

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- Please read the entire installation instructions carefully before proceeding with the installation. If unsure, please contact your retailer or the manufacturer.
- Proceed with a visual inspection of the boards before installation. Once installed, the boards are considered accepted by the installer and the homeowner.
- Laminate Flooring must be installed as floating floor method **ONLY** and **CAN NOT** be glued, screwed, nailed, or fixed to the floor in any other fashion.
- Wet and dry electric vacuum cleaning method is **NOT ALLOWED** under any circumstances.
- The use of silicone or caulking compound is **NOT ALLOWED** throughout the installation.
- Minimum 10-12mm expansion gap is required around the perimeter at all times.
- Expansion Moulding: If the installation areas are greater than 16m in length and/or 10m in width or those with separate rooms, you will require the use of transition moulding to provide proper expansion space.
- **Avoid using solvents of any kind to clean the floor. Methylated Spirits, Turpentine, Bleach, Ammonia, Eucalyptus, Citrus, and/or similar solutions will damage the floor surface and will void the warranty.**

Acclimatisation & Site inspection

- AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring must be installed in a regulated and liveable environment to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. As such, AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring should not be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home. The floor is designed to perform in an environmentally controlled structure.
- Please store the packets 48 hours prior to installation under the same climatic conditions (temperature and moisture) as the actual installation process.
- **IMPORTANT:** pre-condition for proper fitting and long-term durability of the Laminate Flooring is a room temperature between 15°C - 27°C and a relative humidity of around 45-60%.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight. Sliding doors and/or windows need to be covered by blinds or curtains.
- **DO NOT** install in bathrooms, laundries, toilets, or areas subject to regular moisture or water.
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 days old. Check basements and under-floor crawl spaces to ensure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.
- Each plank should be carefully checked prior to installation. **DO NOT** install substandard, non-confirming or faulty boards. Do alignment inspections as you continue the installation.
- Handle with care. **DO NOT** stand packs on their ends.
- When the AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring is ordered, allow approximately 5%-10% for wastage and off-cuts, depending upon size or layout of the room or installation area. (Please note diagonal installations may require additional wastage allowances).
- Extremes in humidity levels in the home must be prevented year-round. Laminate Flooring is a living product which reacts to humidity level variations. During summer, where the humidity level is usually at its highest point, the flooring is expected to expand as it absorbs moisture from the air. These variations must be dealt with adequate dehumidification. As for winter, when the heating system is working, the humidity level is lower. It is then recommended to use a humidifier to minimise the extreme effects of shrinkage.

General information

AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring has been manufactured with a licenced click system, the planks can be clicked together without using any glue. Before installing the flooring, you must clean, sweep, or vacuum the subfloor so that it is free of dirt and debris. Verify the moisture content of the subfloor using a moisture meter or another approved method.

Expansion Gap

When installing the AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring, you must leave an expansion gap around the perimeter of the room of 10-12mm to prevent binding of the flooring. The planks must not be glued or tacked to the subfloor in any way

DO NOT INSTALL ANY CABINETS, KITCHEN ISLANDS OR ANY HEAVY ITEMS (ABOVE 200KG IN WEIGHT) ON TOP OF FLOATING LAMINATE FLOORS.

The 10-12mm expansion gap should be maintained when meeting other types of flooring. This also applies to any obstructions (columns, pipes, etc.) in the installation. Door jambs must be undercut to allow for expansion; **DO NOT** force the laminate product under tight door jambs.

Cutting the planks

When cutting Laminate Flooring with a circular saw, it is recommended to cut with the decorative side down. When using a table saw, jigsaw or handsaw, cut with the decorative side up. Always start a row with a plank at least 400mm long and ensure the minimum end joint offset is 400mm apart.

Expansion Moulding

If the installation areas are greater than 16m in length and/or 10m in width or those with separate rooms, you will require the use of transition moulding to provide proper expansion space. It is recommended to provide an expansion joint between different rooms (e.g. doorways) to allow for normal expansion and contraction.

