

## General Instructions

Eternity Laminate Floors provides a full line of laminate flooring products in various styles, decors, and product constructions. The information contained in this guide is relevant and pertinent to all Eternity Laminate Flooring products. A thorough understanding and careful consideration of these installation guidelines will contribute to a successful installation.

## Storage and Handling

When storing pallets, do not stack them more than three high, and make certain they are protected from forklift trucks or other traffic. Also during storage, carefully protect package corners and lay boxes horizontally. The storage area must be climate controlled with a temperature range between 65°F and 100°F (18°C and 32°C) and a relative humidity in the 40% to 65% range.

- *Always handle cartons carefully so you will not damage the product inside.*
- *Always store flooring horizontally in the original, unopened package.*
- *Do not puncture packaging.*
- *Cartons should not be opened until time of installation. Even if packaging is opened a few days before installation, atmospheric conditions may permanently alter the product, thus making it more difficult to install.*
- *Wipe planks with a soft cloth and thoroughly inspect before installation. **Eternity Flooring does not cover claims for repair labor or replacement when a plank with visual defects has been permanently installed.***

## Job Site Conditions

Although not required for glueless laminate, for best results condition the unopened cartons for approximately 48 hours in the area where the floor will be installed. Job site temperature should be 65°F or higher and the relative humidity should not exceed 65%.

If a single room exceeds 2000 square feet or has a length or width greater than 45 feet, additional expansion joints will be required. This is accomplished by providing a greater than 5/16" amount of expansion at all fixed vertical surfaces. Extra caution must be exercised when transitioning from a larger area to a smaller area. Be certain to maintain adequate expansion in the doorways by using T-moldings and/or undercutting the door frames.

## Temperature Requirements

As with all flooring installations, the site must be climate controlled. The temperature should be at least 65°F and the relative humidity should not exceed 65%. It is particularly important to maintain these temperature and humidity requirements for at least 48 hours before and after installation, as well as during. Furthermore, these conditions must be maintained for the life of the laminate floor product. Never install Eternity Laminate Floors in high-humidity areas where the floor is usually wet (steam rooms, saunas).

## Structural Requirements

The structural integrity of the job site is critical for a satisfactory flooring installation. The type and method of construction, grade level, and flooring system components all impact the installation of flooring products. Many times, local building codes establish only minimum requirements for flooring systems. These minimum requirements may not provide sufficient rigidity for successful installation and continued performance of flooring products. Hardwood, laminate, and porcelain flooring products require that the subfloor system is free of deflection. Subfloor variations should not exceed 1/8" in 6' (3.18 mm in 1.8 m). Use a 6' level or straightedge to check for variation. All high spots must be sanded or ground smooth.

## Radiant-Heated Subfloors

Eternity Laminate Flooring may be installed over hydroponic radiant-heated subfloors, provided the surface temperature of the system does not exceed 90°F. Before installing Eternity Laminate Flooring over newly constructed radiant-heating systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heating system then set the thermostat to a comfortable room temperature for the installation.

## Existing Flooring Coverings

Eternity Laminate Floors can be installed over existing resilient floor coverings, wood flooring (subfloor must be leveled). Do not install Eternity Laminate Floors over carpet. Remove all carpet before proceeding with an Eternity Laminate Floors installation and examine the subfloor underneath. Make any repairs to the subfloor, if necessary, prior to installation.

## Underlayment

When installing Eternity laminate floors, use of an Eternity brand underlayment is recommended.

## Laying and Fitting – Eternity Glueless Installation

### General Instructions

Eternity “glueless” laminate floors are designed to be “floated.” That means they should never be nailed or glued to the subfloor. Glueless laminate planks are joined together by a specially designed mechanical locking profile; no adhesive is required to join the planks.

