

# Visual Artisan Floors

## WATERPROOF LAMINATE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION

### 1. Tools Required for Installation

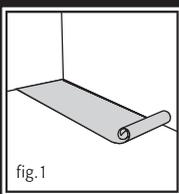
- Mitre or jig saw with laminate saw blade
- Pull bar (to pull flooring into place in confined spaces)
- Hammer
- Spacer blocks (8-10mm – laminated flooring off-cuts can be used)
- Measuring tape
- Cutting tool (scissors or knife)
- Drill with applicable drill bits
- Marker
- Ruler
- Wall plugs with screws
- Parquet sealant (to seal small gaps)
- Mounting adhesive (adhesive to attach the quarter round to the skirting)

### 2. Room Preparation

- Allow enough space for doors to still open and close after the underlay and flooring boards have been installed.
- The base floor must be level. Unevenness greater than 2mm over a one meter length must be smoothed out. Unevenness less than 2mm can be corrected with the underlay.
- The sub-floor must be clean and dry.
- Freshly poured cement screed must dry out for 1 week per 1-4cm thickness. Anything thicker will require twice as much drying time.
- Moisture open floor covering like carpets must be removed before installation.
- Floor covering such as tiles or PVC do not need to be removed, as long as it is sealed for moisture. Always use underlay.
- The temperature of an under-floor heating system must be limited to 28°C and the moisture must be less than 1.5%. Consult an approved under-floor heating dealer before installing laminate flooring over an under-floor heating system.
- Allow your laminate flooring planks to acclimatise to surrounding temperature and humidity for 48 hours before installation.

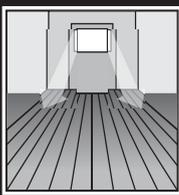
### 3. Installation Instructions

#### Step 1: Roll out the underlay



The under lay is a combination of a 2mm foam layer and a plastic under sheeting. This moisture barrier assists in reducing noise levels, smoothes out unevenness and provides insulation. Roll out the underlay from the near side of the room to the opposite wall. Tape the joints on the side with a water resistant adhesive tape.

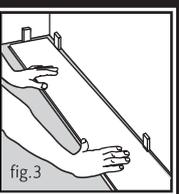
#### Step 2: Decide on the direction the floor will be installed



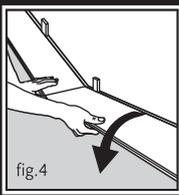
Preferably install the panels in the same direction as the longest wall and parallel to the main light source. A good visual effect can be achieved by mixing planks from 4-5 boxes.

Add 10% wastage to your final area measurement. Floor areas longer than 10m continuous must be ended and joined by a T-Moulding to allow for expansion.

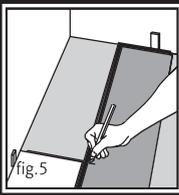
#### Step 3: Laying the floor



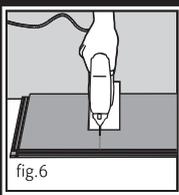
Begin laying the floor in the top left corner of the room moving right. The groove of the plank has to be facing away from the wall. Remember to put 8-10mm spacing blocks between the wall and the boards. This will maintain equal expansion gaps until the installation is complete.



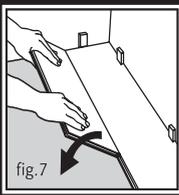
Place a plank in the corner, with the tongue side turned towards the wall. Roll the front edge of the second plank into the first plank by using the tongue-in-groove method and continue until the first row is ready.



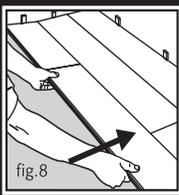
As you complete each row, cut the planks as required to fit into the remaining space and remember to scatter them as you begin each new row.



**REMEMBER!** Always saw laminate planks with the decorated layer pointing down, to prevent damage to the face of the plank.

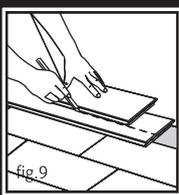


Place the plank at an angle against the plank in the preceding row. Press the edge forward against the previous row and then fold down at the same time. Only press together completely, once the whole row is has been fitted. Once the row is finished, lift it up at an angle and click it firmly into place. This is done in order to maintain a straight line. Repeat this with each row.

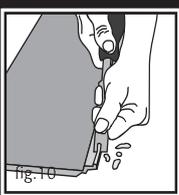


The distance to the walls can be adjusted when three rows are completed Remember to place the flooring 8-10mm from all walls and other vertical obstructions, such as cupboards or pillars.

Use a full width spare plank and 8-10mm spacer to mark your cutting line on the final row.



When cutting the last row, place a full row of planks directly on top of the last row of installed planks (keeping the tongue in the same direction as the installed planks). Use the full width of scrap pieces of plank, insert the 8-10mm spacer between the wall and the spare pieces of plank. Place a pencil next to the edge and trace a line down the planks following the contour of the wall. Cut planks on the pencil line and connect the last row.



In areas such as a doorjamb or cabinet kick base where planks cannot be angled to lock into place, use a wood chisel to remove the locking ridge from the bottom of the plank groove and gently tap the plank into place using a pull bar and hammer. Next, apply enough strips of painter's tape across the seam to hold the joints securely in place until the adhesive sets. Using a clean soft cloth, carefully clean up any excess adhesive on the surface of the planks.