

LAMINATE INSTALLATION HANDBOOK

The Do It Yourself's Guide To [?]
Laminate Installation for Balta/Trinterio
Laminates

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Tools Needed For Installation

The following tools may vary with your specific installation:

Spacers (If you run out, use scraps of laminate)
Saw (table saw or circular saw)
Pencil
Level
Tape Measure
1 lb. Hammer
Jamb Saw or Undercut Saw
Plastic Tape (Duct Tape) for taping pad
Utility Knife or Scissors
Liquid Nails or Polyethylene Glue
Brad Nailer (optional, for trim pieces)
Masonite or scrap lumber (1/8 in. thickness)

To repair minor chips, etc., you can use colorfill epoxy in the same color as the floor. First, surround the area to be repaired with masking tape to prevent excess epoxy from getting on the rest of the laminate. Fill the area with the epoxy and let dry. Wipe up excess with acetone/fingernail polish remover (that contains acetone).



For further installation help, please feel free to call 435-586-4431 and talk to Mike, Dottie, or Holly. We offer free installation advice to all of our customers.

Cleaning And Maintenance

1. To regularly clean flooring, you can first use a broom, swiffer, or vacuum (no beater bars...use hard surface tool only). When deep cleaning is necessary, only clean a small area at a time (5X5 ft. area) and dry with a towel as you go to prevent streaking. You can use white vinegar and clear warm water (4 to 1) and a wrung out mop. USE AS LITTLE MOISTURE AS POSSIBLE. Follow immediately with a dry towel or cloth to prevent streaking. (If you put a towel down, then push it around with a dust mop, etc. on top, you won't be on your hands and knees.) DO NOT use detergents, as they often leave a residue behind that makes the floor streak when cleaning in the future. For sticky messes, etc., you can use Windex and a dry towel or cloth.
2. Place mats at outside doors to collect dirt and debris. Sharp foreign objects in shoes can scratch the floor.
3. Clean up spills as quickly as possible.
4. Use furniture glides (felt protectors or wide base castors) under heavy furniture, equipment, and furniture with metal legs.
5. Be careful when moving heavy objects across the room.
6. NEVER WAX, SEAL, OR POLISH THE FLOOR. It never needs to be sanded or refinished, either.
7. To clean stains....For nail polish, tar, cigarette burns, use acetone (nail polish remover) and it will come right up.

What about that expansion gap?

5/16 inch around the perimeter

*Installation Concept

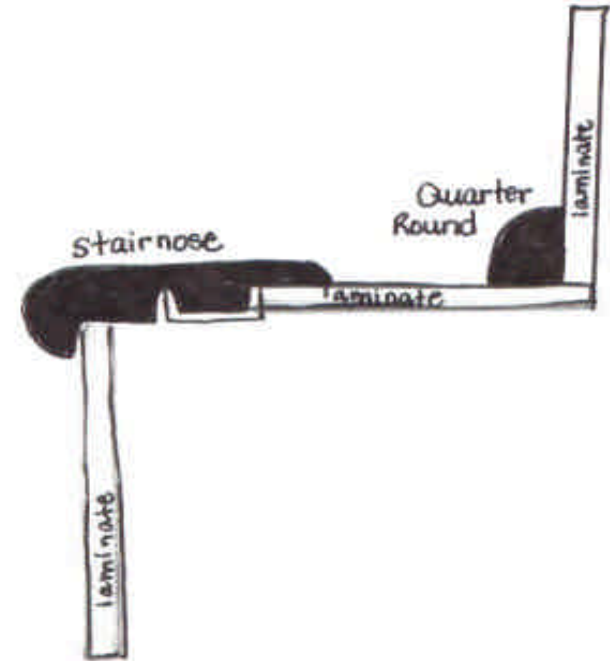
One of the unique ideas that makes laminate flooring easier to install is that the floor floats over the surface rather than being attached to the surface.

Due to the characteristics of wood, laminate expands and contracts with the weather, humidity, and changes of season. It is therefore necessary to provide ample room (5/16 in.) around the entire perimeter, under door frames, and any other area where the perimeter of the laminate may come in contact with any other surface.

