



# HOWDENS

## JOINERY CO.



To prevent the risk of damaging this product hammers & tapping blocks should not be used



No glue required

## LAYING INFORMATION & INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### LAYING INFORMATION

Once the packages have been opened, planks should be installed immediately. Check all the planks to be installed. Claims for defective planks that have already been installed can not be admitted. Do not engage/disengage laminate flooring planks more than 3 times.

#### FIGURING QUANTITY:

Calculate your total floor space (length x width) plus the area of any irregular shapes within the room. Divide the total square metre by the square metre per carton and add a 10% safety factor to determine the number of cartons.

#### TOOLS & MATERIALS:

- Hand saw or power saw
- Tape measure
- Utility knife
- Drill, carpenter's glue and bar clamp, if pipes come through your floor.
- 1/2" spacers (or smaller)
- Masking tape
- Howdens Joinery waterproof membrane, if installed over concrete floor. Also use in areas such as KITCHENS, BATHROOMS, LAUNDRY ROOMS AND ANY OTHER AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO MOISTURE.
- Howdens Joinery foam underlay

Do not install cabinets over laminate flooring. Laminate flooring should be installed up to the front of the cabinets leaving a 6mm to 12mm expansion space. Silicone sealant should be used to fill in expansion space in all possible wet areas such as icemakers, dishwashers and sink areas.

In the laundry room remember that rubber pads should be attached to the washer and dryer levelling feet before these appliances are operated.

Always use transitions and silicone sealant at bathroom doorways to separate the bathroom flooring from the remainder of the installation. Toilets must be removed before installing laminate flooring.

Leave a 6mm to 12mm expansion gap around the toilet flange perimeter.

After fitting of the flooring this gap should be sealed with premium quality silicone sealant. Seal with silicone sealant the expansion space around the room perimeter and all fixed obstacles such as cabinets, pipes, doorframes, sinks and toilets. To avoid water penetration underneath the planks in any wet areas, you must seal with silicone sealant the expansion space around the perimeter (This will not affect the expansion of the laminate flooring). Check your subfloor for moisture; correct if needed.

If installing over concrete or a concrete floor covered by tiles, you must first lay down a waterproof membrane. A moisture test is strongly recommended to determine if high moisture exists in the subfloor. The moisture content must be less than 2.5% for cement-bound screed (CM method). Moisture readings of wood subfloors must be  $\leq 10\%$ . Make sure your subfloor is flat and level. Any unevenness greater than 2 mm over the length of 1 meter must be smoothed out. Cooking islands for kitchens and other very heavy objects should be installed first and not placed on top of the laminate. The laminate floor must be able to move around the heavy objects to avoid open joints and separating planks. Recommended less than 25 Kg/cm<sup>2</sup> at furniture legs.

Always apply a small bead of silicone sealant between the bottoms of the trim moulding and the surface of the laminate flooring.

Do not install laminate flooring in rooms with a water drain located in the subfloor. For moisture resistance warranty in any room, silicone sealant must be used as instructed in all of the above instructions.

### UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Underfloor heating can be used with this flooring. However, when electrical underfloor heating is used the following procedure must be followed. The electrical underfloor heating is very aggressive to wood and laminate flooring due to its drastic change of temperature. Radical changes of temperature may affect the flooring and the tongue and groove. With water underfloor heating there is no problem as the temperature is smoothly increased. Prior to installation make sure the below instructions are followed:

The ideal temperature of the installation area should be  $\pm 20^\circ$  air temperature, with a relative humidity from 50 to 70%.

Adjusting the temperature of heating should be done gradually (5°C at a time) never in a sudden way.

The flooring and the underlay should have a combined thermal resistance less than 0,150m<sup>2</sup>K/W, in order to achieve good heat transmission.

**IMPORTANT: THE TEMPERATURE OF THE BASE-FLOOR SHOULD NOT IN ANY CASE EXCEED 28°C (or 65W/m<sup>2</sup> in case of electric system).** It is extremely important that a temperature measuring probe is installed between the contact surface (usually underlay) and the laminate flooring to prevent overheating and control the temperature.

