HALLMARK HOME®

WATERPROOF LAMINATE

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

WATERPROOF LAMINATE



Hallmark Home Laminate INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Owner/Installer Responsibility

1. Inspect all materials carefully prior to installation. Warranties do not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed. Installation constitutes acceptance.

2. Inspect the flooring in well-lit conditions to ensure proper identification of any potential problems. Carefully inspect the flooring for damage, color, finish, and quality. If the flooring is unacceptable, contact your distributor and arrange shipment of replacement material. Material that is subjectively viewed as unacceptable but falls within quality control norms will not be replaced.

3. Prior to installation, the installer must ensure the job site and subfloor conditions meet the requirements as specified.

4. IF THE FLOORING AS SUPPLIED WILL NOT SATISFY THE CUSTOMER IN FULL, DO NOT PROCEED TO INSTALL. The decision not to proceed must be made within the first 10% or 100 square feet of flooring boxes opened, whichever is less.

Site Requirements

Hallmark Home Laminate is only suitable for climate-controlled indoor installations (35-65% RH and 60-85° F) and can be installed above, on, or below grade. Moisture testing is required to determine if high moisture exists in the subfloor. If using a calcium chloride moisture test for concrete subfloors ASTM F1869, values must be ≤ 5lbs./1000ft2 or <80% RH with an in-situ probe (ASTM F2170). Moisture Content variance between subfloor and product may not exceed 4%. Wood Subfloors must be ≤ 12%. Acceptable job site conditions, including subfloor moisture conditions and relative humidity, must be maintained throughout the lifetime of the flooring. Hallmark Home Laminate is installed in floating floor applications only and will require transitions in doorways less than 32 inches or if a direction change occurs. For spans 50 feet or greater, add one extra 1/16" expansion for every additional 5' of span.

Site and Material Preparation

1. Climate Control: The structure must have climate control operating for 48 hours prior to installation.

2. Acclimation: Structure must be at 60 to 80° F and 35 to 65% RH. If storage and delivery conditions are at this range for 12 hours prior to delivery, no acclimation time is required. If outside of these conditions, allow 48 hours acclimation time in the listed conditions.

3. Remove any wood installed on a concrete subfloor. Confirm that the materials to be removed do not contain asbestos.

4. Clean loose debris from the subfloor before installation.

5. Secondary Vapor Barrier: Use six to eight-mill poly sheeting on concrete slabs. Overlap seams twelve inches and tape seams with waterproof duct tape. Factory tested roll-on moisture barriers for concrete or plywood subfloors are also approved as a moisture barrier as an alternative to poly sheeting.

Radiant-Heated Subfloors

All Radiant Heat systems must have a failsafe capability to ensure surface temperatures do not exceed 80°F.

1. The heating system tubes must be 1 ½" below the surface layer of the concrete slab/thermal mass.

2. 2–3 weeks prior to the installation the thermostat must be set at 70° F, then at 85°F for 3 days. The home should be aired out briefly every day to allow the excess humidity from the thermal mass to exhaust out of the structure.

Radiant Heat - Hydronic
Subfloor level tolerances listed previously, also apply to radiant heated subfloors.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF HYDRONIC SYSTEM

• Encased in Cement/Gypcrete.
• Encased in Aluminum Hangers, between flooring joists.
• Involve the use of Aluminum Transfer sheets between the subfloor and a wood deck on top of sleepers.

SURFACE CHANELED RADIANT HEAT SUB FLOOR: Surface-channeled radiant boards are not acceptable for use under Hallmark Floors Rigid Vinyl Plank flooring. A minimum of ¾" must be maintained between the floor and the water tubing. This is not possible with these types of systems. This applies to systems with or without an aluminum transfer sheet. The previously listed subfloor level tolerances also apply to radiant-heated subfloors.

PERMITTED APPLICATION METHODS

Floating Installation ONLY

CAUTION: Surface temperature of the floor should never be set to exceed 80° F as a function of the heating system.

Temperature sensors must be integrated into the system as a failsafe to prevent excessive heat and damage to the Crescendo flooring.

NOTE: Area rugs and closed-bottom furniture placed over a radiant heat system will cause heat to be retained in the floor. This may result in that area exceeding the optimum temperature and causing slightly larger gaps and minor distortion in the floor under closed bottom furniture (bookcases, entertainment units, area rugs, etc. Hydronic systems are difficult to regulate in that regard.

PASSIVE RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS: Passive radiant heat systems are not suitable for use with Crescendo Laminate Flooring.

Any approved radiant system must be combined with the ability to move air in the room to ensure proper heat distribution and prevent excessive heat at floor level. Humidity controls must be in place to maintain relative humidity within the 20-60% RH range.

