and 85°F (18.3°C to 29.4°C) and relative humidity kept between 35% and 65%.

For adequate material preparation, determine the total room area and include an additional 5%-7% for custom cutting purposes.

For installations in newly constructed homes or buildings, the installer/owner should verify that all windows and doors are in place, and ensure that wall and floor boards are thoroughly dry. Additionally, the home's HRV/heating/air-conditioning system should be operational and set to maintain the living conditions anticipated for the floor. It is advisable to schedule flooring installation as the final stage of the construction project.

Combine and install products from multiple cartons to achieve the desired variation in plank appearance.

If the laminate doesn't have an attached underlayment, a separate one is needed. Roll out the underlayment, ensuring it is smooth and covers the entire area.

Radiant Heating

PrimePlank Collection Laminate Flooring can be installed over a radiant heating system, the subfloor can be concrete, wood or a combination of both; ensure a flat and smooth surface by providing a minimum ½ inch over topping.

When installing over radiant heated subfloors, turn off the heat for 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation. After the installation, the maximum operating temperature should never exceed 28°C, it is recommended that use of an in-floor sensor to monitor temperature and avoid overheating.

It is not advised to use electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor beneath this flooring. Utilizing such mats directly underneath could potentially void the warranty in the event of failure. It is recommended to install the flooring exclusively over embedded hydronic radiant floor heating systems and adhere to the provided guidelines.

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Suitable Substrates

All subfloors must be clean (completely swept and devoid of any debris), dry, smooth, and flat (within 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'). Should the surface not be level, smooth out any high spots with sanding and fill any low areas using a leveling patch made from Portland cement-based material.

All wooden floors should be elevated a minimum of 18” (457.2 mm) above ground level to ensure proper ventilation. Additionally, it is crucial to establish sufficient cross-ventilation. Install an appropriate vapor barrier to cover the ground surface of any crawl space.

When installing on a concrete slab, ensure it is dry, clean, and adequately cured for a minimum of 6 weeks before installation. The concrete should be free from dust, powder, flaking, solvents, paint, wax, grease, oil, and other contaminants. Additionally, the moisture content of the concrete subfloor should not exceed 5%.

For all other types of subfloors such as plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc., ensure they are structurally sound and installed according to the manufacturer's guidelines. This flooring can be laid over current non-cushioned resilient flooring, ceramic tile, and pre-existing wood floors, provided that these surfaces are clean, level, securely bonded to the sub-floor, and exhibit no cupping or deflection.

Locking Mechanism

PrimePlank Collection Laminate Flooring comes with a strong, easy to install locking system. Välinge 5G DRY patented locking system provides ultra strong locking strength on both long and short sides. Follow the 5G installation instructions (Source: https://valinge.se/) and this flooring is designed and manufactured exclusively for floating installation.

Tools & Materials Needed

- Tape measure
- Safety glasses and dusk mask
- Utility knife
- Saw (jigsaw or circular)
- Rubber mallet
- Spacer blocks of plastic or wood
- Tapping block & pull bar
- Underlayment (if not pre-attached)
- Moisture barrier (for concrete subfloors)
- Pencil & straight edge
- A vapor barrier must be used when installing over concrete or cement-based subfloors

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Floating Flooring Installation Instructions:

PrimePlank Collection Laminate Flooring has been designed to be installed specifically as a floating flooring. Expansion joints are required at all perimeters and fixtures (minimum 8mm) for general installations. Depending on the layout, size and floor plan, additional expansion gaps and joints may be required. Do not install kitchen cabinets, island, and other heavy fixed items on the floor. The installer/owner/contractor is responsible for inspecting the delivered flooring products, ensuring the correct product (product, color, size, grade, finish, quality etc.) has been delivered prior to installation. Prior to installation, it is recommended that you have a proper installation layout and plan, this will assist in having a superior finish. Check all heights including but not limited to door frame clearance, tiles, windows etc. Door jambs and window frames will likely be undercut to allow the flooring to move freely. Do not install this product in the bathroom.

Follow the instructions and diagrams below to start your installation:

1. After thoroughly cleaning the site and minimum subfloor flatness requirement has met, begin laying from left to right. Ensure the tongue side is facing the wall, with spacers from the starting wall. Make sure the width of the boards in the first and last row are not less than 50mm.
2. The second plank, in the first row. Drop the plank and tap with a solid rubber mallet to ensure the drop lock ends locked properly. Rub your finger over the surface of this joint to make sure the joint is flush and level. If the joint is not flush, have lipping or do not appear to be clicked correctly, disassemble the two planks following the disassembly guide below. If planks are damaged, replace them with new planks. Tapping the butt joints too hard may damage the underside of the locking system.
3. At the end of the first row, ensure to leave appropriate gaps and measure the length of the final board in the first row (not shorter than 12 inches).
4. Start the second row with the remainder of the last board used in the first row. Again, this plank should be not shorter than 12 inches to achieve the best appearance. Install the first plank of the second row by placing the tongue into the groove of the planks in the first row, drop the planks and ensure they are securely locked into place.
5. It is extremely important to constantly ensure the boards are square, straight and that each joint has locked together properly and the surface is flush. After laying 2-3 rows, double check if the expansion gaps are in place. Continue installing planks until the end of the space, ensure all exposed edges are protected with appropriate trims or transition moldings.
6. Do not caulk a floating floor, caulking a floating floor prevents the floor from moving.