### INSTALLATION TIPS

#### INSTALLATION TIP 1

To install flooring around pipes, drill a hole in the plank that is 6mm to 12mm larger than pipe diameter. Cut the plank across the centre of the circle, position on the floor, glue plank pieces back together and clamp (do not glue laminate to subfloor). Cover expansion gaps with moulding or pipe rings when the floor is complete. Water pipes require silicone sealant (See Fig. J opposite).

#### INSTALLATION TIP 2

Flooring should extend under the doorframe. Use a piece of scrap flooring to mark the depth that the doorframe should be trimmed (See Fig. K opposite).

#### INSTALLATION TIP 3

To replace any planks that may have been damaged in installation, simply raise the last installed board approximately 32mm until it disengages. Do not engage and disengage more than 3 times. Continue until you reach the affected plank, replace and reinstall the planks.

#### INSTALLATION TIP 4

If you have a wooden door jamb, your installation should end underneath it. We recommend in this type of installation that the locking part of the protruding groove of the already installed panel be removed with a utility knife or a pocket plane. The newly laid panel can now be pushed horizontal over the groove of the previously laid plank. Use a PVA flooring glue to secure this panel.

Note: In some instances, as described above glue will be required along with the use of a pulling bar to compress the joint.

#### IMPORTANT STORING INFORMATION

Store unopened cartons of laminate flooring horizontally in the room to be installed 48 hours before installation.

#### FLOOR CARE

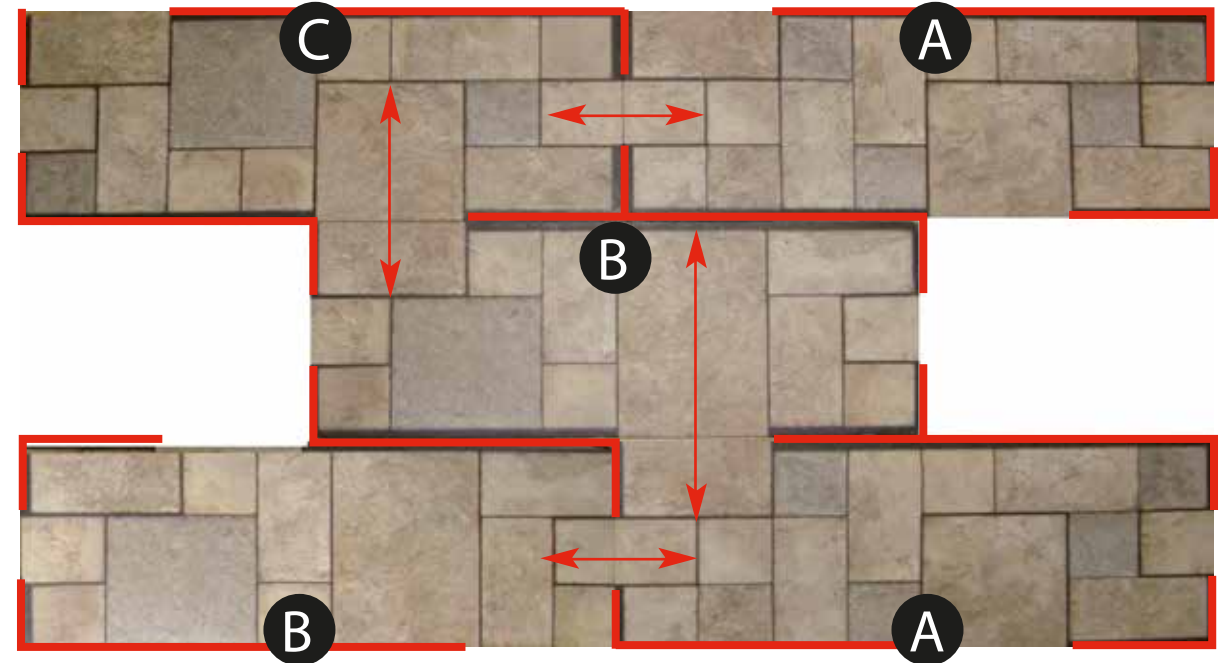
Vacuum with a soft brush or wipe with a slightly damp mop. Do not soak floor or use strong detergent cleaners. To remove stains, use a mild, nonabrasive cleanser. Felt pads are recommended under furniture legs. Floor mats are recommended at all exterior doorways. Do not use steam mops/cleaners.

### INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

#### MULTIPLE DESIGNS FROM JUST THREE STYLES OF PLANK

Using the five planks in the pack, the diagram below shows how a continuous tile look can be achieved to create the random pattern that never repeats. This is achieved by rotating the planks.

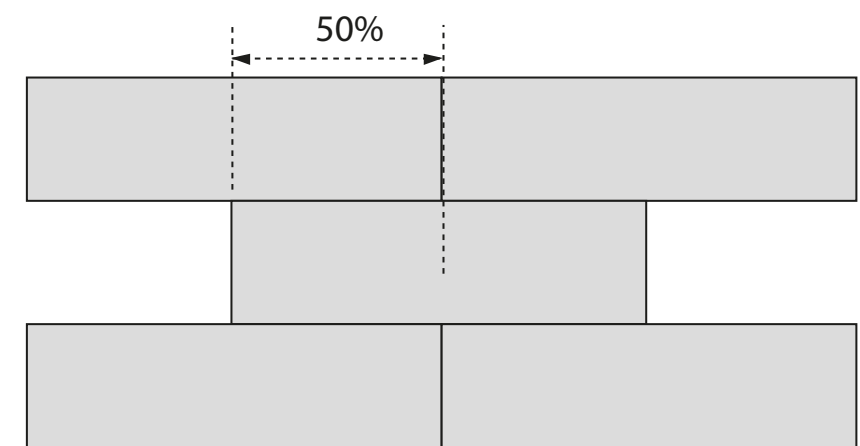
Note: The thick red lines illustrate where the grout effect lines are (these are for illustration purposes only), with red arrows indicating the continuous tile effect with no grout lines. Note: Planks are shown below as A, B & C. This is for illustration purposes only.



