

Laminate Installation Guidelines- Uniclic Click System

PACIFIC VINEYARD COLLECTION
ALTUS COLLECTION

PLEASE COMPLETELY READ BEFORE INSTALLATION!!!

Be sure to inspect the product for color, finish, quality, and style BEFORE installing any material. The manufacturer's warranty **DOES NOT** cover materials with visible defects once they have been installed. Any defects should be reported to the flooring dealer IMMEDIATELY for inspection and/or replacement.

ALL PLANKS, ONCE INSTALLED, ARE CONSIDERED ACCEPTED BY THE INSTALLER AND/OR HOMEOWNER, AND THE MANUFACTURER ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ABOVE.

A. INTRODUCTION

Laminate and other wooden materials react to the surrounding environmental climate, the main factor is the relative humidity (RH, %). High humidity means the laminate expands, while low humidity causes it to shrink. Due to this natural property, please follow the instructions below.

General

Uniclic® is a revolutionary system for installing laminate floors without using glue. The planks can be clicked together effortlessly, thanks to the ingenious shape of the tongue and groove. Uniclic® is unique because you can install the planks in two different ways:

Method A: Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down while exerting forward pressure. The panels will automatically click into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove, or the groove onto the tongue. The tongue into the groove is the easiest method. (See diagrams 1A – 1B – 1C.)



Method B: With Uniclic® you can also tap the planks into each other without lifting. For this method you must use a tapping block. The planks should not be joined with a single tap. To avoid damaging the panels you must tap them together gradually. (See diagrams 2A – 2B.)



Tools for installing the floor

For optimal results, please follow the installation instructions carefully. Besides the regular tools for installing laminate floors (i.e. hammer, saw, pencil, measure) you will also need the following accessories.

- installation kit (crowbar, spacers (1-8 mm / 0.039"- 0.315"), and a tapping block)
- underlayment system
- maintenance products

It will generally be necessary to saw some flooring planks during installation. To obtain a clean cut, the pattern side should face down when you use a jigsaw, saber saw or circular handsaw and up when you use a handsaw or a crosscut saw.

9 focus points

1. Thanks to the Uniclic® system, the floor floats and is installed without glue. You can walk on the floor during and immediately after installation.
2. With Uniclic® planks you can choose where you want to begin. Think about what the easiest way will be to install the floor. We will demonstrate the installation for right-handed people, from left to right. You can work in the other direction if you want.
3. Make sure the planks are mixed sufficiently when you install them so that you do not end up with too many identical, light or dark planks next to each other.
4. Check all planks in daylight before and during installation. Defective planks must never be used.
5. The floor should preferably be installed parallel to how the light enters the room. The ideal conditions are 15-20°C (59-68°F) at a relative humidity of 50-60%.
6. **Let the planks acclimate for 48 hours in** the unopened packaging (not on the pallet) at the normal room temperature in the middle of the room where the floor is to be installed.
7. Room humidity can vary according to the season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. For this reason, make sure you leave a minimum expansion joint of 8 to 10mm (5/16" to 3/8") on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds and under doors.
8. Large rooms must have expansion joints every 13m (40 feet) widthwise to the planks and every 13m (40 feet) lengthwise. We recommend having an expansion joint between different rooms (e.g. under the door). Expansion joints can be finished by means of a molding that is attached to the subfloor, such as a SLCC Pacific Vineyard T-Molding.
9. Ensure the end joints of the planks in two successive rows are never in line. Always ensure that the joints are staggered by at least 15cm / 6 inches.

Preparing the room

- Check that the doors can still open and close after the floor and underlayment have been installed (minimum +1cm (3/8")).
- Check whether the old molding can be removed. You can also leave the wall base and finish the floor with SLCC profiles.
- Make sure the subfloor is clean and dry.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR:

New Construction:

- A new concrete floor must dry at least 1 week per 1cm (3/8") thickness up to 4cm (1-1/2"). Subfloors thicker than 4cm (1-1/2") require twice as much drying time. For example, a 6cm (2-1/2") concrete subfloor must dry for at least 8 weeks. The moisture content must be less than 2.5% (CM method) or less than 5 lbs/24h.1000sqft (Calcium chloride method ASTM 1869).
- If there is underfloor heating, the subfloor must not exceed 28.8°C (84°F) and the moisture content must be less than 1.5% (CM method).

