



## CASCADE H2O INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### BEFORE INSTALLATION:

#### READ THESE DETAILED INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING.

##### 1. Material and tool requirements:

- Estimate square footage and add 10%.
- Select underlayment (over concrete or in moisture prone areas, the underlayment selected must act as a vapor barrier). If the product you have selected already has a pre-attached underlayment, then a 6 mil poly vapor barrier must be used over concrete or in moisture prone areas.
- Wood glue, tapping block, spacers, pull bar, and circular saw with a fine-toothed blade, hammer (min. 1 lb.), pencil, and straight edge.

**2. Acclimation:** Store unopened boxes flat in the room where the flooring is to be installed for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Once boxes are opened, they should be installed immediately.

**3. Inspect the flooring panels carefully for any possible damage or defects before installation.** No claims regarding visual defects will be accepted after the flooring has been installed. If you discover apparent defects in the flooring panels you should stop the installation immediately. Labor will not be paid on apparent visible defects after installation.

**Installing in Wet Areas** – Any planks that have been cut, leaving the core exposed must be sealed with a Silicone based sealant to ensure proper performance when exposed to moisture. Any damage that occurs to cut planks that have not be sealed will not be covered under warranty. When installing in areas that are prone to moisture, such as bathrooms and laundry rooms, the perimeter of the room must be sealed with an appropriate Silicone based sealant to ensure moisture cannot get under the floor. Although this flooring is moisture resistant, any spills should not be left unattended.

### Installation Instructions:

**1. NEVER USE A TAPPING BLOCK OR INSTALLATION KIT THAT IS NOT MEANT TO BE USED WITH 12 MM LAMINATE FLOORING. USING THESE TOOLS WILL DAMAGE YOUR FLOOR AND VOID YOUR WARRANTY.**

**2. This Laminate flooring is designed to be installed floating. Under no circumstances should flooring panels be glued, nailed, screwed, or otherwise adhered (e.g. door stopper, closet track) to the subfloor in any way.**

- 3.** Laminate flooring needs room to expand. An expansion gap of 10–15 mm (3/8" to 5/8") should always be left around the perimeter of the room (e.g.: between the flooring panels and the walls or any other fixed elements, such as heating pipes or door jambs). This expansion gap can be covered up with baseboards, quarter rounds or the appropriate floor trim. T Moldings must be used in areas that exceed 4,000 sf.
- 4.** Installation should be carried out at a room temperature of 18°C (65°F) to 29° C (85°F) and a floor temperature of at least 15°C (59°F). The room must be maintained in this range of temperature throughout the life of the floor. The relative humidity in the room should be 30-65 %. The temperature difference between the flooring panels and the subfloor should not exceed ±3 degrees.
- 5.** The subfloor must be absolutely level, dry, clean, and firm. Carpet is not a suitable underlayment. Differences in floor level of more than 3 mm per meter span (1/8" on 3') must either be sanded down or filled in with suitable floor filling compound.
- 6.** For installation below grade, or on a concrete subfloor, an underlayment with vapor barrier must be used. If the product you have selected already has a pre attached underlayment, then a 6 mil poly vapor barrier must be used over concrete, and in moisture prone areas. The seams of the poly vapor barrier must overlap by at least 20 cm (8") and must be taped with moisture resistant tape along the length of this overlap.
- 7.** For acoustic insulation, an appropriate underlayment should be used. Underlayment maximum thickness under this flooring is 4mm and a minimum density of 53 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (3.5 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>). If the product you have selected already has a pre attached underlayment, this step is not needed.
- 8.** Flooring panels should preferably be installed longitudinally (lengthwise) to the main light source.
- 9.** Avoid narrow pieces at the finish wall. Measure the distance between the starting wall and the finish wall. Divide this number by the width of the laminate flooring plank. The remainder must be greater than 6.35 cm (2 1/2").
- 10.** Cascade Laminate warrants the use of its products over hydronic radiant heat systems only. The temperature must be increased gradually and must never exceed 26 degrees C (79 degrees F). Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture for the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. The maximum moisture content of the subfloor is 1.5% (CM method)
- 11.** Your laminate flooring can be walked on immediately following installation. As soon as part of the flooring has been installed, the furniture can be moved onto the finished installation. Always use felt pads under heavy furniture to avoid damage to the floor.

### **Assembling flooring panels:**

- 1.** Install appropriate underlayment as per the underlayment manufacturer's guidelines.

2. For the first row of panels cut off the tongue of the plank. Lay the first plank with the trimmed tongue edge on the long side of the plank facing the wall while taking special care to maintain proper expansion as explained in point #3 above.
3. Assemble the end joints by lowering the tongue of the plank into the groove from top to bottom on the short side of the panel. Apply a strip of glue to the short side grooves of the planks in the first and last rows and weigh them down for approximately one hour until the glue sets.
4. To start the second row, use the remainder of the last plank of the first row if it is longer than 30cm (12") long, otherwise, cut a new plank in half and proceed. To ensure structural integrity of your floor, it is mandatory to **ALWAYS STAGGER THE END JOINTS FROM ROW TO ROW BY AT LEAST 40cm (16")**. **SHORT AND LONG SIDE LOCKS MUST BE SECURLY TAPPED IN WITH THE APPROPRAITE AMOUNT OF FORCE AND WITH A COMPATIBLE TAPPING BLOCK TO QUALIFY FOR THE 96 HOUR TOPICAL MOISTURE WARRANTY.**
5. Angle the tongue of the long side of the plank into the groove of the first panel of the first row at an angle of approx. 25° and lower the panel to lock it into place.
6. In the case where you are unable to angle panels (e.g. Under a doorframe or radiator), you must cut away the locking edge of the lip of the bottom groove by using a wood chisel. Run a bead of glue on the now modified tongue and groove. Tighten the panels gently with the use of a pull bar and a hammer.
7. If a doorframe must be undercut, lay a plank of flooring next to the doorframe with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the doorjamb with a saw, then slide the flooring plank under the doorjamb with the decorative pattern facing upwards. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the doorjamb and recommended expansion gap must be respected.
8. Continue the installation in this manner until you get to the last row. For the last row, measure the exact width required. To do this, lay a plank of flooring on the second to last row. Then lay a second plank of flooring on top of this plank with the tongue side of the plank touching the wall. This will allow you to determine the width needed for the final row. Make a mark with a pencil and cut with a saw along this mark. Expansion gap must be respected!

**See Separate Document for the "Cascade Laminate Maintenance & Warranty" Detail.**