Heated Slab

This laminate flooring can be installed over hydronic heated slabs. The floor must be installed by a professional installer, and always follow all the manufacturers' installation guidelines to make sure your warranty won't be compromised. Make sure the temperature of heated slab **DOES NOT EXCEED** 26°C at any time and increased/decreased by 2 degrees each day until reached your desired temperature. After floor installation is complete, the floor requires gradual acclimatisation in conjunction with the heating system.

NOTE: The heating system being used must be installed and operated in compliance with the guidelines of the heating and/or other manufacturers guidelines.

Wet Areas

Laminate Flooring **CAN NOT** be installed in **ANY** wet areas including bathrooms, laundries, toilets, or areas subject to regular moisture or water.

Layout and measuring

First, determine which way to run the planks. Rules of thumb are:

- Lengthwise in the longest direction of the room.
- Lengthwise perpendicular to the main source of incoming light.

To avoid straddling a door jamb with a plank, measure back to the starting wall to ensure a plank connection within the door jamb area. Undercut all door jambs so that the flooring will easily slide underneath them. Using a scrap piece of flooring and underlayment as a guide, undercut the jambs with a jamb saw or regular handsaw. Always leave 10-12mm expansion gap between the flooring and all walls or other fixed objects.

It is recommended that you do not end up with a narrow strip at the end that is less than 50mm wide on any wall in the room. It is highly recommended to cut both first and last rows, so they are equal in width. The planks in the first row can be cut to a narrower width to ensure the planks of the final row are at least 50mm wide.

Tools Required

- Safety glasses
- Dust mask
- Measuring tape and square
- Ruler
- Sharp 'Stanley' type knife
- Pencil
- Pull bar
- Hammer
- Tapping block
- 'Table type' power saw with dust collector, or a circular saw with carbide-tipped blade, or a power jigsaw, multitool, drop saw, and undercut saw
- Small hand tools associated with woodworking
- Expansion wedges
(Suitable sized spacer blocks of plastic or wood)
- Trims
- Scotia
- Stair Nosing
- Underlay
- Floor protection
- Waterproof tape

Visual inspection and mixing planks

Notice to installer

Planks showing visible defects should never be installed. These planks should be put aside and used for cuts or submitted for a product claim. Claims resulting from the installation of such planks will not be honoured. For best results, it is recommended that material be mixed from four (4) to six (6) boxes when installing the AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring.

DO NOT PUT LIKE PLANKS NEXT TO EACH OTHER AND YOU MUST RANDOMLY STAGGER END JOINTS FOR BEST APPEARANCE.

Preparation

SUBFLOORS MUST BE CHECKED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.

Subfloor

AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring **CAN NOT** be installed over any existing flooring that has an attached cushion or is a floating floor such as carpet or carpet underlay. However, it can be installed over well-bond vinyl or ceramic tiles if sufficiently level. Tile grout joints or other gaps of more than 2mm in depth and 4mm in width should be levelled.

Please ensure the subfloor or surface that the flooring is being installed over is level. Using a 1m straightedge, the subfloor level should not exceed 3mm over 1 lineal metre in any direction. Remember, uneven floors may lead to movement and noise, so it is necessary to assess the levelness and get it right. Timber subfloors can be sanded level and concrete subfloors, or existing floor coverings can usually be levelled using a cement based self-levelling compound.

Wooden and wood-based materials (ply-wood, OSB, particle board) must be dry, with a moisture reading no greater than 14% (this should be checked with a moisture meter). All wooden subfloors must be greater than 19 mm thickness. Ensure that the boards of the subfloor are properly fastened to the supporting beams and that you do not have any squeaking or depressed areas. Patch if needed and fill depressed areas with floor levelling compound. Raised areas must be sanded down. The subfloor must be smooth, flat, structurally sound, and free of deflection.