Moisture Content Limits:

For concrete sub floors: Calcium Chloride Test is required.

- a. A conservative but generally recommended allowable amount of moisture emission as expressed by the calcium chloride tests is 3# per 1,000sf per 24 hours at the time flooring installation.

Floor Flatness: Industry standard for flatness for both laminate and wood flooring requires a tolerance of 3/16" over a 10-foot span or 1/8" over a 6-foot span. This ensures a smooth and stable surface for the flooring to be installed, preventing issues like squeaking, gaps, or unevenness in the finished floor.

If the subfloor does not meet the flatness requirements, it needs to be leveled using methods like grinding of the high spots, filling low spots with patching compounds or using self-leveling concrete.

Renovation:

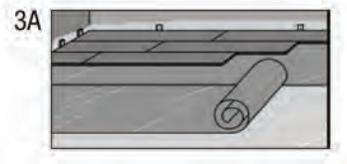
- Remove any damp-porous floor covering (carpet, needle felt, etc.) first.
- Damp-sealed floor covering (PVC, linoleum, VCT, etc.) does not have to be removed. Always use underlayment.

WOODEN SUBFLOOR:

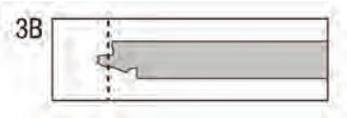
- Remove any existing floor covering first.
- Make sure the plank floor is stable. Nail down any loose parts and apply a levelling layer (if necessary.)
- Install the panels crosswise to the direction of the existing subfloor.
- It is necessary that the crawl space under the plank floor be sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and provide sufficient ventilation (minimum 4cm (1-1/2") of total ventilation holes per meter (40") of floor). The moisture content of the wood may not exceed 12%.

Installing the floor

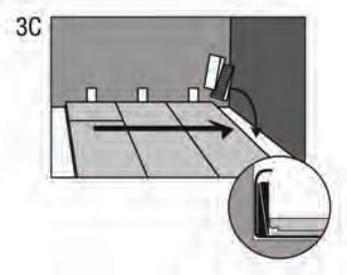
- First install the underlayment, per width and gradually as you progress. Let the membrane run up the wall a bit before cutting to size. A molding will be attached to this later. (See diagram 3A.)



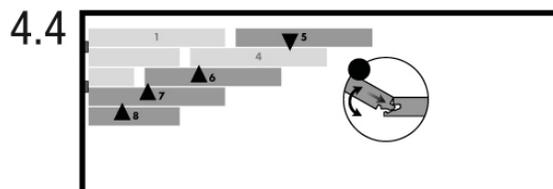
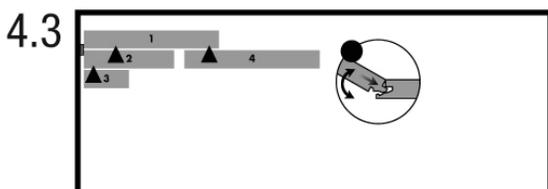
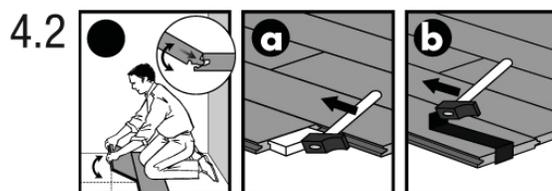
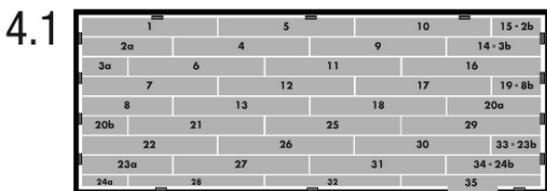
- Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both the long and the short sides. (See diagram 3B.)

