



Installation Guide

(Read all instructions before installation)

Tools and Materials

- Vacuum
- Safety Glasses
- 5/16" (8.2mm) Spacers
- T-Square
- Tape Measure
- PVA Laminate Glue
- 10 mil Polyethylene (concrete only)
- Undercut Saw
- Table Saw
- Miter Saw
- Jig Saw
- Circular Saw
- Plastic Packaging Tape
- Dust Mask
- Underlayment

WARNING: EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN OPERATING POWER TOOLS. OPERATIONS INVOLVING SAWING, SANDING OR MACHINING OF WOOD PRODUCTS CAN PRODUCE WOOD DUST. AIRBORNE WOOD DUSTS CAN BE AN EXPLOSIVE HAZARD. WOOD DUSTS MAY ALSO CAUSE RESPIRATORY, EYE AND SKIN IRRITATION. THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER (IARC) HAS CLASSIFIED WOOD DUST AS A NASAL CARCINOGEN IN HUMANS. POWER TOOLS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A DUST COLLECTOR.

Substrate Requirements

Meridian Laminate Flooring may be installed over most types of substrates and existing floors on all grade levels.

- All substrates must be structurally sound and free from movement or deflection.
- The substrate must be clean, dry, level and free of any defects.
- The substrate must be level within 1/4" in 8 ft. (6.3mm in 2.4m).
- Smooth and level all irregularities with a cementitious patching and leveling compound.
- In addition to the above requirements, note the additional requirements below for each type of substrate.

Concrete

- Concrete substrates shall be properly cured & allowed to dry for a minimum of 90 days before installation.
- Moisture vapor transmission shall not exceed 5 lbs./1000 sq.ft./24 hours per ASTM F 1869 Calcium Chloride Test or when tested according to ASTM F 2170, the internal relative humidity of the concrete shall not exceed 75%.

Wood

- Suspended wood substrates (crawl space) shall have a minimum 18" (45cm) of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground. A moisture vapor retarder shall be installed over the ground with overlapped widths & lengths.
- Moisture content of wood substrate shall not exceed 12%.

Existing Sheet and Tile Flooring

- Existing flooring must be fully adhered and in good condition.
- Repair any damaged areas.

Carpeting

- Non-level loop carpet installed over pad and padding must be removed before installing laminate flooring.
- Meridian Laminate Flooring may be installed over industrial, level loop direct glue carpeting (no padding) that is installed over wood substrates only. Use of a foam underlayment is not recommended over carpet.
- All carpeting must be removed if installed over concrete.

Radiant Heated Floors

- Meridian Laminate Flooring is suitable for installation over underfloor heating systems provided that the heating element is installed at least 2" below the surface of the concrete and the flooring installation is guaranteed and warranted by the heating system manufacturer.
- Lower temperature of heating system to 60°F (16°C) for one week prior to flooring installation.
- Gradually increase temperature in increments of 10° per hour.
- Surface temperature should not exceed 85°F (28°C).

Conditioning/Acclimation

- Meridian Laminate Flooring must be allowed to acclimate to the temperature of the room in which it will be installed.
- **Place the unopened cartons of laminate lying horizontally in the room in which they will be installed for a minimum of 48 hours before installation.**
- Do not remove the plastic wrapping.
- Room temperature shall be a minimum of 65°F (18°C) and relative humidity must be between 40% and 70%.

Room Preparation

- Remove existing wall moldings and doorway transition moldings.
- Leave at least 1/2" between the surface of the flooring and the bottom of electric baseboard heaters to allow heat to circulate.
- Undercut door moldings and casings to allow the flooring to fit underneath without restriction. Use a piece of laminate and foam underlayment as a height guide.
- Sweep and/or vacuum substrate to remove all dirt & debris.
- It may be necessary to trim the bottom of any doors to allow for the change in floor height.
- Install foam underlayment: First install the underlayment, per width and gradually as you progress. For Concrete, let the membrane run up the wall a bit before cutting to size. For Wood, cut the moisture barrier 1 inch from the wall. A molding will be attached to this later.