Before installing any floor, a moisture level measurement of the subfloor is very important to know so that we can choose the correct installation procedure(s). If the moisture level is above 70% relative humidity as measured by an approved moisture meter that complies with the current Australian ATFA codes, you must first install a 200um minimum plastic moisture proof membrane or sheeting. Where the membrane edges meet, they must overlap by 300mm and the joins must be sealed using a waterproof tape. All walls and vertical fixtures must have the membrane turned up and then trimmed back to the appropriate level depending on skirting and/or beading to be installed.

SHOULD THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF THE SUBFLOOR BE ABOVE 85%, THE FLOORING SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED.

Underlay

AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring is installed by floating floor method and may not be glued, screwed, nailed, or fixed to the floor in any other fashion. All types of subfloors require moisture inhibiting membrane (underlay). A suitable underlay must be used on the subfloor prior to the Reflections AquaProof 12mm Laminate Flooring installation.

The underlay must be applied with a minimum 100mm overlap and sealed with waterproof tape.

All walls and vertical fixtures must have the underlay turned up and then trimmed back to the appropriate level depending on skirting and/or beading to be installed.

Flooring Installation Instructions

Installation

1. Getting started

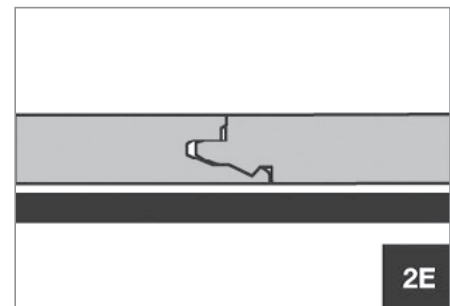
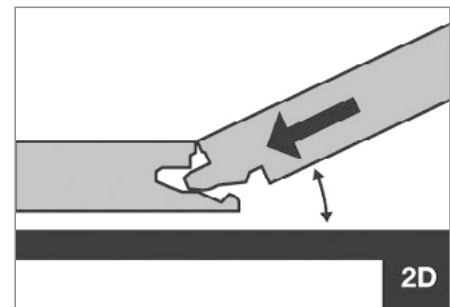
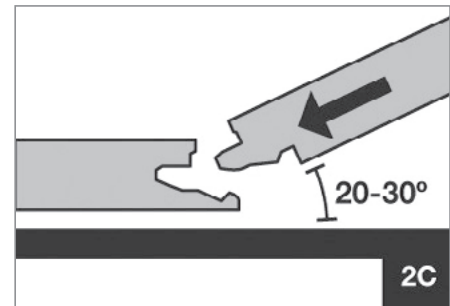
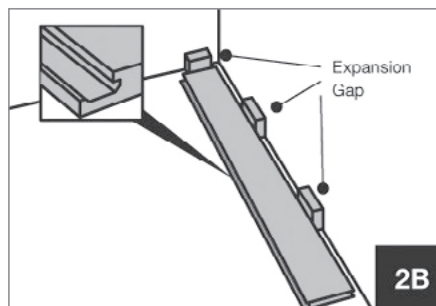
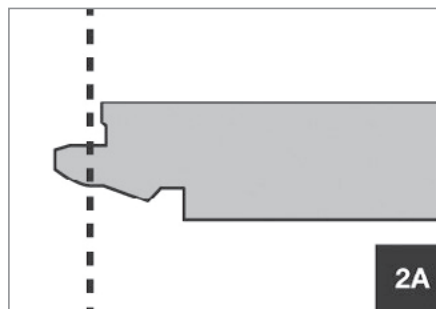
Check the planks before you start to make sure that they are not in any way damaged or have quality defects. After cleaning the subfloor, you can start the installation.

2. First row

Start installation of the planks in the left-hand corner, tongue-side against the wall. Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both long and short sides. Put the plank with sawn off sides against the wall.

