



## Water Resistant Laminate Flooring

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION.  
IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY**

- The entire perimeter of the installation must be sealed with 100% silicone sealant. Please see **Finishing Molding** Section for details.
- Always check panels for defects such as chips and color or sheen differences under good light conditions. Also check that the channel is clean and free of debris.
- Your laminate flooring must be allowed to acclimate to the environment of the installation area. Leave the closed packages in a horizontal position in the room for 72 hours prior to installation. Preferable temperature should be approximately 17°-23°C (62°-73°F) with a relative humidity of 35-55%. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping.

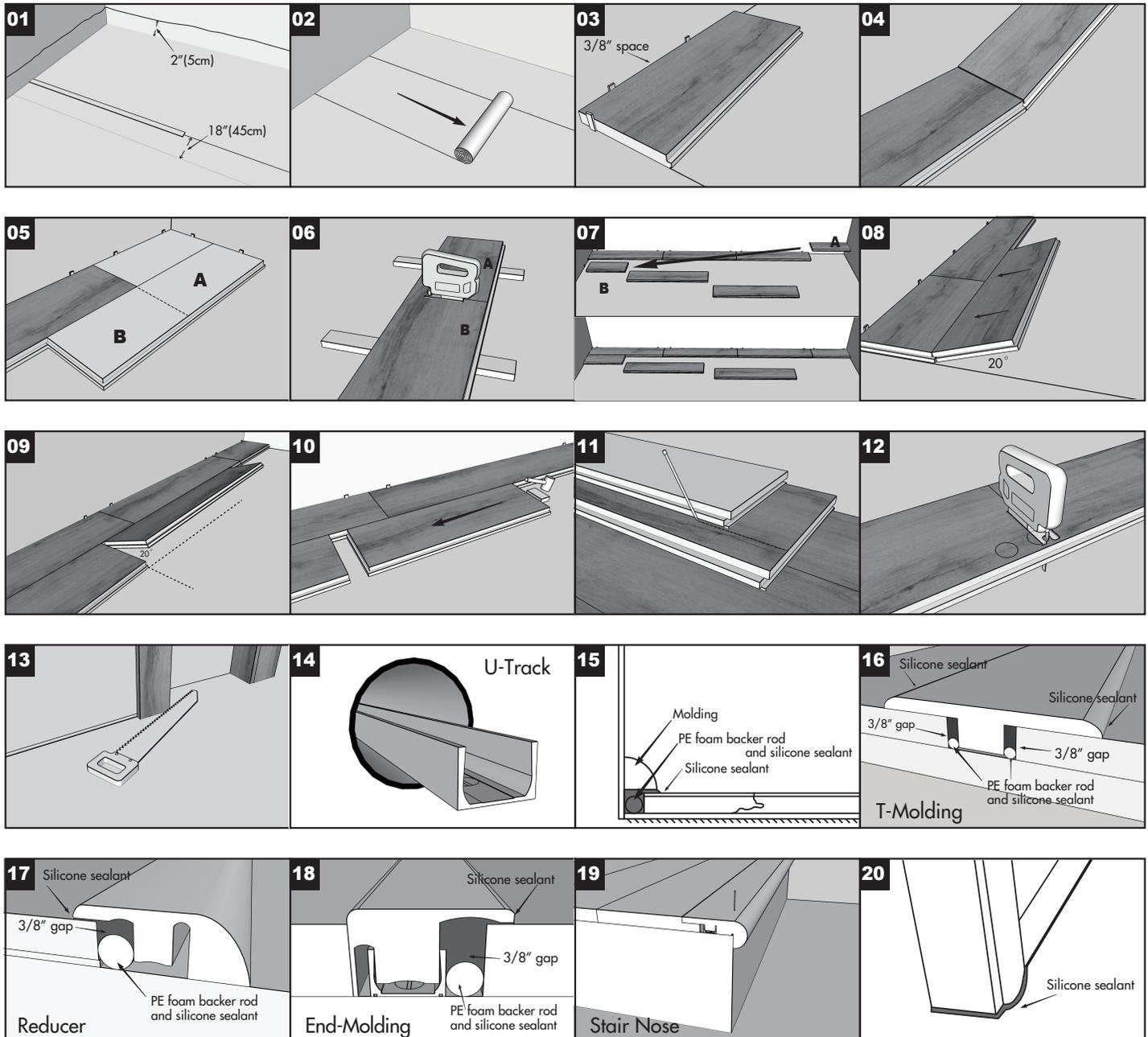
### **TOOLS AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED ARE:**