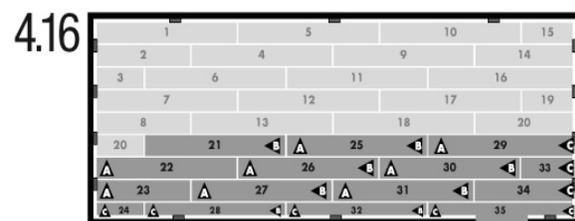
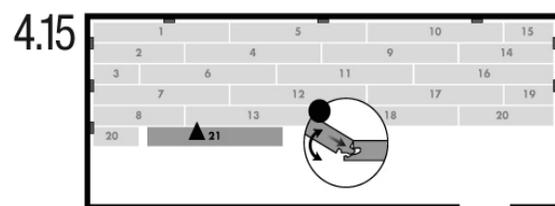
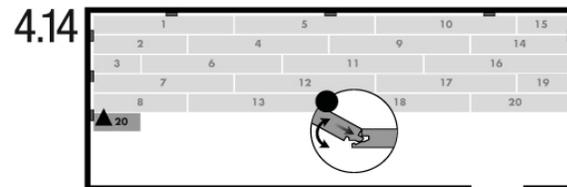
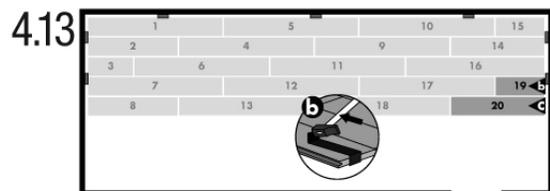
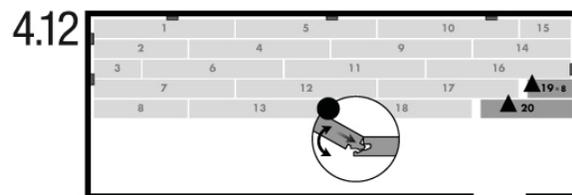
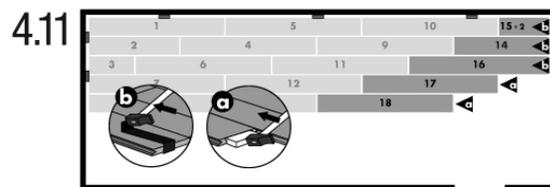
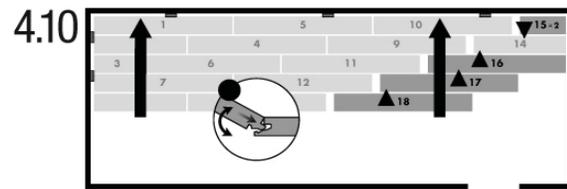
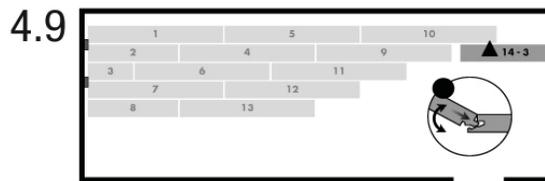
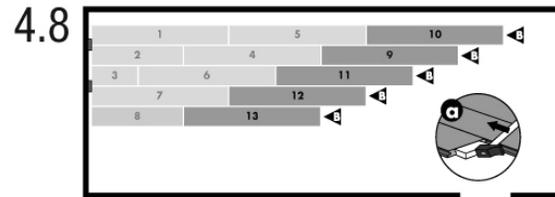
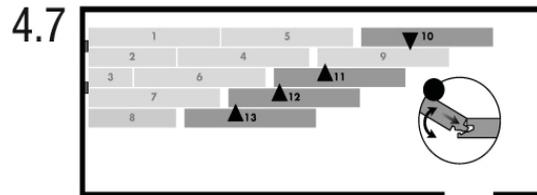
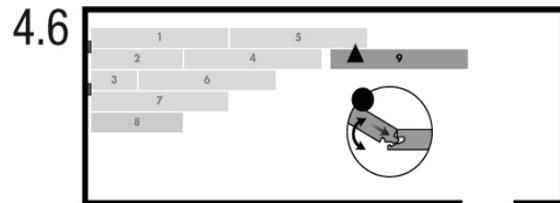
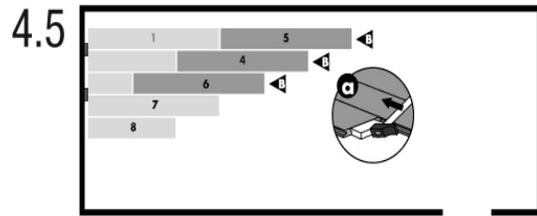


- Put the plank with the sawn off-sides against the walls. Put spacers from the installation kit between the planks and the wall. This will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: 8 to 10mm (5/16" to 3/8"). (See diagram 3C.)