Make sure you place both sides of the plank 10-12mm from the wall, put spacers between the plank and the wall. Position the short side of the next plank to be installed at an angle of 20-30° to the first plank already installed. Move the plank gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The planks will automatically click into place.

Repeat the same for the next 3-4 planks and then start the second row. Ensure the long sides of the planks make a straight line.

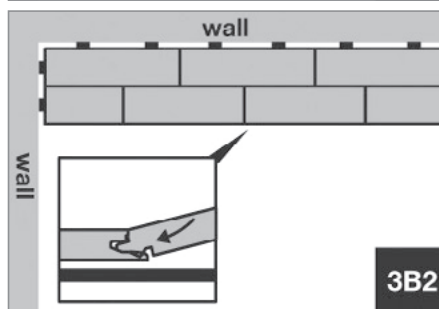
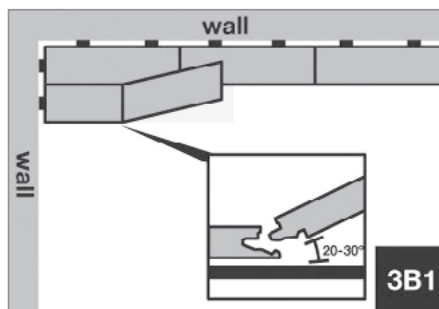
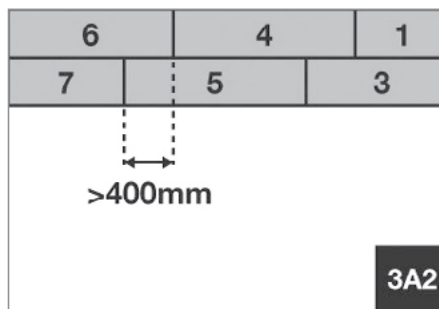
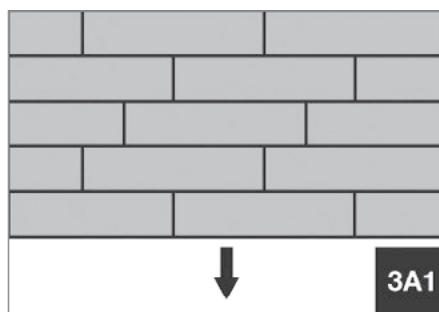


3. Second row

Use a cut piece of plank at least 400mm long to start the second row. **Always ensure that the end joints are randomly staggered at least 400mm apart.**

Place the long side of the plank into the first row at an angle of 20-30°, the plank will automatically click together. Engage the short side tongue of the new plank into the groove of the first plank of the second row at 20-30° angle. Then push the long side tongue of the new plank at an angle of 20-30° into the groove of the planks of the first row.

Move the plank gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The planks will automatically click into place. Repeat the same steps for the next 3-4 planks and then start the third row.

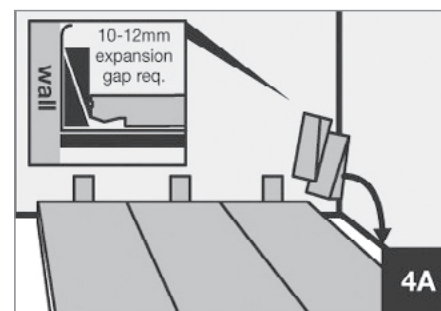


You can tap the long side of the plank into the groove by using a professional tapping block. The planks should not be joined by a single tap. To avoid damaging the planks, you must tap them together gradually.

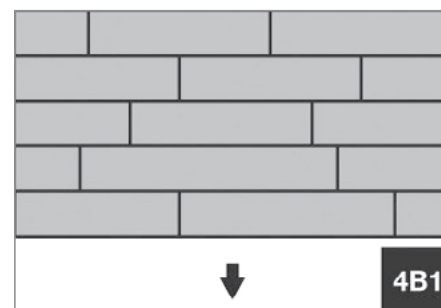
DO NOT APPLY FORCE ON END JOINTS AS IT WILL DAMAGE THE LOCKING MECHANISM.