Preparing For Installation

1. Remove any carpeting and pad if you are installing laminate in that area. Linoleum, vinyl, and ceramic tile (as long as it is an even, level area) can be left. You can install right over them.
2. Check sub floor for unevenness by putting a 2X4 diagonally across the room. Lay a level on top. If floor is uneven, purchase a self leveling compound from your local hardware store. It mixes with water and will automatically fill in all low spots.
3. Sweep and vacuum sub floor.
4. Make sure that boxes of flooring have acclimated inside the room(s) to be installed for 48 hours.
5. Decide which way you would like boards to lie in each room. Most manufacturers recommend having the grain of the wood follow the sunlight from a window, but it is really a matter of what you feel looks best in your application.
6. Professional installers should read this booklet before installation as manufacturers differ in their guidelines for their particular brand.
7. Measure your room and divide by the width of the laminate planks to determine how many planks it will take to complete the room. If less than a 2 ½ in. piece must be used at the end, you will need to start out with a partial board across your first row. That way, both the first and the last row will have a large enough piece that it will be stable.
8. Make sure that the height between the door frames and the doors on the one hand and the sub-floor on the other hand is at least 1 cm.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PREINSTALLATION ADVICE WE CAN GIVE IS TO READ THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE INSTALLING. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THEIR GUIDELINES CAN RESULT IN VOIDING OF THE WARRANTY.



This diagram illustrates the correct way to install stairs.

Laminate Adjoining A Sunken Room

When you are installing laminate in the sunken area only....Finish with quarter round where the laminate meets the carpet.

When you are installing laminate in the top area only, you have two choices, doing just the top part of the stair (where you'd finish with the stairnose...see below instructions), ore doing the entire stair/step...see directions below.

Stairs (Enclosed Stairways Only)

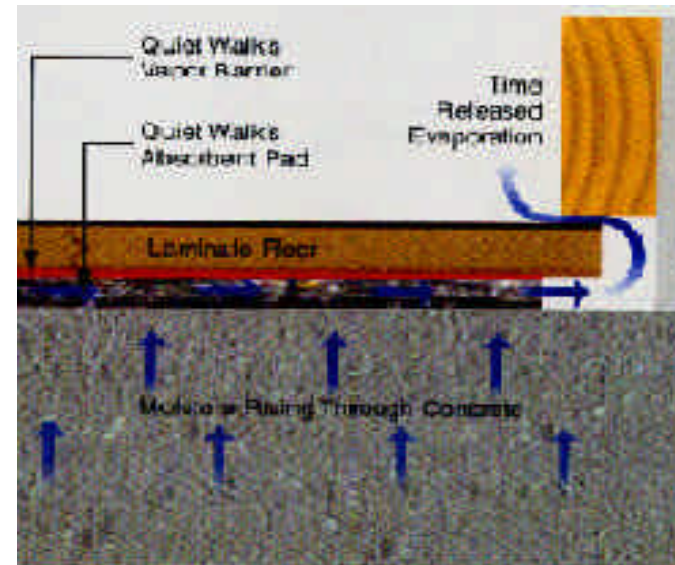
If you have an open stairway (no wall on each side), you must have a carpenter do all the finishing.

1. When installing stairs, there is no need to have an expansion joint. The floor will not float, it will be glued or nailed down.
2. Measure and cut the laminate to fit the tread and the riser, leaving room for the track of the stairnose. Make sure that you measure carefully and have the laminate go directly against the wall on both sides.
3. Either glue (with polyethylene glue) or use a brad nailer to secure the laminate to the steps. If using a brad nailer, nail along the edges, so that the trim will cover the small holes.
4. Install quarter round on the indent of the step where the tread meets the riser.
5. Install the track on the nose of the stair using screws or liquid nails, then glue the stairnose molding into place in the track. This way, it will be extremely secure.

Pad

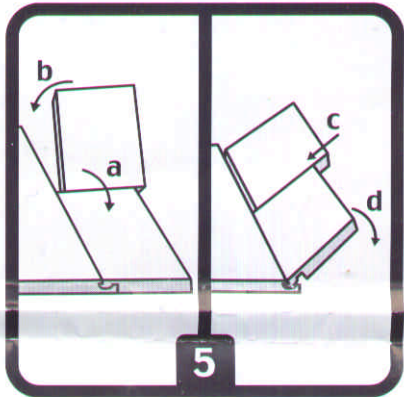
If you are using Quiet Walk pad...