### Installation Procedure

Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and the width of the last row. If the width of the last row is determined to be less than 2" (50 mm), not including the bottom lip of the groove, the first row must be cut accordingly. Inspect each plank before installing. Closely inspect the edges of the plank to determine the tongue and groove profile. Remove any manufacturing residues from the tongue and groove before installing the plank. The factory-milled profiles of glueless laminate floors must always be removed when abutting a fixed vertical surface. This provides a full plank thickness at the juncture of the floor and walls. After determining the appropriate starting wall, remove the tongue of the first plank, and position this edge along the starting wall using

5/16" spacers to maintain proper expansion gap. If the starting wall is irregular, the first row of planks must be scribed to fit. Position one width of the appropriate Eternity Laminate underlayment along the starting wall. Always lay planks from left to right. In this procedure the tongue edge of the plank will be inserted into the groove, so it's important to lay out the first row with the tongue edge facing the starting wall. The last plank in the first row should be at least 12" (300 mm) long. If it is not, cut the first plank in the first row shorter to accommodate the required length of the last plank. Typically the remainder piece from the last plank may be used to start the next row; this plank should also be 12" (300 mm) or longer.

- *GROOVE EDGE: Closely inspect the edges of the planks to determine the tongue and groove profile.*
- *TONGUE EDGE: In this procedure the tongue edge of the plank will be inserted into the groove, so it's important to lay out the first row with the tongue edge facing the starting wall.*
- *Cut off all milled profiles from the edges abutting vertical surfaces. This provides a solid edge to receive spacing devices.*
- *Job layout and determining an appropriate starting point is also very important with glueless laminate installations. The installation should be "balanced" with nearly equal panel widths at the sides and no panels shorter than 12" at the length walls. Sometimes it is advantageous to start the installation in areas that would be difficult to tilt in the last row, for example under cabinets, door casings, etc.*
- *With the panel properly prepared, always lay planks from left to right, groove profile facing away from the wall. To join the second plank in the first row to the first plank, position the tongue end over the groove end of the first plank and insert the tongue at a slight angle. A slight downward "wiggle" motion locks the planks.*
- *Begin second row with at least 12" stagger of end joints, assemble the first panel in the second row to the adjacent panel in the first row by slightly angling tongue into groove until plank locks into position. Insert the tongue at about a 20° angle and lock the planks together. (Use non-marring blue tape to secure the panel across the assembled joint to hold it in place.)*
- *Position the end tongue of the second plank over the first plank in the second row, approximately 1/8" to 1/4" away from the side groove. Lock the end seam together. Always lock the end ("head") seams together before connecting sides seams.*
- *Slightly angle the side tongue profile of this panel into the side groove of the panels in the first row, and with a slight wiggling action, press tongue into groove and lower into position. (The tape will secure the previously assembled panels together.) If necessary, tap with the heel of your hand to close any minor gaps.*
- *Continue to lay the flooring from left to right, row after row.*
- *The last row of panels will more than likely need to be cut to fit. If not, it is still necessary to cut off the groove profile to provide a full plank thickness at the wall. If nothing prevents angling this last row of planks into position, proceed as normal to complete the installation.*

- *PLANING OF GROOVE: If there are obstacles (door casings, toe kicks, radiators) that prevent the last row panels from being angled into position, it is necessary to lightly plane or sand off a bit of the locking profile of the groove and tongue.*
- *PLANING OF TONGUE*
- *Position the panel onto the already installed row; slide the panel under the obstruction. It's a good practice to pre-fit the panel to make certain it will slide back into place before applying adhesive. Separate the panels to completely expose the groove. Apply a light coat of glue the groove; slide the last row panel back into position. If necessary, use a last board puller to position the panel and lightly tap panel to close any gap. Wipe off any excess glue.*

### Pipes, Pillars and Posts

Installing flooring around pipes, pillars, and posts is easy if the following directions are used. Remember, you still must maintain the 5/16" expansion gap around all of these obstacles.

