

COMPLETE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Installation Method: 'Drop & Lock' Joint System

Please read complete instructions before commencing installation

Cyrus flooring is designed for easy, snap-together installation. Cyrus flooring can be installed:

- in rooms on, above or below ground level
- over plywood, OSB or concrete subfloors
- directly over most existing hard surface flooring
- over radiant heating systems

INSTALLER'S / OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Cyrus flooring is manufactured to highest standards of product quality, but occasional manufacturing defects may occur in the product. It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all pieces Cyrus flooring before installation. Any pieces of flooring that appear to contain a manufacturing defect should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and owner, even if the owner is not present at the time of installation. If defects are found, please contact your dealer. It is the sole responsibility of the flooring installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor and installation tools and materials meet or exceed all applicable industry standards. HTBC Flooring accepts no responsibility for problems arising from incorrect or improper site preparation or installation procedures.

SITE PREPARATION:

INSTALLATION IN NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED HOME

Installation of laminate flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing a laminate floor, ensure that:

- the building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to house interior
- all concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting and other wet work is complete and thoroughly cured and dry
- all floor mounted cabinetry (including kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, etc) is installed and secured
- basements and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water; crawlspaces must also have a vapor barrier and adequate ventilation in accordance with local building codes.
- gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building
- HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home
- subfloor is properly prepared for installation
- if installing over radiant heat, ensure that the system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to install

INSTALLATION IN EXISTING HOME (RENOVATION)

Installation in an existing home must meet the same conditions as a new home. If part of a larger remodeling project, ensure that all wet work (painting, wallpapering, texturing, etc) is completed and thoroughly dry before commencing flooring installation. In addition:

- remove all furniture, artwork and other valuables from installation area
- remove baseboards and moldings
- undercut door casings (use a piece of the flooring as a depth gauge)
- remove existing flooring, if necessary
- if installing over radiant heat, it is strongly recommended that a radiant heat technician be consulted prior to installation to ensure that the heating system can be operated effectively at temperatures acceptable to the wood flooring. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone.
- all floor mounted cabinetry (including kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, etc) is installed and secured

CLIMATE CONTROL

Conditions at the job site must be maintained with the temperature between 60-80°F (15-26°C) and humidity at 30-50% before, during and after the installation.

Flooring material should not be delivered to job site until these conditions have been met and maintained for one week prior to installation if installing over plywood, and for two weeks if installing over concrete.

Following installation, these conditions should be maintained at all times to ensure proper performance of the floor. See Warranty for details.

When temperature and humidity have met the conditions detailed above, material may be delivered to the job site. Do not deliver flooring to jobsite if climate conditions have not been met and maintained as described above otherwise damage to product may result. If stacking the boxes, cross-stack to ensure good air flow between layers. Do not open the boxes; leave closed until ready to commence the installation, and then open only as needed.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The installer and customer are jointly and solely responsible for ensuring that the subfloor is suitable for the flooring application and properly prepared for installation.

All subfloors must be clean, dry, structurally sound and flat to within 1/8" in 8'. All subfloors must be tested for moisture content according to NWFA guidelines, and the moisture content of both subfloor and flooring must be within allowable limits before commencing installation.

Plywood subfloors must meet local building code requirements (US: minimum 3/4" T&G plywood or 23/32" T&G OSB. Canada: minimum 5/8" T&G plywood or 3/4" T&G OSB). They must be secure to the joists, free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%, and the variance in moisture content between the subfloor and the flooring boards must not exceed 4 percentage points.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured (60 days) prior to installation. Moisture content of the slab must conform to specifications listed below.

For **commercial installations**, slab must be tested for relative humidity using approved testing method (ASTM F2170-11 or equivalent) and must return a reading of 75% RH or less.

For **residential installations**, slab may be tested for relative humidity using approved testing method (ASTM F2170-11 or equivalent) and must return a reading of 75% RH or less or moisture content may be measured using a Tramex Moisture Meter or equivalent and return an emission rate of 3 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less.