**IMPORTANT:** The planks must be staggered at 50% (see H pattern below), just like laying bricks.

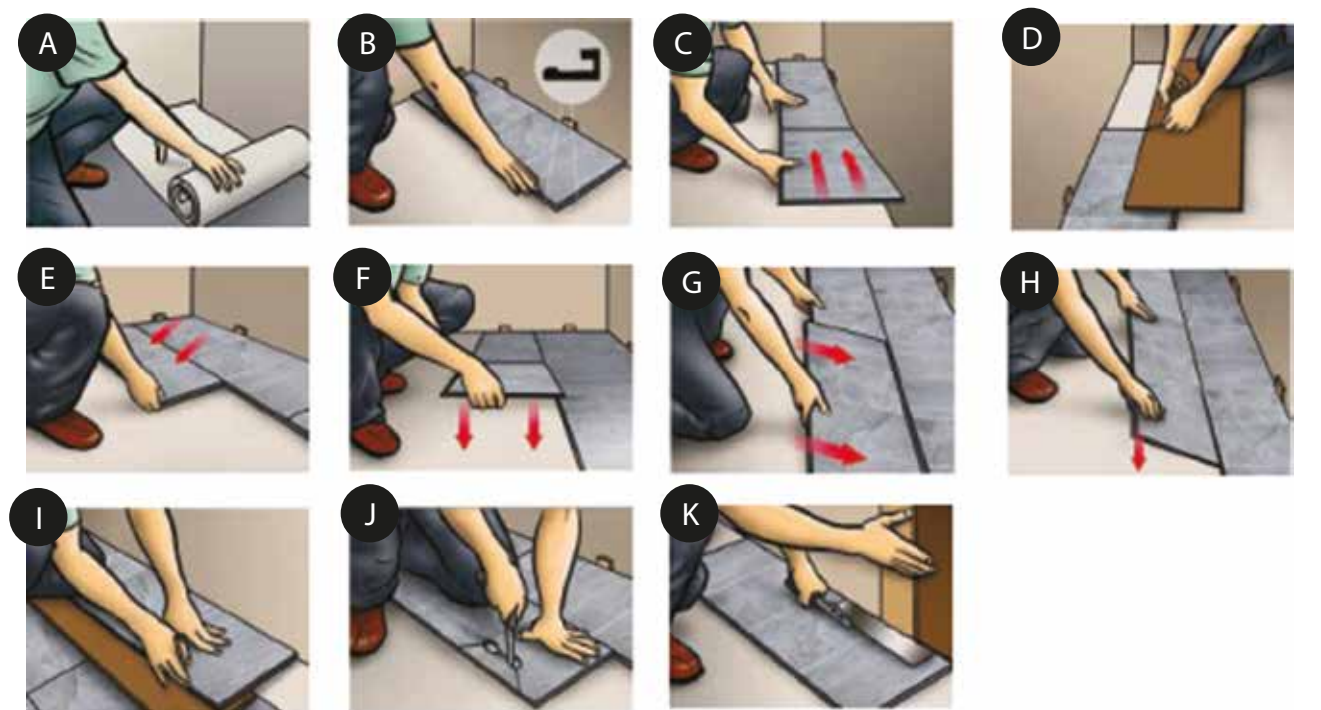
When staggered at 50%, the opposing tile patterns will align as illustrated above. It is important to properly align each panel to achieve the best continuous tile results.

Plank layout



### LAYING THE FLOORING

Follow the illustrations and 'step by step' instructions below:



1. Remove any existing carpeting or wood flooring glued to a concrete floor. Ensure the floor is clean, flat, defect free and dry. It is essential that the planks are laid on a good subfloor.
2. Remove skirting boards if applicable.
3. NOTE: If installing over concrete or a concrete floor covered by tiles, you must first lay down a 3mm (minimum) moisture barrier. Sheeting should overlap at least 200mm and extend up the wall 65mm. Do not use plastic sheeting over an existing wood floor (See Fig. A). NOTE: When using polythene film the entire floor surface should be covered, overlapping the film by 200mm. This should be sealed with tape.
4. Measure the width of the room and divide by the width of one plank. If the remainder is 65mm or smaller, cut down the first row of the planks on the tongue side (the less machined side) to have sufficient width for your last row.
5. Start in the left corner of your room. NOTE: If your room is larger than 1,000 square feet (93sq m), you must leave expansion space. Use 13mm spacers to create expansion space around the entire perimeter of the room and any fixed objects pipes, doorframes, cabinets, etc. If your room is smaller, a proportionately narrower gap is recommended no less than 6mm.
6. Trim the first row per the above instructions or cut off the tongue of the planks (whichever is applicable), and run this trimmed edge parallel to the wall using the expansion spacers (See Fig. B).
7. Install each sequential plank by inserting one short end into the other at a 15 degree angle and pressing down. (See Fig. C). NOTE: Planks should not be secured to the ground at any point.
8. When you reach the end of the row, measure and trim the last plank to fit. Cut with the decorative side up with a handsaw, decorative side down with a power saw (See Fig. D).
9. The opposing tiles without a grout line must be aligned with each other on the long side seam as illustrated at the top of the leaflet. Lift the previously installed row slightly to enable you to snap the first adjacent plank into position (See Fig. E). For subsequent planks, the short end is positioned at an angle to engage the planks (See Fig. F). Then give the board a sharp rap with your hand to fully engage (See Fig. G) and press down firmly (See Fig. H).
10. To install the last row, trace the wall contour and cut. The last row should be the same width as the first row. Remember to leave room for expansion (See Fig. I).
11. Trim any excess plastic sheeting and remove spacers. Reinstall skirting boards without nailing to the floor.