4. Third row

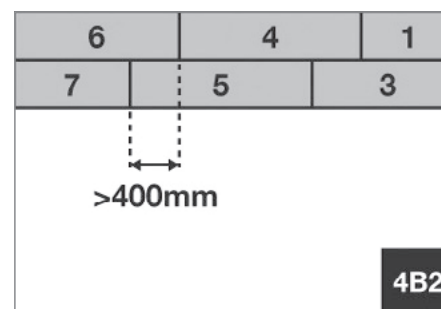
Start the third row in the same way as the second row. It is practical to adjust the expansion gap between the long sides and the wall when three rows have been installed. Ensure a 10-12mm expansion gap to the wall is left with the use of spacers.



It is very critical and important to keep the first three rows straight and square as it will affect the rest of installation.



Always ensure that the end joints are randomly staggered at least 400mm apart.

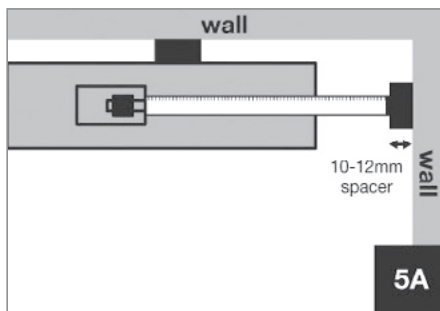


DO NOT TAP THE SHORT SIDES OF THE PLANK AT ANY TIME.



5. Completing the first three rows

Move back to the first row and continue the installation. Place the final plank of the row face down. The distance to the wall must be 10-12mm. Mark where the plank is to be cut. Place the plank decorative side up on the work surface and cut to size using a Utility Knife and 'Score and Snap'.



6. Continuing the rest of the installation

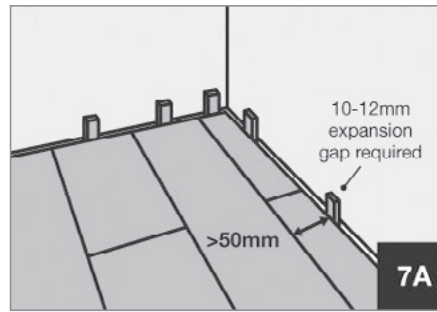
Repeat the same process row by row. Check to be certain that the locking mechanism on all planks are fully engaged. If gapping is noticed or the planks are not laid flat, simply disengage the long side by lifting up and then carefully tilt and lift the short side.

DO NOT APPLY FORCE ON END JOINTS AS IT WILL DAMAGE THE LOCKING MECHANISM.

In some places where it is too difficult to install with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can tap them together using a pull bar and hammer. After 2-3 rows, adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacers 10-12mm. Continue the row by locking in the length of the planks until the ends are joined together.

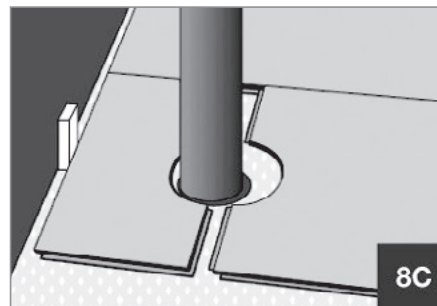
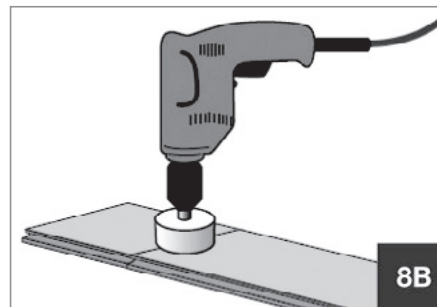
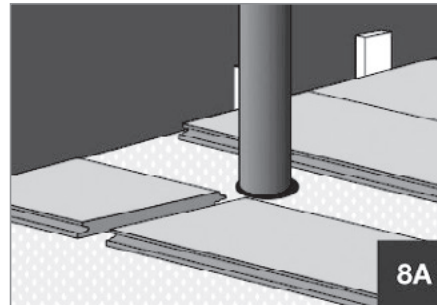
7. Laying the last row

Measure and cut the plank, it must be a minimum 50mm in width. Leave a 10-12mm expansion gap to the wall.



