



How to install your new floor

LAMINATE



Tools you'll need

To install your new floor, you'll need the following tools.

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Pencil
- Workbench or sawhorse
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Planks of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Handsaw or electric saw
- Chisel (for fitting around architrave)
- Drill (for covering pipework)
- Moisture meter – the correct type for your subfloor
- Combination square
- Rubber mallet
- Beading or skirting boards
- Safety precautions eg. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders

Installation options



Our laminate flooring is best installed using the floating floor method.

Floating method

With a floating floor, the boards click together and connect to each other rather than being fixed to the subfloor. This makes it ideal for click-fit systems such as laminate, as it's much easier to install. For this method, we recommend installing and preparing an underlay beforehand.



Check your flooring

Once your flooring arrives, we recommend checking one box to ensure you're happy with the product. Some of our wood-effect laminate flooring is designed to closely replicate real wood, so you may notice slight colour variations between planks and batches. When you begin laying the floor, you can make the most of these differences by mixing and matching boards with varying shades to create a natural, authentic look.



Acclimatise

Your laminate flooring should be left in the room where it will be installed for at least **24 hours**. This allows the boards to acclimatise properly.

To do this, lay the packs flat on the floor or stack them evenly, ensuring they remain horizontal with weight distributed consistently. Keep the planks in their packaging, but open both ends to allow airflow. Maintain a stable room temperature between **18°C and 27°C**, and avoid exposing the flooring to any outdoor conditions. If you're installing over underfloor heating, gradually increase the temperature so the boards can adjust—always follow your heating supplier's guidance for this process.



Prepare your subfloor

Before installing your new floor, remove any existing flooring and ensure the subfloor is **clean, dry, and level**.

For the best results, we recommend using a concrete or wooden subfloor. Use a moisture meter to confirm the surface is sufficiently dry before you begin. If you have a concrete subfloor, make sure it is completely dry. A damp-proof membrane should be installed on top to help prevent moisture from reaching the boards and causing expansion or buckling. Many modern underlays already include a built-in damp-proof membrane.

Ensure any screws or nails in the subfloor are fixed below the surface so they won't puncture the underlay. Remove any old adhesive and vacuum thoroughly to clear dust and debris. If you're using underlay, now is the time to install it. Lay it in the same direction as your flooring and tape the joins securely between each row.



Choose the look

Consider the direction you'd like your planks to run. As a general rule, laying them along the longest wall creates the most balanced look.

In a square room, you may prefer to follow the direction of natural light or align the boards with the entrance. If you've chosen a herringbone or parquet style, you can decide both the direction and layout of the pattern to guide the eye and create your desired focal point when entering the room.



It's best to install your flooring as the final step in any renovation project. Work from the top of the room down so that by the time you're ready to lay the floor, there's far less risk of damage. This also applies to kitchens and islands—always install the flooring after units have been fitted to ensure the floor isn't placed under unnecessary pressure that could cause it to buckle.

Let's begin

FLOATING METHOD



- 1. Before you begin, measure the width of the final row by dividing the total room width by the width of a single plank. This allows you to adjust the first row so the final row is at least 60mm wide.**
- 2. Place spacers between the first row and the walls to create an expansion gap of at least 2mm. If you're installing over underfloor heating, we recommend increasing this to a minimum of 5mm.**
- 3. Start laying the floor from left to right, beginning along the longest wall, with the tongue side of the plank facing the wall.**
- 4. Stagger each plank by at least 30cm to create a natural look and a stable structure. To achieve this, cut a plank at the end of each row, ensuring the cut edge faces the outer wall. Use the offcut to continue staggering joints in the next row.**
- 5. Gently tap the planks together to secure the connection, avoid using a mallet as this may damage the click system.**
- 6. After completing the first row, connect each new plank to both the previous row and the one beside it. Insert the plank at an angle, apply light pressure until it clicks, then lower it flat to the floor. Repeat to ensure all boards are tightly joined with no gaps.**
- 7. The final row can be more challenging, use a pull bar to achieve a snug fit, tapping gently if needed.**

Finishing touches

Fitting Around Pipes

Mark the position of the pipe on your board. Drill a hole at this point, then make two angled cuts from the edge of the board to the hole to create a removable wedge. Fit the board around the pipe, and glue the wedge back in place behind the pipe so the plank looks seamless.

Fitting Around Door Frames

Start by removing the door. Test-fit an offcut of flooring with a threshold bar stacked on top to ensure it will fit under the architrave. If necessary, trim the bottom of the architrave with a handsaw and chisel, and adjust the bottom of the door before refitting.

Extra Tips

Use matching skirting, beading, or threshold strips to cover expansion gaps and create a professional, seamless finish. Avoid fixing trims directly to the flooring, as this can interfere with the expansion gaps. Keep any leftover planks or cuttings for future repairs. If the expansion gap is too large for the skirting or moulding to cover, cut strips from spare floorboards and glue them into place to fill the gap.

Congratulations! Your floor is complete.



Caring for your new floor

ENGINEERED WOOD

Care tips

- Laminate is water-resistant, but it's still best to clean up spills straight away to prevent moisture from reaching the layers beneath.
- If you have pets, keep their nails trimmed to help avoid scratches. While laminate is scratch-resistant, prevention is always best.
- Avoid dragging furniture across the floor and use felt pads to protect the surface.
- Limit exposure to direct sunlight where possible.
- Consider swapping shoes for slippers indoors to prevent dents, especially from high heels.

Cleaning

- Sweep or brush the floor at least once a week to remove dust and dirt that could cause scratches. Use a soft-bristled brush for gentle cleaning.
- If you're using a vacuum, make sure it has a suitable attachment that won't damage the surface.
- Microfibre mops are ideal, as they use static to lift dirt rather than push it around.
- Mop the floor every couple of weeks using a slightly damp mop that has been thoroughly wrung out to prevent excess moisture.
- Use only cleaning products designed for laminate floors, and test any new product on a small, hidden area first.
- Avoid vinegar and soap-based cleaners, as they can be too harsh on the surface.
- Do not use steam cleaners, as the combination of heat and moisture can damage the floor.



If you have any questions simply contact us on **0203 835 2486** or email **sales@easystepflooring.co.uk** and one of our friendly advisors will be happy to help.