



## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR CASCADE LAMINATE

### BEFORE INSTALLATION:

#### 1. READ THESE DETAILED INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING.

#### 2. Material and tool requirements:

- Estimate square footage and add 10%.
- Select underlayment (over concrete or in moisture prone areas, the underlayment selected must act as a vapour barrier) (Cascaderecommends the use of Dream Walk Premium Underlayment or Easy Step™ Premium Underlayments). If the product you have selected already has a pre attached underlayment, then a 6 mil vapour barrier must be used over concrete or in moisture prone areas.
- Wood glue, spacers, pull bar, and circular saw with a fine-toothed blade, hammer (min. 1 lb), pencil, and straight edge.

3. Acclimation: Store unopened boxes flat in the room where the flooring is to be installed, for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Once boxes are opened, they should be installed immediately.

4. Please inspect the flooring panels carefully for any possible damage or defects before installation. No complaints regarding visual defects will be accepted after the flooring is installed. If you discover apparent defects in the flooring panels you should stop the installation immediately. Labour will not be paid on apparent visible defects if installed.

5. Nature' Classics Laminate flooring purchased before Jan 15, 2023 is not suitable for wet areas e.g. full baths. Product purchased after Jan 15, 2023 is eligible for a 36 hour topical moisture warranty.

6. **Installing in Wet Areas** – Any planks that have been cut, leaving the core exposed must be sealed with a silicone-based sealant to ensure proper performance when exposed to moisture. Any damage that occurs to cut planks that have not be sealed will not be covered under warranty. When installing in areas that are prone to moisture, such as bathrooms and laundry rooms, the perimeter of the room must be sealed with an appropriate silicone-based sealant to ensure moisture cannot get under the floor. Although this flooring is moisture resistant, any spills should not be left unattended.

### Installation Instructions:

1. Never use a tapping block or installation kit that is not designed for 8mm laminate flooring. The use of incorrect tools may damage your flooring and void your warranty.

2. This Laminate flooring is designed to be installed floating. Under no circumstances should flooring panels be glued, nailed, screwed or otherwise adhered (e.g. door stopper, closet track) to the subfloor in any way. This does not apply when installing on stairs. Stair treads, risers and moldings must be fully secured using a compatible adhesive. Heavy objects such as cabinets and islands should not be installed on top of the flooring.

3. This Laminate flooring needs room to expand. An expansion gap of 10–15 mm (3/8" to 5/8") should always be left around the perimeter of the room (e.g.: between the flooring panels and the walls or any other fixed elements, such as heating pipes or door jambs). This expansion gap can be covered up with baseboards, quarter rounds or the appropriate floor trim. T Moldings (at least 2.5 cm (1") in width) must be used between adjoining rooms, hallways and doorways. T Moldings must be used in rooms measuring more than 10 meters (33') in the direction of the plank length and more than 8 meters (26')

in the direction of the plank width.

Installation should be carried out at a room temperature between 18°C (65°F) to 29° C (85°F) and a floor temperature of at least 15°C (59°F). The relative humidity in the room should be between 35-55 %. The temperature difference between the flooring panels and the subfloor should not exceed ±3 degrees C.

**4.** The sub floor must be absolutely level, dry, clean, and secured. Deflection in the subfloor may damage the locking system and void your warranty. Carpet is not a suitable underlayment. Differences in floor levelness of more than 3mm per 1 meter span (1/8" on 3') must either be sanded down or filled in with a suitable floor filling compound.

**5.** For installation below grade, or on a concrete subfloor, an underlayment with a vapour barrier must be used. If the product you have selected already has a pre attached underlayment, then a 6mil poly vapour barrier must be used over concrete or in moisture prone areas. The seams of underlayment should overlap by at least 20 cm (8") and must be taped with moisture resistant tape along the length of this overlap. (Cascade recommends the use of Dream Walk Premium Underlayment or EasyStep™ Premium Underlayments). When using a calcium chloride moisture test for concrete subfloors (ASTM F1869), values must be ≤ 5 lbs/1000ft<sup>2</sup>/24-hr or <80% RH with an in situ probe (ASTM F2170). Wood subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%.

**6.** For acoustic insulation, an appropriate underlayment should be used. Underlayment maximum thickness under this flooring is 4mm and a minimum density of 53 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (3.5 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>). If the product you have selected already has a pre attached underlayment, this step is not needed.

**7.** Flooring planks should preferably be installed longitudinally (lengthwise) to the main light source.

**8.** Avoid narrow pieces at the finish wall. Measure the distance between the starting wall and the finishing wall. Divide this number by the width of the laminate flooring plank. The remainder must be greater than 6.35 cm (2.5").

**9.** Cascade Laminate warrants the use of its products over hydronic radiant heat systems only. The temperature must be increased gradually and must never exceed 26 °C (79 °F). Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. The maximum moisture content of the subfloor is 1.5% (CM method) or less than 5lbs/24 hour per 1000 sqft (Calcium chloride method).

**10.** Your Laminate flooring can be walked on immediately following installation. As soon as part of the flooring has been installed, the furniture can be moved onto the finished installation.

### **Assembling flooring panels:**

**1.** Install appropriate underlayment as per the underlayment manufacturer's guidelines.

**2.** For best results, make sure to work from 2-3 cartons at a time to ensure a random look. For the first row of planks, cut off the tongue of the plank. Lay the first plank with the trimmed tongue edge on the long side of the plank so that it faces the wall. Take special care to maintain proper expansion as explained in point #3 above.

**3.** Begin assembling the first row of planks by angling the tongue on the short side of the second plank into the groove on the short side of the first plank. Continue this process until you reach the end of the room, ensuring proper expansion space is maintained at the end the row. A tapping block should be used to ensure the planks are properly seated in the locking system.

**4.** To start the second row, use the remainder of the last plank of the first row if it is longer than 30cm (12") otherwise, cut a new plank in half and proceed. To ensure structural integrity of your floor, it is mandatory to ALWAYS STAGGER THE END JOINTS FROM ROW TO ROW BY AT LEAST 15.25cm (6"). SHORT AND LONG SIDE LOCKS MUST BE SECURLY TAPPED IN WITH THE APPROPRAITE AMOUNT OF FORCE AND WITH A COMPATIBLE TAPPING BLOCK TO QUALIFY FOR THE 36 HOUR TOPICAL

**MOISTURE WARRANTY.** Once the short side of the planks are engaged, angle the tongue on the long side of the plank just over the lip of the groove of the adjacent plank in the first row. While maintaining the natural angle (you may require shims to maintain the angle), slide the plank into the long side groove of the adjacent plank in the first row. It should be noted that the Uniclic® locking system can also be installed using the tapping method on the short side of the planks. To do this, first align the short sides of the planks. Once aligned, the short sides of the planks can be tapped together using the appropriate tapping block.

If a door frame must be undercut, lay a plank next to the doorframe with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the door jamb with a saw, then slide the plank under the door jamb with the decorative pattern facing upwards. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the door jamb and the recommended expansion gap must be respected.

**5.** Continue the installation as instructed above until you get to the last row. For the last row, measure the exact width required. To do this, lay a plank of flooring on the second to last row. Then lay a second plank of flooring on top of this plank with the tongue side of the plank touching the wall. This will allow you to determine the width needed for the final row. Make a mark with a pencil and cut with a saw along this mark. Expansion gap must be respected!

**See Separate Document for the “Cascade Laminate Maintenance & Warranty” Detail.**

**Cascade recommends the use of Dream Walk Premium Underlayment or EasyStep™ Premium Underlayments:**

Available from your local flooring retailer distributed by Buckwold Western Ltd.