**6 mil polyethylene vapor barrier, (Above your wood or concrete subfloor, you must install a 6 mil polyethylene vapor barrier under your foam underlay.)** foam underlay, pressure sensitive polypropylene adhesive tape such as Duck Tape or equivalent, spacers, tapping block, pull bar, saw, hammer, utility knife, pencil, tape measure, ruler, construction adhesive.

### **SUITABLE TYPES OF SUBFLOORS AND FLOOR PREPARATION**

**Attention! Without a documented measurement of residual moisture content, a claim against the manufacture for moisture related damages will not be accepted. All subfloors must always be covered with a 6 mil vapor barrier even if PVC, linoleum or resilient vinyl flooring is firmly attached to the concrete.**

- The subfloor must be thoroughly level, dry, clean and solid. Carpet staples or glue residue must be removed and the subfloor must be clean to ensure proper installation.
- Hammer a nail into the center of the floor. Tie a string to the nail, Pull the string tight to the farthest corner of the room and examine the floor at eye level for any gaps between the string and floor. Move the string around the perimeter of the room noting any gaps larger than 1/8"(3mm). If the floor is unlevel by more than 1/8"(3mm) per 3'2" (1m), it must be sanded down or filled in with an appropriate filler.
- The water resistant laminate floor can be installed above, on or below grade. A moisture test is **REQUIRED** to determine if high moisture exists in the subfloor. When using a calcium chloride moisture test for concrete subfloors (ASTM F1869), values must be  $\leq 5$  lbs/1000ft<sup>2</sup>/24-hr or  $<80\%$  RH with an in situ probe (ASTM F2170). Moisture readings of wood subfloors must be  $\leq 12\%$ .



### BASIC INSTALLATION

- For installation on all subfloor, a vapor barrier must be laid down first. Use 6 mil poly. Run the poly 2"(5cm) up walls and overlap seams 18"(45cm). Tape seams. **Diagram 1.**
- All laminate flooring installations require a Underlayment. Run the underlayment in the same direction as the laminate panels. The underlayment should but-up side by side with out overlapping. Then tape the seams together. **Diagram 2.**
- You will need to remove the tongue on the side of the panels that face the wall. This is to ensure that the decorative surface of the laminate floor is well under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off.
- Start in a corner by placing the first panel with its trimmed side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of 3/8"(9.5 mm ) between the wall and the flooring. **Diagram 3.**

**Remember that this product is primarily wood and needs room to expand and contract. At no point should you attach the floor to any surface. Always leave an expansion space of 3/8" (9.5mm) between the flooring and the wall or other fixed objects / moldings.**

- To attach your second panel, insert the end tongue of the panel into the end groove of the first panel at a 45 angel. Lower the panel flat to the floor. Line up edges carefully. **Diagram 4.**
- Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full panel. Fit the last panel by rotating the panel 180 with the pattern side upward, place beside row, mark and saw off excess. Attach as described above. **Diagram 5.**
- When using a handsaw cut on the decorative surface. If you use a jig or circular saw cut with the decorative side down to avoid chipping. **Diagram 6.**
- Begin the next row with the off cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 8"(20cm) long and joint offset should be at least 16"(40cm). **Diagram 7.**
- To start your second row, Push the side tongue of the panel into the side groove of the very first panel at about 45°. When lowered, the plank will click into place. **Diagram 8.**
- Attach the second panel of the new row on the long side as described above. Push this panel as close as possible to the previous row. To attach this second panel to the previous panel, tap the end using a tapping block and rubber mallet. Continue along in the same fashion. **Diagram 9/10.**
- To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, lay another panel upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Don't forget to allow room for spacers. Cut the panel and attach into position. **Diagram 11.**
- Door frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First cut the panel to the correct length. Then place the cut panel next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on each side. **Diagram 12.**
- You can trim door frames by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames. **Diagram 13.**
- Remove spacers and you are ready to install finishing molding.