INSTALLATION METHODS-HYDRONIC

Floating Installation: Crescendo Laminate does not require an additional pad, and extra pads must not be used.

Glue down installation is not permitted.

Thermal mass must be a Portland-based concrete product and rated at a compressive strength of 2500 psi or greater. Thermal mass with less than 2500 psi compressive strength.

Hydronic warm-water systems installed in accordance with NWFA specifications for systems approved in Hallmark Floors Radiant Heat Guide are acceptable. Tubing must be a minimum of 1 1/4" below the surface of the concrete thermal mass.

RADIANT HEAT IN LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE– DRYING THERMAL MASS PRIOR TO INSTALL

Two to three weeks prior to the arrival of the hardwood floor, and after completion of all wet work at the job site, the radiant heat system should be on at a temperature of 70° F for three weeks and then at 80° F for 2-3 days. During this time, the structure should be well ventilated to prevent moisture buildup (the increased heat is driving the moisture out of the concrete thermal mass during this time). If this is not possible due to weather/ outdoor climate conditions, dehumidifiers should be used to keep moisture from building up in the structure. NOTE: Prior to installation, the lightweight concrete moisture content must not exceed 1.5% as measured with a Tramex Moisture meter.

HYDRONIC RADIANT HEAT / WOOD SUBSTRUCTURE AND ALUMINUM THERMAL TRANSFER SHEET/HANGERS – PRIOR TO INSTALL

Two weeks prior to the arrival of the flooring at the job site, the radiant heat system should be gradually brought up to 70° F. Moisture levels allowable in wood subfloor are not to exceed 12%. Once systems have reached optimum conditions, the flooring should be brought to the job site, not before.

RADIANT HEAT - ELECTRIC

Subfloor level tolerances listed previously, also apply to radiant heated subfloors.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF ELECTRIC SYSTEMS

- Encased in Cement/Gypcrete/Mortar
- Low Voltage
- Fabric Heating Mat with Thermal Cut Off

NOTE: Other electric systems including, plastic mat, fabric mat., metal mesh mat, and are not recommended.

PERMITED APPLICATION METHODS

Floating Installation.

Due to performance, compatibility and safety considerations, only systems compliant with the NWFA Guideline classification of Fabric-Heating Underlayment or Mat with Thermal Cut Off are recommended for direct contact with the flooring. All other system variants require installation of the heating components either between joists or embedded in a 1" thermal mass of cement with the flooring when installed according to the installation instructions. In-floor systems powered by FiberThermics® such as WarmStep® are classified as Fabric-Heating Underlayment or Mat with Thermal Cut Off and are approved for direct contact.

ELECTRIC RADIANT HEAT APPROVED PRODUCTS

CAUTION: Surface temperature of the wood floor should never be set to exceed 80° F. as a function of the heating system.

Temperature sensors must be integrated into system as a fail safe to prevent excessive heat and damage to the Crescendo Laminate flooring.

NOTE: Area rugs and closed bottom furniture placed over radiant heat system will create heat retention in the floor. This may result in that area exceeding optimum temperature and causing slightly larger gaps and minor cracks/splits in the floor under closed bottom furniture (bookcases, entertainment units, area rugs etc. Mat heating systems can be spaced to eliminate overheating under heat traps.

PASSIVE RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS: Passive radiant heat systems are not suitable for use with Crescendo Laminate flooring.

Any approved radiant system must be combined with the ability to move the air in the room for proper heat distribution and to prevent excessive heat at floor level. Humidity controls must be in place to maintain relative humidity within a 20 to 60% RH range.

INSTALLATION METHODS-ELECTRIC

Electric Fabric-Heating Underlayment or Mat with Thermal Cut Off: Can be installed using the prescribed method found in these installation instructions.

Lower heating element temperatures are possible since the spacing of the heating element is 3" apart. System is designed to be in direct contact with the back of the Crescendo Laminate floor.

Since the heating mat with thermal cut-off is being installed at the same time as the floor it eliminates pre-running the system. Preheat the room to 10° F below desired room heat. Set floor thermostat to 5° F above its current temperature, and increase 5° F daily, until desired thermal comfort is achieved. NOTE: Air temp and floor temp are different numbers, and the floor temp can be kept cooler than the desired air temperature as thermal warming is more efficient and comfortable.

Flooring Installation

Angle / Angle
1. Open Multiple Boxes - Always work from multiple boxes simultaneously and blend the planks throughout the installation. This is especially important in the event of multiple production run numbers.