Gypsum concrete subfloors must be fully cured (30 days) prior to installation. Moisture content should be measured using a Tramex Moisture Meter or equivalent and return an emission rate of 5 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less.

For installations **over radiant heat**, RH testing is not possible. In these situations, moisture content must be assessed using a Tramex Moisture Meter or equivalent device. If the slab is true concrete, the emission rate must be 3 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less. If the slab is lighter weight gypsum concrete (e.g. Gypcrete), the emission rate must be 5 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less.

Note: Prior to flooring installation, ensure that the radiant heat system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone

VAPOR BARRIER & UNDERLAY

When installing laminate over a concrete subfloor that is either on, above, or below grade, a Class I perm rated vapor barrier **must be** placed between the laminate and the concrete subfloor.

As listed by the North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA), some acceptable vapor barriers/retarders over concrete include:

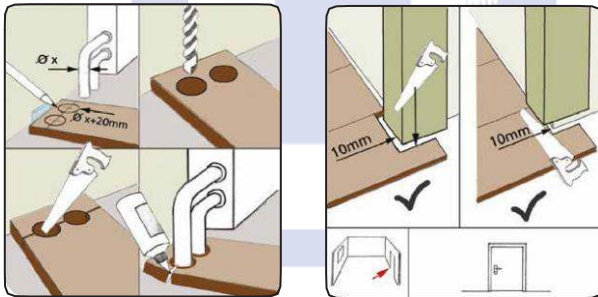
- A minimum 6 mil construction grade polyethylene film or other impermeable similar material.
- NALFA certified underlayment providing moisture protection and having a vapor transmission factor of less than 3 lbs/1000 sq. ft/24 hours.

The above listed vapour barrier/retarders should be installed in the following manner:

- Lay a single layer of poly over the entire subfloor.
- Allow a 12 inch overlap between seams, and seal the seams with duct tape along their entire length.
- Leave an excess of 4 inches of material extending up the wall at all outer edges and hold in place with blue or painter's masking tape. (This excess will be trimmed away later.)
- Next, if you are using a laminate without the pad already attached, install an appropriate underlay over the entire subfloor surface. The seams should butt, not overlap. The recommended underlay for this purpose is Kentwood Kombo.

STARTING WALL

Orient the installation so the boards are parallel to incoming sunlight, and select your starting wall. Check it for straightness. If it is not straight, you may need to trim the edge of the first row of floor boards to match the shape of the wall. Calculate how many rows of flooring will be required for the job. You will probably have to rip down (cut lengthwise) the final row of boards to fit. The final row must be at least half a board width wide to ensure the integrity of the joint. If it will not be half a board width, then rip down your starting row enough to make up the difference.



Cyrus flooring will expand around the entire room. To allow for this, leave a 3/8" (10mm) expansion space around the entire perimeter of the floor between the flooring and the walls. Also leave expansion space where the flooring will meet any vertical obstacle, such as stairs, pipes, door sills, tiles, cabinets etc. Have supply of 3/8" (10mm) spacers on hand during installation.

Note: In climates with extreme variations in humidity (beyond the range of 30-50%) or in large room installations (1000 square feet or more) a larger expansion space is required. If installing in a room measuring 1000 sq ft or more it is recommended that an expansion gap be left in the middle of the space and covered with a T-cap molding. An expansion gap and T-cap should also be used in any doorway threshold where the flooring is being carried through into an adjoining room.

INSTALLATION

Open 1 or 2 packages of flooring and inspect boards to ensure there are no manufacturing defects. Remember, boards that have been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the customer.