- *First measure the diameter of the obstacle. Then measure that distance from the edge of the plank to be installed around the obstacle so you know where to drill the hole. Drill holes in the floor plank 5/8" larger in diameter than the obstacle and the correct distance from the edge of the plank. If the hole is near the edge of the plank, cut the plank at a 45° angle to both sides of the hole.*
- *If the hole is near the center of the plank, cut perpendicular to the long edge, going directly through the middle of the hole.*
- *Now you will have two separate plank pieces to enable positioning around the obstacle. Apply a liberal amount of glue adhesive to the cut pieces and press into place. Tighten with a pull bar and wipe away excess adhesive with a clean, damp cloth*

### Installation Instructions for Wet Areas **\*\*INSTALLATION IN BATHROOMS VOIDS THE ETERNITY WARRANTY\*\***

(Bathrooms, Laundry Rooms, and Utility Rooms)

- *When installing in any area where moisture or leaks may become an issue-the room must have a 100% sealed perimeter*
- *When installing laminate planks in a bathroom, remove the toilet and fit flooring to within 5/16" of the toilet flange. Fill this expansion gap with high-quality silicone caulk.*
- *To finish installations in a high-humidity or wet environment, the expansion gaps at all vertical surfaces such as walls, cabinets, etc., must be filled with high-quality silicone caulk.*
- *Install Quarter Round moldings directly into the wet silicone caulk.*
- *Install T-Moldings and Wall Base over the silicone caulk-filled expansion gaps. Nail Wall Base directly into the wall, not into the laminate flooring. Fill the expansion gap between planks and tub with a high-quality silicone caulk then install the profile into the wet silicone. In areas where a square edge profile cannot be installed, completely fill the 5/16" expansion gap with silicone caulk.*

### Repairs

Although Eternity Floors are inherently tough, they can be accidentally chipped by falling objects. Always inspect each plank closely before installation; however, if damage occurs after installation, use the following repair procedure.

### Plank Replacement for Glueless Laminate

Although the traditional method of plank replacement can be used with Eternity laminate products, it is often easier and quicker to simply disassemble the planks back to the damaged area. Determine the closest wall to the repair area and remove the molding. Lift up to disengage tongue and groove of the planks and unlock the planks. Install a conditioned plank to replace the damaged one and reassemble the flooring. Replace trim molding.

### Moldings

Finish your installations with coordinating moldings. Eternity moldings will enhance the appearance of any installation. Refer to the descriptions below for the proper use of each molding.

- **T-Molding** is used in doorways or thresholds where it is necessary to join two sections of laminate flooring. It can also be used when an expansion joint is needed for covering large areas (plank length and/or width exceeding 45,' or more than 2000 sq. ft.). Additionally, T-Molding can be used to transition laminate floors to other flooring materials with similar heights, such as ceramic tile or hardwood.
- **Reducers** are used to join laminate flooring with other types of flooring lower in height, such as sheet vinyl or low pile carpet.
- **End Caps** are typically used at exterior doorways to finish the space where the laminate floor ends, or any other place to give a finished appearance. They can also be used to join the laminate floor to another type of floor, such as carpet. Install End Caps against any vertical surface, with construction adhesive or finishing nails.
  - o If you choose to nail End Caps, first pre-drill holes.
  - o When using adhesive, allow the adhesive to fully cure before allowing foot traffic. An 11/16" space is required between plank ends and all vertical surfaces to meet the proper expansion space.
- **Quarter Round** covers the required 5/16" expansion space to help join and blend the juncture of the new laminate flooring with the wall. Always nail Quarter Round into the wall, not into the flooring.
  - o When nailing, first pre-drill holes.
- **Stair Nosing** adds a finished look to laminate floors where subfloors change one level, such as a sunken family room.
  - o When nailing Step Nosing, first pre-drill holes.
  - o When using construction adhesive, let it fully cure before allowing foot traffic. A 1-1/4" space is required between plank ends and the edge of the stair riser to allow for the 5/16" expansion gap.