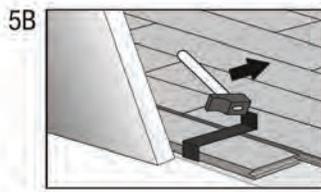
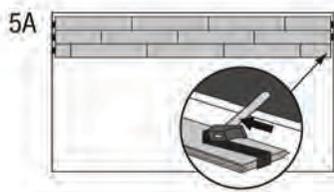


The diagrams below indicate where the planks are clicked together by angling up and down or where they are tapped together flat. Follow the diagrams precisely. (See diagrams 4.1 through 4.16.)





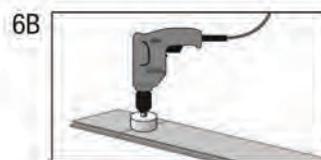
In places where it is too difficult to install the planks with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can tap them together using the pull bar and a hammer. (See diagrams 5A – 5B - 5C.)



- There must also be an 8 to 10mm (5/16" to 3/8") expansion joint between the last row and the wall. Keep this in mind when sawing the last row of planks.

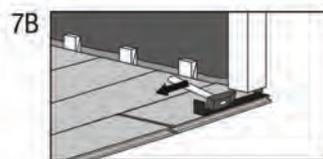
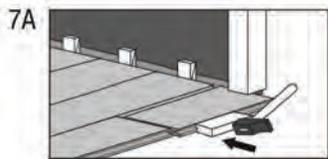
Pipes

In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two planks. Take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 20mm (3/4") for the expansion. Click the panels together on the short side and drill a hole in the center of the joint between the two panels. Now you can install the panels in the floor. (See diagrams 6A-6B-6C.)



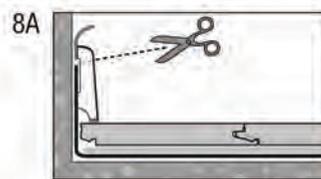
Under doorframes

When sawing the panels, ensure that the expansion joint under the door is at least 10mm (3/8"). If you cannot lift the plank, use an adapted tapping block or pull bar and hammer to tap the planks together with the planks flat on the floor. (See diagrams 7A-7B.)



Finishing

- Remove all spacers.
- Install the molding on the plastic membrane that runs up the wall from under the floor. Never attach the molding to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract under the molding.
- For a perfect finish around pipes, use rosettes or caulking.
- In places where profiles or skirting cannot be placed, fill expansion gaps with caulking. (See diagram 8A.)



You can use the floor immediately after installation.

Baseboards/skirting must be fixed to the walls and NEVER THE FLOORS.

Room Climate: Is a Humidifier or Dehumidifier Needed?

At all times, the recommended room relative humidity (RH) of 45-60% and temperature of 65-75°F should be maintained.

- If necessary, install a humidifier/dehumidifier to ensure the best climate for yourself, furniture, and your floor.
- If the climate is not maintained or controlled by natural properties, the floor can exhibit fine gaps, particularly in a dry environment, or show concave (cupping boards) or convex boards at high RH%.

Cleaning and maintenance: (see detailed care and maintenance on our website)

The floor should be cleaned by using a vacuum cleaner or a brush. If required, wipe with a damp-dry (well-squeezed) cloth. Use a mild soap or similar. Any water spilled accidentally must be wiped off immediately.

Floor protection furniture, entrances:

Stick felt pads to the chair and other pieces of furniture legs—place door mats at all entrances.

- Please refer to our Care and Maintenance section for further instructions.