

READ INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE INSTALLATION

Contact your dealer/distributor with any questions or visit www.titansurfaces.com for the latest installation, warranty, and maintenance instructions.

Samples are designed to be a close representation of the actual product. The finished flooring may contain varying ratios of knots, saw marks, splits, cracks, streaks, color contrasts. Samples under varying light sources including sunlight and room colors may appear differently than the actual floor it represents.

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project. DO NOT install cabinetry, kitchen island and countertops, vanities, tubs, showers, and heavy appliances directly on top of the flooring.

Inspect ALL materials carefully for color, finish, sheen, and defects BEFORE installation. Warranties DO NOT cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.

While Titan Surfaces Water-Resistant Laminate Flooring is water-resistant, it's not a moisture barrier. It's good practice to test the jobsite for moisture and action accordingly. Moisture can get in the walls and structure of a home.

Flooring can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Store flooring boxes flat and fully supported during shipping and storage. Do not store flooring in garages, under patio covers, driveways, storage containers, vehicles, or environments without climate control.

Flooring can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling. Whenever possible, make use of material handling equipment and/or get assistance.

Avoid direct sunlight exposure to minimize fading effects on flooring. Prolonged UV exposure has a uniform fading effect on virtually all materials.

Do NOT install flooring in 3-season rooms.

Do NOT install flooring in high-humidity environments such as steam rooms or saunas.

Do NOT install flooring in facilities with heavy, point-load movements from walkers, wheelchairs, display racks, dentist chairs etc.

Should there be any doubts about the quality, dimensions, and appearance, do not install flooring and contact your flooring dealer.

INSTALLATION IS ACCEPTANCE

JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS:

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the job site subfloor and job site conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for laminate floor installation. Installer/owner assumes responsibility for compliance with all building codes. Titan Surfaces declines any responsibility for laminate floor failure resulting from or connected with subfloor, subsurface, job site damage and/or deficiencies after laminate flooring has been installed.

This flooring is intended for indoor use only. Acclimate unopened flooring cartons 24 hours for residential installation, 48 hours for commercial installation.

Titan Surfaces Water-Resistant Laminate Flooring is designed to be a floating floor installation on, above, or below grade. It features a patented Unilin Uniclic locking system without the use for any adhesives or others means of attachment. The flooring boards must NOT be glued nor mechanically fastened to subfloor.

Crawl spaces must be prepped to ensure the environment is constantly dry independent of the seasons. Space must be a minimum of 18" from the ground to the underside of joists. Adequate cross ventilation (ie. vents) must be provided (1.5% of crawl space footage.) A ground cover of 6-20 mil polyethylene film must be provided as a moisture barrier with 12" overlap at the joints (sealed with moisture resistant tape). In addition to ensuring optimal performance of flooring, moisture prevention inhibits the potential growth of harmful bacteria and mold.

All installed areas must have a working heater & air conditioner to provide normal living conditions for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation and for duration of the flooring use. Normal living conditions include indoor temperatures of 65-80°F and relative humidity of 35- 55%. Portable & kerosene heaters are NOT recommended.

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS:

Titan Surfaces Water-Resistant Laminate Flooring can be installed over concrete, wood subfloors and some existing hard-surface floor coverings. **All subfloors must be dry, clean (swept of any debris), structurally sound and level within 3/16" per 10-foot radius in all directions.**

A moisture test is required for all subfloors to determine if high moisture exists. Moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 5lbs/1000 sf per 24 hr. (ASTMF1869) or less than 80% RH with an in-situ probe (ASTM F2170.) Moisture readings of wood subfloors must be less than 12%.

Wood subfloors (plywood, OSB, solid boards) must be suspended a minimum 18" above the ground and tested for moisture. Check if structurally sound and well secured; check/apply nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound. Wood subfloors or wood flooring products installed over concrete are NOT suitable substrates for installation.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured for a minimum of 90 days and tested for moisture. Minimum 6mil (0.15mm) polyethylene film must be used as a vapor barrier. Be sure to overlap edges (min. 6") and seal with water-resistant tape. In addition to ensuring optimal flooring performance, subfloor moisture prevention limits the potential growth of harmful bacteria and mold. If not level, grind down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland cement-based leveling compound. Fill holes and cracks with a Portland cement-based patching compound.

To install over existing flooring, check to see it is well bonded to subfloor and level. Apply cement based leveling compound to meet requirements. Ceramic, porcelain, or natural tile are suitable substrates provided grout joints are filled flat with a Portland cement-based compound/patch. Non-cushioned resilient floors (ie. sheet vinyl, VCT) must be firmly bonded using full spread adhesive and feather filled with suitable compound. Cushioned vinyl flooring or vinyl flooring consisting of multiple layers are NOT suitable substrates for installation. DO NOT sand existing vinyl as it may contain asbestos. Take proper precautions and contact an asbestos abatement company to remove old vinyl.

Additional substrates NOT suitable for installation include solid or engineered wood flooring, floating floors, cushioned flooring products, carpet, carpet pad.

RADIANT HEAT:

Concrete subfloor with in-floor (embedded) hydronic radiant heating system allowed. The heating system must be 1 ½" below the surface layer of the concrete slab. Before installation of flooring, the heating system must be operated at normal living temperature for 14 days. 24 hours before, during, and after installation, turn off the heating unit. Radiant Heat systems must have failsafe capability to ensure surface temperatures do not exceed 80°F.