Visual Inspection and Mixing Planks:

Planks exhibiting visible manufacturing defects must not be installed under any circumstances. Such planks should be reserved for use in trimming or submitted through the proper channels for a product quality claim. Warranty coverage will not extend to claims arising from the installation of visibly defective material. To ensure optimal aesthetic variation and a natural appearance, it is advised to blend planks from a minimum of four (4) to six (6) cartons during installation of PrimePlank laminate flooring. Adjacent placement of visually similar planks should be avoided, and end joints should be offset in a randomized pattern to enhance overall visual continuity.

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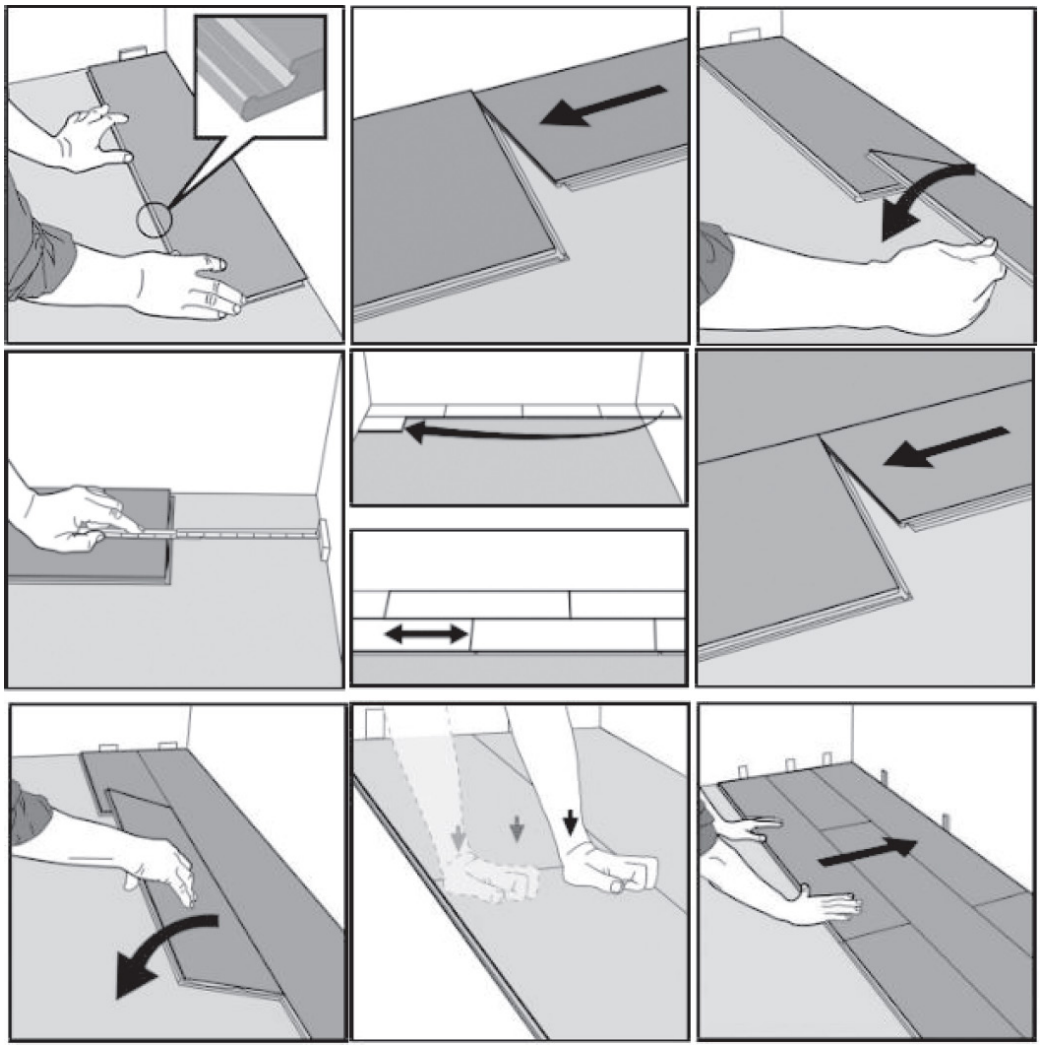
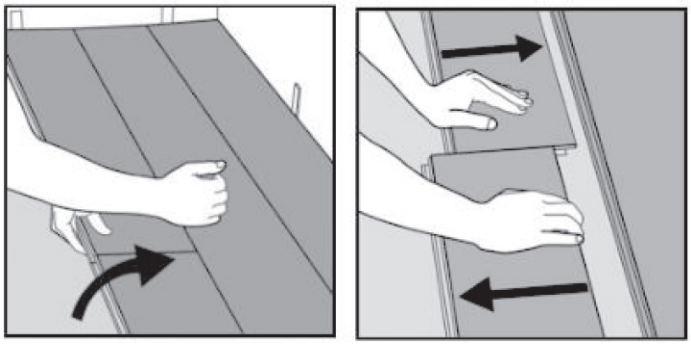
Disassembly Guide: This flooring can be disassembled and reassembled if necessary as long as the flooring is not damaged. Disassemble the planks by sliding horizontally as shown in diagrams below.