## FINISHING MOLDING

**The entire perimeter of the installation must be sealed with 3/8" PE Foam Backer Rod and 100% silicone sealant in accordance with the installation instructions. DO NOT use acrylic sealant. First fill all expansion spaces with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with silicone sealant. Prior to installing the moldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will contact directly with the laminate flooring surface. Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.**

- U-Track is an installation method to use with T-Molding, Reducer, End-Molding and Stairnose. Position the U-Track 3/8"(9.5mm) from the edge of the flooring, Screw, nail or glue the U-Track to the subfloor then snap in molding. **Diagram 14.**
- Quarter Round is used to finish the perimeter of the room. Quarter round molding is nailed directly into the baseboard or the wall not the floor. First fill all expansion spaces with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with silicone sealant. Prior to installing Quarter Round, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the Quarter Round that will contact directly with the laminate flooring surface, install and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant. **Diagram 15.**
- T-molding is used to finish flooring when two level surfaces meet in doorways or for expansion joints. If your room is more than 30'(9.2m) wide you will need to allow for an expansion joint. Expansion joints use T-molding and can be positioned in any inconspicuous place. Position the U track 3/8" (9.5mm) from the edge of the flooring. Screw, nail or glue down the track directly to the subfloor. First fill all expansion spaces with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with silicone sealant, and then insert the T-Molding strip into the track. Prior to installing the moldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will contact directly with the laminate flooring surface, install and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant. **Diagram 16.**
- Reducer molding is used to finish flooring when the adjoining surface is lower than the laminate flooring or

when flooring meets carpet. Position the U track 3/8" (9.5mm) between the edge of the flooring. Screw, nail or glue down the track directly to the subfloor. First fill all expansion spaces with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with silicone sealant, and then insert the reducer strip into the track. Prior to installing the moldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the molding that will contact directly with the laminate flooring surface, install and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant. **Diagram 17.**

- End-Molding is used when laminate flooring ends against a vertical surface and where quarter round or wall base cannot be used. Install the laminate floor up to the U-track using spacer to obtain 3/8" (9.5mm) expansion zone, Screw, nail or glue down the track directly to the subfloor. First fill all expansion spaces with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with silicone sealant, then Snap End-Molding into the U-track. Prior to installing the moldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the molding that will contact directly with the laminate flooring surface, install and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant. **Diagram 18.**
- Stair nose is used where laminate flooring meets a step down or landing. Install the track. Measure and cut stair nose to length, adhere the stair nose to the subfloor using a high quality adhesive, apply a 3/16" (4.76mm) bead of adhesive in serpentine pattern to the back of the stair nose, snap the stair nose into the track. Do not use the stair nose on individual stair treads. **Diagram 19.**
- Apply silicone sealant at connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects. **Diagram 20.**

### MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

- Preferable temperature should be approximately 17°-23°C (62°-73°F) with a relative humidity of 35-55%. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping.
- Use a well rung out damp cloth to clean up any dirt and footprints but avoid using excessive moisture. All spills should be cleaned up immediately. Never use wax, polish or any non-approved cleaning agents as they may dull or distort the finish.
- To avoid scratches apply felt pads to your furniture legs and use only soft rubber casters. Protect high traffic areas with runners and area rugs.
- It's a good idea to save a few boards in case of accidental damage. Boards can be replaced or repaired by a flooring professional.