



PROJECT GUIDE

HOW TO INSTALL LAMINATE FLOORING



Laminate flooring is very durable, easy to clean and installs quickly. In fact, most DIYers can complete a room in one day. This overview will give you a good idea of what's involved.



TOOLS

- Tape measure
- Shims
- Circular saw
- Pro pull bar
- Door jamb saw
- Flooring installation kit

MATERIALS

- Self-levelling underlayment
- Latex primer
- Chalk line
- 3-in-1 underlayment (for laminate floors)
- Laminate flooring



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STEP 1

PREP THE SUBFLOOR



Laminate can be installed over wood or concrete subfloors, **but an underlayment is required** as the laminate is held in place by the weight of the connected planks and the grip of the underlay.



Subfloors must be solid, flat and clean. If you're installing over concrete, below grade or in a room with high humidity or moisture, a vapour barrier is required. If you're replacing a vinyl floor installed prior to 1990, consult a professional beforehand.



STEP 2

ACCLIMATE THE PLANKS



Lay out the unopened boxes of planks in the room where you will be installing for at least two days before you start, so they can acclimate to the temperature and humidity.



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STEP 3

PREPARE THE DOOR JAMBS



Cut the trim around doorways. It's easier than cutting the flooring to match the moulding's irregular shape. Flooring will just slip under it, leaving a more finished look.



STEP 4

PLAN THE FLOORING LAYOUT



Figure out how the entire floor will lay out in order to **ensure the planks on either side of the room are similar in size.**



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STEP 5

CUT THE PLANKS



Next, you'll **cut the planks using a table saw, miter saw, circular saw or handsaw**. Moulding will cover the edges so every cut doesn't have to be perfect.

STEP 6

ROLL OUT THE UNDERLAYMENT



If your product didn't come with an attached underlayment, you'll next need to **roll one out and trim it to size**. But, be sure not to let strips overlap which can result in bumps under the flooring.



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STEP 7

BEGIN INSTALLATION



Start installing your rows. First row planks should have the tongue side facing the wall and, at the end of the first row, cut the length of plank needed to complete the row. Always allows a 3/8" - 5/8" gap at each end for floor expansion.



After the first row is against the wall, **the tongue and groove side should then face the inside of the room.** Start the second row with the part of the plank you cut off at the end of the first row if it's longer than 1 foot. If it's not, start the row with a plank cut to a length greater than 1 foot.



You'll also want to **stagger the seams for a more natural looking appearance.** Seams should be staggered at least staggered 12" - 16" from any adjacent seam.

STEP 8

INSTALL THRESHOLDS AND MOULDING



Once all the laminate flooring has been installed, finish up by **installing matching thresholds and quarter-round moulding** to the walls using finishing nails.



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