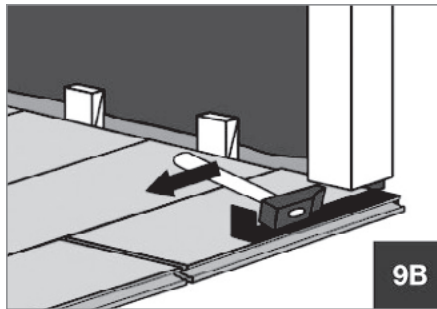
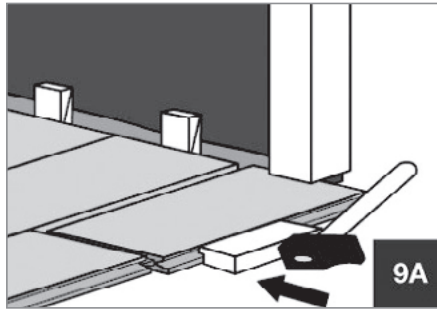
8. Holes for pipes

Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 20-24mm larger to allow for expansion. Saw off a piece and then lay the plank in place on the floor.



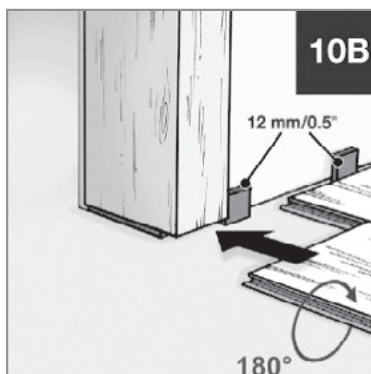
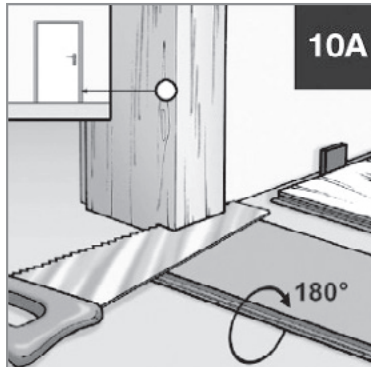
9. Under door frames

When you have sawed the planks, ensure that the expansion joint under the door is at least 10-12mm. If the planks cannot be lifted, gently use a tapping block or pulling iron and hammer to tap the planks together with the planks flat against the floor until it clicks into place.



10. Door moulding and skirting

Lay a plank (with the decorative side down) next to the door moulding to measure where it is to be cut using a jamb saw or regular handsaw. Cut the plank and slide it under the moulding.



11. Lifting or removing

It is possible to remove or replace planks that have been laid as floating flooring in living areas and commercial areas without causing any damage. First release the whole row along the long side by angling it up to free it from the locking mechanism. The planks then can be disengaged by sliding apart carefully on the end/short side.

DO NOT PULL UP ON THIS JOINT AS IT WILL DAMAGE THE LOCKING MECHANISM.

Please be particularly diligent and careful when undertaking this work to avoid any damage to the locking systems.

12. Finishing

Remove all the spacers and make sure the 10-12mm expansion gap is left around the perimeter. Install the scotias, skirting boards and other mouldings against the wall. Never attach the mouldings to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract. Ensure the room temperature doesn't exceed 30°C at any time. Protect the flooring from furniture and chair legs with suitable felt or plastic mats.

IMPORTANT: THE USE OF SILICONE OR CAULKING COMPOUND IS NOT ALLOWED AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE INSTALLATION.