1. Install the pad 5/16 inch away from the wall, same as the laminate.
2. Tape the seams with a water impermeable (plastic) tape. Duct tape works very well.
3. Do not overlap the seams.
4. Only unroll one row at a time and install rows as necessary. This keeps the pad from collecting debris before you are ready to install the rest of the laminate.
5. Do not tape or glue the flooring down. It should float freely.
6. Make sure that the blue side of the Quiet Walk pad is up against the floor.



Above: How Quiet Walk works over concrete...

Installation Of The Planks



When installing Balta planks, you must first hinge the short side (a). Then, allow the plank to come down and rest on the lip of the other planks (b). Hook into the planks by lifting the entire row (c). Release the row and allow it to lock into place (d).

VERY IMPORTANT

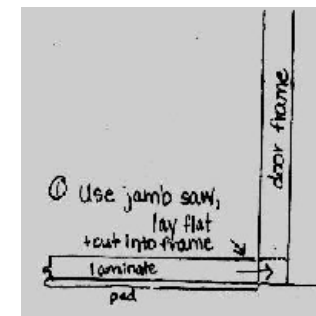
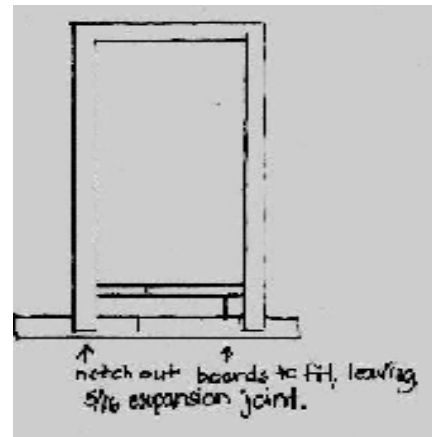
Make sure you overlap the seams by at least 16-18 inches.

Door Jamb

First of all, if you are flowing laminate in and out of rooms, make sure that you have an area all together that is no longer or wider than 36 continuous feet. More than that requires an additional expansion joint. If you are flowing from room to room or down a hall, please follow the following guidelines.

To go through a doorway and allow laminate to pass through a doorway and go under the door casing...

1. Take laminate (and pad if using additional pad), flip it upside down and use a jamb saw (handheld saw) to undercut the casing to the same height.
2. Measure your laminate and continue through the doorway.



Fireplaces

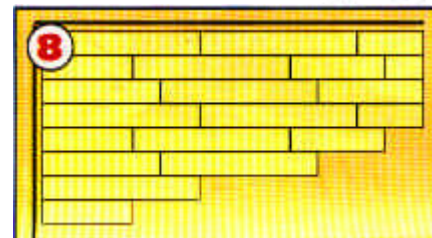
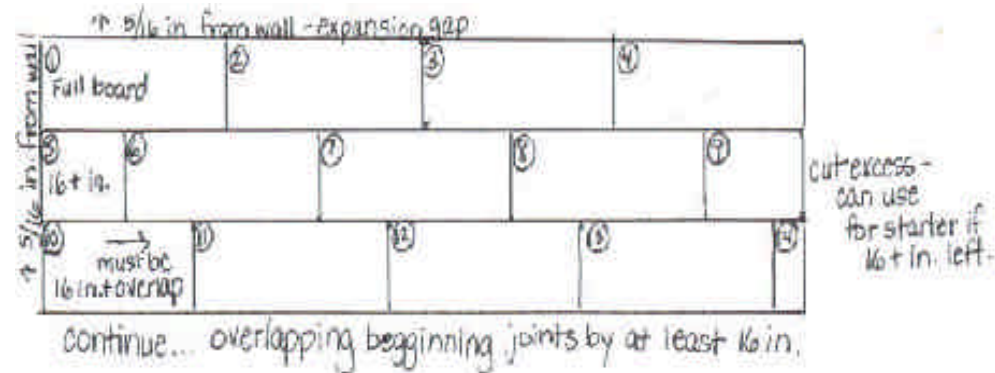
To border a fireplace, you can do one of two things....