Use of electric heating mats and other heating units directly will void warranty. Exercise caution when placing area rugs over flooring with radiant heating. Rugs may increase flooring temperatures beyond recommended levels and void warranty.

PRE-INSTALLATION:

Tools Needed: Tape Measure, spacers, rubber mallet, tapping block (optional) pencil, straight edge, power saw, eye protection, dust mask.

BEFORE installation inspect material in proper light source for defects.

Under cut door jambs and wall base. Verify minimum ¼" clearance for flooring and leave concealed perimeter expansion per requirements. Mix boards and test lay from several boxes to ensure a good color and shade mix.

Titan Surfaces Water-Resistant Laminate Flooring features an attached impact & acoustic-grade underlayment, **DO NOT use any additional underlayment beneath the flooring.**

DO NOT use tape or adhesive products of any kind onto the surface. Doing so may discolor and /or damage finish.

EXPANSION REQUIREMENTS:

Titan Surfaces Water-Resistant Laminate Flooring features natural wood material. Wood is a hygroscopic material and dimensionally responds (expansion/contraction) to fluctuations in moisture. To allow for this potential movement of flooring:

Rooms up to 25 ft in length or width require a perimeter expansion space of 3/8" around the flooring and all fixed vertical objects.

Rooms greater than 25ft and up to 50ft in length or width require a perimeter expansion space of 5/8" around the flooring and all fixed vertical objects.

Installation requires the use of T-molding in doorways less than 32" or if the installation changes directions through the doorway (regardless of door size) and in rooms 50 feet or larger in length or width. Ensure transition and wall moldings are not fastened to the flooring.

INSTALLATION:

Titan Surfaces Water-Resistant Laminate Flooring features a patented Unilin Uniclic locking system.

Decide direction to lay flooring. Measure width/length of room and calculate plank width of the last row. Avoid being too narrow. For best visual effects, we don't recommend flooring width smaller than 2.5 inches.

1. Using spacers, leave an expansion gap between the wall and edges of the flooring. See Expansion Requirements above.

2. **Installing first row:**

From left to right with the tongue-side facing the wall, place the first board. Note if the first row does not need to be trimmed in width, cut off the tongue (ripped) so a solid edge is along wall. Align and angle the second board, end joint tongue into end joint groove of first board. To ensure a tight fit, tap joint with rubber mallet in a downward angle motion towards adjoining board. Continue installing additional boards in this manner until reaching final board in the first row. Measure and cut the final board to length.

3. **Installing second row and beyond:**

You may use left-over board from the first row if greater than 8" in length. If not, cut a new board at least 8" in length and allowing 8" between end joints. Position the first board in place by angling and interlocking the side (long end) into first row. Check for snug fit and fold down gently into place. Position 2nd board using same angling, interlocking motion on side tongue (long end) fold down gently and leave 1mm gap on adjoining board. Tap the joint with rubber mallet in a downward angle motion towards adjoining board until tongue and groove lock. Continue installing additional boards in each row in this manner. When you reach the final board in each row, measure and cut the final board to length.

CONTINUALLY CHECK FOR GAPPING AFTER EVERY BOARD BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT

4. **Installing final Row:**

The final row and all corresponding boards may need to be cut length wise (ripped).

5. **Finishing the Installation:**

Replace molding or wall base, allowing clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where the flooring planks meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a 't-molding', or similar to cover exposed edge. Check for clearance, do not pinch planks.

FOR BATHROOM, LAUNDRY ROOM, OR COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS:

It is important to seal any cut planks to ensure superior and warranted performance. When a floor plank is cut to fit (either end cuts or side cuts), a sealant is always required around the perimeter of the installation.

- Fit the expansion spaces with a ½" / 10mm compressible PE foam backer rod and cover with a flexible 100% silicone sealant to the entire perimeter of the installation. Do not use acrylic sealant.
- Prior to installing moldings, apply silicone sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will contact directly with the flooring surface.
- Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.
- Apply silicon sealant at connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.
- Branded and generic silicone tubes are available in any local home center or hardware location.
- If a watertight installation is required, apply a hard-setting waterproof wood adhesive bead across the bottom of the tongue on both long and short side prior to installing the floorboard. Avoid using adhesive excessively and be sure to immediately wipe away any excess that comes out of the floor's surface.

MAINTENANCE:

- Clean the floor regularly with a vacuum cleaner or dry mop.
- If necessary, the floor may be cleaned with a damp mop and a laminate cleaner. Avoid using too much water.
- To protect the floor from sand we recommend you use doormats at entries (but do not use mats with rubber backing).
- Never use scouring powder products, steel wool or abrasives.
- Never use, polish or use soap. Doing so may damage the wear surface, causing it to be slippery or to have unattractive smudges.

DISASSEMBLING:

Separate the whole row by lifting it up delicately at an angle. To separate the planks, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart.

Important Health Notice for Installers - Wood Dust Caution

Sawing, sanding, and machining wood products can produce wood dust. Airborne wood dust can cause respiratory, skin and eye irritation. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified wood dust as a nasal carcinogen in humans. Exercise caution and take measures to use power tools with a dust collector and avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust masks or other safeguards. Avoid dust contact with skin and eyes.