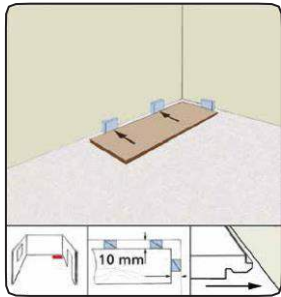


FIGURE 01

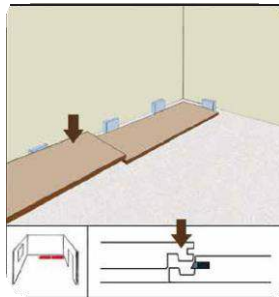


FIGURE 02

Place the board on the floor with the butt joint overlapping the first board. Align the front and back and press down lightly to lock the butt ends together. Begin at the right-hand end of the starting wall. Slide the first board into the corner against the starting wall with the tongue side facing the starting wall. Insert spacers between the wall and the board at the butt end, and along the length (See Figure 01). Place the second board on the floor with the butt joint overlapping the first board. Align the front and back and press down lightly to lock the butt ends together. Place spacers between the wall and the second board (See Figure 02). Continue until the first row is complete. At the end of the row, cut a board to fit, but remember to leave expansion space at the end of the row as well. If the offcut is more than 6" (15cm) long, you can use it to begin the next row.

Note: Start rows with a variety of different lengths of boards, minimum 6" (15cm) long. This will help avoid repetitive joint patterns.

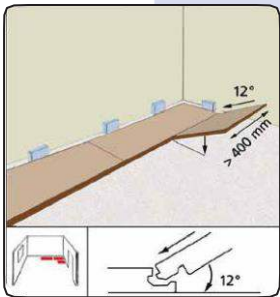


FIGURE 03

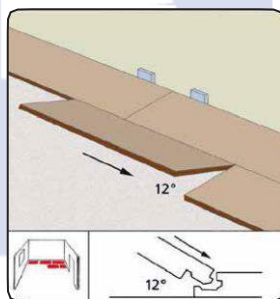


FIGURE 04

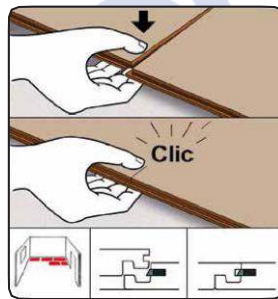
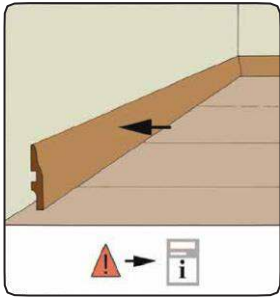


FIGURE 05

To begin the second row, hold the new board at a 30° angle and insert the tongue into the groove of the first row, then lower into place (see Figure 03). Position the second board in the same way, with its right hand butt end aligned with the left butt end of the previous board (see Figure 04). Lower the board into position and press flat to the floor; the butt joint should 'snap' closed with an audible click and lock the joint securely with no gap between the joints (see Figure 05).

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Note: If you must remove a board that has already been installed, slide it out horizontally to disengage the butt joint (see Figure 06). Do not lift it - this will damage the joint lock.

That's it! Your new Cyrus floor is installed! To finish the job, trim away the excess vapor barrier around the perimeter of the floor and remove the expansion spacers. Install moldings, trim and transitions. Remember, all moldings must be affixed either to the subfloor or to the wall – never to the flooring itself (see Figure 07).

Before you move furniture onto the floor, take a moment to protect your new floor by putting felt pads on all furniture and accessories. To learn more about care and maintenance of your

Cyrus floor, please see the product warranty.

If the flooring was installed over a radiant heating system, when you turn the system back on bring the temperature of the system up gradually, in 5° increments. Never allow the surface temperature of the floor to exceed 82°F (28°C). For more information see the special instructions for installation over radiant heat.

To Remove Cyrus Flooring: You will probably need one or two helpers, depending on how large the room is. First, remove all moldings and baseboards. Begin removing the floor at the last row that was installed. Using prybars and with helpers, lift the entire last row up by its outside edge to disengage the long side tongue and groove joint. Lay the row flat, then slide the boards apart at each butt joint. Repeat for subsequent rows. Do not try to separate the butt joints by lifting as this will damage the locking mechanism and prevent re-installation.



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