You can either use an undercut saw with a masonry blade and undercut the fireplace to allow the laminate to slide just under, or you can use an end cap to finish that edge.

Dishwashers

Install the laminate just past the dishwasher, so you won't see the edge of the laminate. Most dishwashers can be raised to accommodate the laminate. Then, put a bead of latex caulking underneath to help seal out moisture.

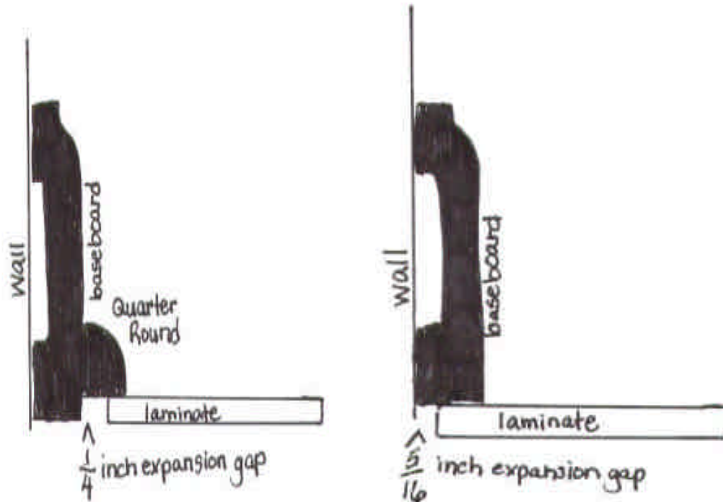
1. To install the first row, start from the left and connect full boards together until you near the end of the row. Then, put a spacer between the wall and the first board, so your space is correct. (5/16 inch all the way around the perimeter of the floor.) Measure to fit the last board in that row. To install the last board (if up against the wall), you can either slide it or pull it in with the pull bar.
2. You can now put the spacers along the wall between the laminate you've just installed and the wall.



The above picture shows how the staggered joints do not all have to be a pattern of lengths. The only requirement is that the starter board is at least 16 in. and the stagger on each joint is a min. of 16 in., also.

Moldings and Transition Pieces

1. You can either pull your existing baseboard and reuse it, put new base down, or you can leave the old base and put quarter round in to cover the expansion joint.



When installing base/and or quarter round, it is best to use an air brad nailer as it is fast and makes a professional looking finish. When the floor is finished, simply take out the spacers, put the baseboard down next to the wall and brad nail it directly into the wall. (MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT NAIL THROUGH THE LAMINATE.) When putting down the quarter round, you can brad nail it into the base (making sure that it isn't going into the floor) at a 45 degree angle, or you can put a bead of latex caulking around the perimeter and set your quarter round down in that.

Installing Over Radiant Heat

(These instructions are direct from the manufacturer.)

Here are the steps to take on the installation of the laminate floor on the heating water based tube floor embedded in concrete:

1. Install the flooring normally.
2. Turn the heat up after the installation is complete on a day to day basis.... 25% of the normal room temperature on the first-third day.... 50% on the fourth-sixth day, and so on. If installed in the summer, it must still be done.
3. After the first week... then normal room temperature.....
4. Normal Moisture (humidity) must be maintained or there will be changes to the floor...



TRIPLE LIMITED EXTENDED WARRANTY

Trinterio laminate flooring carries guarantee that covers material and manufacturing defects.

This warranty comes into effect from the date of purchase. The original, dated purchase invoice, complete with the distributor's stamp, will need to be submitted. This warranty is on a sliding scale. When it is applied, account must be taken of a fractional reduction in value caused by wear and tear. **WEAR RESISTANCE**

Trinterio guarantees that the laminate surface will remain wear-resistant under normal household use after purchase. Trinterio will replace or repair the laminate where necessary (excluding labour and installation costs). This guarantee does not apply to products that have been laid contrary to the instructions.

RESISTANCE TO STAIN

Trinterio laminate flooring is resistant to stains such as red wine, bleach, ketchup,...

RESISTANCE TO FADE

Trinterio laminate flooring will remain colour-fast for the duration of the warranty.