Getting Started

1. Meridian Laminate is a floating floor and should not be glued or nailed to the substrate.
2. Meridian Laminate is intended for indoor use only.
3. Meridian Laminate is not recommended for use in high humidity areas where the floor may become wet (full bathrooms, steam rooms, etc.).
4. Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension.
5. **Do not install cabinets on planks.**
6. Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and also to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" (50mm), excluding the tongue, the width of the first row of planks will have to be cut accordingly.
7. A minimum 5/16" (8.2mm) expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room and all vertical objects.
8. **Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Do not install damaged planks. Meridian will not accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects. During installation, inspect the groove area and remove any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks.**

Installing Planks

Never use a hammer and tapping to install Meridian Laminate Flooring. This will result in damage to the planks.

1. Begin laying planks from the left side of the starting wall and work to the right side. The tongue side of the plank shall face the starting wall.
2. Place 5/16" (8.2mm) spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall. Place spacers every 12" (30.4cm) apart along starting wall. Always position one spacer between the wall and where the planks

join. This will prevent end joints from opening or skewing.

3. The end joints of the planks in the first row are assembled by inserting the tongue side into the groove side of the previous plank. Install remaining full planks in the first row.
4. The last plank in the first row will need to be cut. Measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 5/16" (8.2mm) from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 12" (30.4cm), the length of the first plank in the row must be cut. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and last plank in each row must be at least 12" (30.4cm) in length.
5. When cutting planks, make sure that the teeth of the saw blade are cutting into the decorative surface. Best results are achieved by using a carbide-tipped cutting blade.
6. Many walls are irregular. Scribe or trace the contour of the wall onto the first row. Carefully detach planks and cut along scribe mark. Reinstall first row of planks as in steps 2 and 3.
7. Each width plank is to be used in its own row. Stagger the lengths to allow at least a 12" (304.8 mm) offset from the previous row.
8. Install the long side of the first plank of the second row. Remember to place a 5/16" (8.2 mm) spacer between the wall & the short side of the previous row at approximately a 30° angle. Rotate plank downward to engage the joint.
9. Position the second plank of the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the first row at approximately a 30° angle. Gently slide or position the plank so it is aligned with the short side of the previous plank. Rotate the plank downward to fully engage the long and short side joints. Continue with each plank in the row until row is completed. **NOTE: Any movement or lifting at the end joints will be corrected once the next row is installed.**
10. Continue working from left to right, row by row.
11. The last row of planks may need to be cut lengthwise to obtain the proper width. The width of the last row shall not be less than 2". Align a plank that has been cut to the correct length exactly over the first plank in the previous row. Lay a scrap plank over top of the plank to be cut and mark the distance with a pencil. Cut each plank accordingly. When performing this step, remember to allow for a 5/16" (8.2 mm) spacer between the wall and the last row of planks.
12. For rooms wider or longer than 40' (12 meters), the use of Meridian T-Moldings is required to account for the normal movement of the floor. When required, T-Moldings should be positioned in areas such as doorways, archways, etc.

Installing Under Door Jambs & Toe Kicks

- In areas where it is difficult to angle the planks into position, such as around door molding and casings, it is necessary to remove the lip on the groove edge of the planks you are fitting to. This will allow you to install the plank horizontally.
- Using a utility knife or wood plane, lightly scrape or shave off the lip on the short and long side of the planks you are fitting to.
- Lay plank at on the floor and slide into position. Make sure plank fits properly.
- Once proper fit is achieved, remove the plank and apply a thin bead of PVA laminate glue on top of the tongue on the short and long side and position the plank into back into place. Immediately wipe off any excess glue with a damp cloth.

Finishing the Installation

- After all planks have been installed, remove spacers from perimeter of room.
- Install transition moldings. Do not fasten any moldings through the laminate flooring.
- Predrill and install quarter round or baseboard molding. Molding must be sufficient size to cover the 5/16" (8.2mm) space. Do not fasten moldings through the laminate flooring. Fasten into the wall.
- Use plywood to cover the top of the laminate when moving heavy furniture or appliances into position.
- Use proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
- **Post-installation temperature must be maintained between 65° F and 100° F. Relative humidity must be maintained between 40% and 70%.**

