

LAMINATE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR VividWOOD PRODUCTS

I. Job Site Requirements

These installation guidelines are for VividWOOD Laminate products only. All instructions and recommendations should be followed for a satisfactory installation.

The space where flooring is to be installed shall be fully enclosed and the permanent HVAC system shall be operational at 65° - 85° Fahrenheit for 3 days prior to installation, during installation and for the life of the installation. Note: Maintaining a temperature within the stated range and relative humidity of 35% – 65% is required to create/maintain optimal dimensional stability of the flooring. After installation, make sure that the flooring is not exposed to temperatures less than 60° F or greater than 95°F at 30 - 65% relative humidity. Vivid Floors – VividWOOD Laminate Flooring is NOT recommended for 3-Season Room application.

VividWOOD is a durable floor covering, not intended as structural material. VividWOOD requires a clean, dry, secure subfloor that meets building codes. The following requirements are not intended to supersede federal, state or local building codes, but as with many other interior finish products, may require modifying existing structural components for successful installation. Owner assumes responsibility for compliance with all building codes.

A moisture test is strongly recommended to determine if high moisture exists in the subfloor. When using a calcium chloride moisture test for concrete subfloors (ASTM F1869), values must be ≤ 5 lbs/1000ft²/24-hr or $<80\%$ RH with an in-situ probe (ASTM F2170). Moisture readings of wood subfloors must be $\leq 12\%$.

Acceptable job site conditions, including relative humidity and subfloor moisture conditions, must be maintained throughout the lifetime of the flooring.

VividWOOD flooring is installed as a floating floor and requires the use of T-moldings in rooms exceeding 65 feet or larger in length or width or in new rooms that do not join symmetrically. Floor movement must not be constrained by glue, nails, screws, hardware or other fixed obstructions.

II. Material and Site Preparation

- A. Remove existing floor covering from the areas to be installed. Do not remove products unless they are asbestos-free.
- B. Undercut door frame and wall base. Slide the flooring at least 1/4" underneath the door frame and wall base. Also leave a concealed 1/4" minimum expansion space under each.
- C. Remove bumps or peaks in the subfloor and fill depressions with floor leveling compound to ensure no more than 3/16" unevenness per 10 foot span.
- D. Clean debris from subfloor before installation.
- E. Acclimate unopened product before installation for a minimum of 72 hours.
- F. For concrete subfloors, install vapor barrier with overlapped seams of 8" or more.
- G. Install over single layer of underlayment appropriate for VividWOOD flooring.

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III. Installation

1. Inspect each plank. Floor should be installed blending planks from several cartons (min 3 - 4 cartons) at the same time to ensure good color and shade mixture throughout the installation.
2. For the first row along straight walls, remove the tongue on all long side joints and on the short side of the first plank only.
3. For uneven walls, trace contour on the tongue side of the plank and cut.
4. Assemble the first-row tongue side toward the wall. Insert the end tongue into the end groove and rotate downward to assemble. Keep the planks aligned and the joints closed.
5. Provide a 5/16" space for expansion on all sides. First piece in each row must be at least 12" long. Start new rows with pieces trimmed from the previous row. Ensure end joints have at least a 9" offset.
6. At a slight angle, insert the tongue of plank 2 into the groove of plank 1 until the VividWOOD edges meet, and then rotate down until the joints lock.
7. Join the short end of the plank first. There will be a gap on the long side joints when the plank is rotated down.
8. Raise the outside edge of the plank upward approximately 1". Maintain this angle as you push the plank in until the VividWOOD edges meet. Rotate downward on the plank until the joint locks. Repeat these steps to complete the installation. (Alternate Tap Method: Align the tongues into the grooves of the long and short sides of the planks. Install the long side first with a tapping block by tapping lightly along the long side until the joint is closed tightly. Then tap the end using the tapping block into a locked position.)
Note: Uneven tapping or use of excessive force may damage the joint.
10. Ensure there will be a 3/8" gap (after the joint is closed) to the wall for expansion.
11. For the last row, align the plank to be used on top of the second to last row. Using a full width plank as a spacer, trace wall contour and cut plank. Install the long side tongue into the groove with the end joint aligned. Using a pull bar and hammer, work evenly along the length of the plank and lightly tap the joint closed.
13. After tapping the long side joint closed, tap the short side closed, using a tapping block or a pull bar. Remove all Spacers.
14. **Under Doorway Frames:** Slide plank under pre-cut door frame. Tap the long side joint closed first. Then tap the end joint closed.
15. **Installation Around Fixed Objects:** Allow 1/2" expansion space around pipes or other fixed objects.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- In-floor Radiant Heat: due to the speed of sudden temperature changes, which has the potential to negatively affect laminate flooring construction, it is not recommended to install over any electrical radiant heating system. Installation over electrical radiant heating systems will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Below instructions are for radiant heating systems using water.
- Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 81 °F. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.
- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors.
- Operate the system at maximum capacity for 48 hours to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system at least 4 days before installation.
- The maximum moisture content of the screen is 1.5% (CM method).
- Make sure that the temperature in the room is maintained consistent between 65-85 °F and the relative humidity should be maintained between 30-65 % before and during the installation.
- Once the installation is completed, the heating system should be turned on, at the ambient temperature and increased gradually 9 °F degree increments every 12 hours until reaching normal operating conditions.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

TIP: The best idea to maximize the results of your heating system is to have "ON" times with a comfort temperature and "OFF" times with setback temperatures which is normally 8 °F / 4 °C lower than your comfort temperature. The setback temperatures are particularly important as these won't let the temperature of your room drop too much, meaning it is much quicker to heat your room back to comfort levels when it's needed.