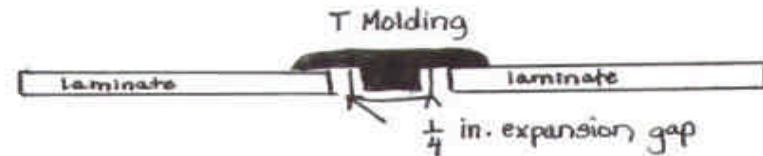
WATER WARRANTY

The Trinterio Hydro Safe qualities (VISION , AUTHENTIC VISION , REFLEXIONS & CONFIDENCE) will resist water damage. The products must be installed indoors in a residential application. Wet areas would include (but are not limited to): bathrooms, kitchens, powder rooms, mud rooms, foyers and laundry rooms (excl. swimming pools or saunas). If the product is damaged by water during the warranty period, Trinterio will replace or repair the product, at its option (excluding labour and installation costs) . The water warranty excludes damage caused by natural disasters or naturally occurring conditions (e.g. floods).

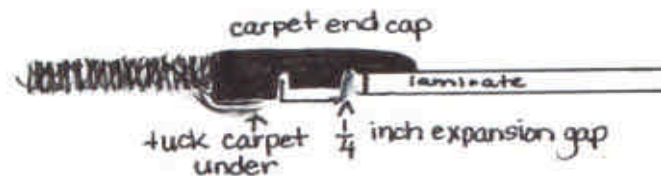
Note for the customer: Please retain your purchase receipt. Where necessary contact your retailer regarding guarantee claims. This guarantee on Trinterio laminate flooring is granted to the retailer from whom you made your original purchase.

To install transition pieces, make sure you leave the proper expansion joint (1/4 inch) on both sides of the track. **DO NOT LAY PAD UNDER TRACK.** Cut the track to fit the transition area. If you are installing over concrete, you will need to use glue to install the track. You can use liquid nails, but we like polyethylene glue as it is much stronger. If you are going over a wood sub floor, simply secure the track with screws. Then, measure the transition area and cut the transition piece to fit. Snap the transition piece down into the preinstalled track.

2. T Moldings....install laminate on both sides, leaving room for the track and an expansion joint on both sides, then follow the instructions above. The molding should cover both sides of the laminate.



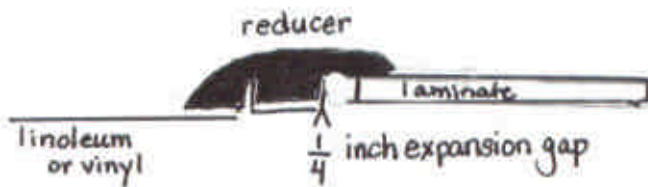
3. Carpet End Caps....install the track near the carpet edge (see diagram). Install laminate on the other side, leaving the expansion joint (1/4 in. space) next to the track. Tuck the end of the carpet that goes past the tack strip down under the carpet end cap.



4. Outside doors, sliding doors, etc...Using Carpet End Caps in these areas....Just put the track in place in front of the

existing door frame. Install your laminate, leaving the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch expansion joint between the laminate and the track. Snap the molding down into the track and you're done.

5. Reducers....when transitioning to vinyl, or just going from one height to another, install the track, leaving the expansion joint between that and the laminate, and snap the molding down in.



You can also use a reducer in reverse if you have the laminate as the low side and another type of flooring (ceramic tile, hardwood, etc.) that is the high side. You'd simply reverse the reducer.

6. Stairs...Please go to the page that details how to install stairs.

*If you are using Quiet Walk pad with the 8mm products, you may need to put in an $\frac{1}{8}$ inch piece of masonite or scrap lumber under the molding track (make sure it is the same width as the track) to raise it to the level of the laminate and pad.

Bathrooms And Kitchens

When using laminate in bathrooms and kitchens, there are some precautions you should take to prevent moisture damage.

1. Put a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. bead of latex caulking around the perimeter of the room (also around toilet flange, sinks, icemaker inlets, dishwashers, etc.) when you are finished installing the laminate. Set your trim down in that latex caulking. DO NOT use silicone, as it will break out and crack. Pure silicone doesn't work well because it is not as flexible. The latex will allow for expansion and contraction. It is very flexible.
2. Use mats in front of tubs and sinks, under dog waters, etc., to prevent spills from sitting on the laminate for a long period of time.