2. Undercut All Door Jambs/Moldings - Remove all shoe and base molding to ensure adequate expansion space. Use a scrap piece of flooring to establish the height of the cut.

3. Irregular & Out-of-Square Walls - Scribe cut the first row to match variations in the wall. A scribe can be created by drilling a hole in a scrap piece of wood and inserting a pencil. The starting row can then be cut to compensate for an irregular wall or to help minimize the appearance of an out-of-square room.

4. Starting line - Select the longest wall in the room

and install left to right, starting in the left-hand corner. For the starting row, cut blocks against the side and end walls to maintain 3/8” minimum expansion space. Use spacers at both sides of the end of the rows. Adjustable spacers may be needed to help maintain a straight edge line if not scribing the floor.

5. Expansion Space - Standard perimeter expansion space should be factored at 3/8”, including any vertical obstructions; this will suffice for a floor that does not exceed 50’ in span or width. Larger floors can be accommodated with a transition molding to break the span or width into a smaller configuration at interior doors etc.

6. Placing Additional Planks At a slight angle, insert the tongue end into the grove end of the previous plank. Get as close to the side of the previous plank as possible. Also, at a slight angle, press the side tongue into the groove of the plank next to it. Press gently to engage the planks.

7. Fully Engage End Lock - Using a tapping block and rubber mallet, tap the end of the plank edge with the block to ensure that the locking mechanism is fully engaged. Do not strike the edge of the plank or locking mechanism with the rubber mallet.

Damaged edges are unsightly, and the joint could be compromised.

8. Lock in First Row End Joints - Insert the short tongue end of the plank into the groove at an angle and drop it into place. Continue the process for the remainder of the first row.
9. Fully Engage Side Lock - Use a tapping block and rubber mallet and tap the block against the plank edge to fully engage the locking system. Failure to fully engage the locking system will cause the joints to open later. CAUTION: Do not strike the edge of the plank or the locking system with the rubber mallet.

10. Place and Secure Row End Planks - Ensure the end joint at the end of the last plank of the row is completely engaged with a pull tool.

11. Starting New Row - Use the end cut piece from the first row to start the second row. End joint spacing must be no less than 12” apart from rows on either side. Repeat the process throughout the floor. Watch carefully to avoid lining up too many end joints and setting an obvious pattern.

12. Bridge the End Joint - Using a cut piece approximately 12” to 14” in length, form a temporary bridge next to the end of the plank just installed.

13. Trim Last Row - The last row of planks may need to be cut widthwise to achieve the correct width. The width of the last row must not be less than 2”. This is accomplished by measuring the room prior to installation and factoring how many rows it will take to complete the room.

14. Secure Last Row - After engaging the side joints in the last row, slightly lift the edge of the plank. Using a pull tool, pull the plank completely into place. Follow up the length of the plank a second time and tap to ensure the joint is completely locked.

15. Installing Around Pipes - If the room has pipes or radiators or pipes, drill a hole large enough to fit around them with space for expansion.

16. Create a watertight seal by applying flexible 100% silicone sealant to the entire perimeter of the installation. DO NOT use acrylic sealant.

a) First, fill all expansion spaces with a 3/8” compressible Polyethylene (PE) foam backer rod and cover with silicone sealant.

b) Prior to molding installation, apply flexible silicone sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will have direct contact with the flooring surface.

c) Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.

d) Apply silicone sealant at the connections to door frames or any other fixed objects.

Installation Tools:

- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- 3/8” Wedge Spacers
- Rubber Mallet
- Chop Saw
- Lip-Over Tapping Block
- Chalk Line

- Pull Tool
- 3M Scotch Blue 2080 TapeTM (for delicate surfaces)

MAINTENANCE

Hallmark Home Laminate Flooring is very easy to maintain and is extremely resistant to wear and stains.

- Occasionally vacuum (no beater bar vacuums) or sweep to eliminate loose dust and debris.

- Wipe soiled spots with a cloth dampened with WOCA, Bona or Loba laminate floor cleaner. Make sure the cloth is thoroughly wrung out. Never flood the floor with water or cleaner.

- After damp cleaning, dry the floor thoroughly with a clean cloth.

- Remove tough, stubborn stains such as paint, adhesive, asphalt, oil, etc. with mineral spirits.

- Place rugs or floor mats on heavy traffic areas to avoid excess wear and tear.

- Place doormats in front of outside entrances.

- Never wax, polish, or use soap. Doing so may damage the wear surface, causing it to be slippery or to have unattractive smudges.

- Hallmark Home Laminate is approved for residential steam mops.

- Never use scouring powder products, steel wool or abrasives.

- Do not treat or seal floor panels after they have been installed.

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Installation Instructions
V1-2025