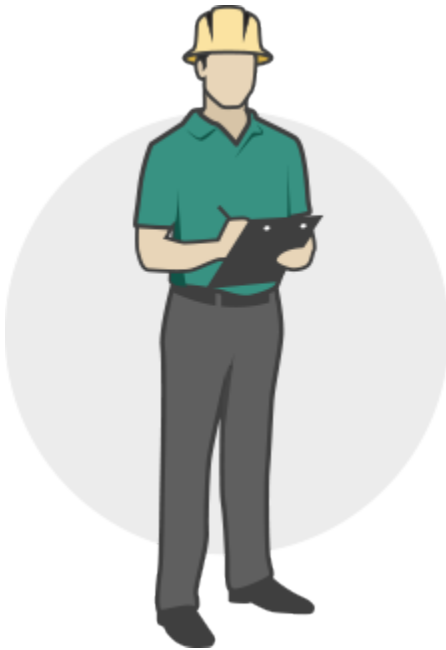


Laminate Fitting Guide

How To Fit Your Laminate Floor

In this quick and informative guide we will talk you through the various steps involved in laying your Laminate flooring. We cover all aspects from start to finish, including advice on preparation, the use of different underlays, as well as fitting and cutting around obstacles such as radiator pipes. Furthermore, we have also included several handy recommendations on maintenance and ways to prolong the life of your new floor.

Prep Work



Prior to laying your floor, you will need to allow your Laminate to acclimatise. This simply means leaving your brand new flooring as they are in the box, in the middle of the room for a period of 24 hours. During this acclimatising process, the room should be kept at a steady normal temperature. While acclimatising, ensure that the flooring is placed in the room that you are going to fit your floor in.

Next, it is crucial to check the condition of your subfloor. You can use a device such as a spirit level or an electronic laser leveler to inspect the area. Ideally, there should be no more than 3mm deviation over every 1m² area. It is also vital to ensure the subfloor is cleaned thoroughly (hoover, sweep or damp mop).

Underlay

Once your subfloor is fully prepared, you can lay and apply your underlay across the entire room. Start by placing the roll of underlay at one end of the room and unroll from wall to wall. As you go along, make sure the edges of your underlay meet but don't overlap, as this will create an uneven floor.

This next stage varies depending on the type of subfloor you have:

1. If you're fitting your floor over concrete, you will need to use a specifically designed underlay that has a built in DPM (damp proof membrane). Tape the underlay and its edges together, making sure it extends up the wall by at least 5cm. We also recommend that you leave a minimum of 10mm gap around radiator pipes.
2. If it's a wooden floor (Floor Boards), it is not compulsory or necessary to use an underlay with a DPM. You can simply tape your selected underlay together, making sure you slightly run it up the wall to help protect the edge of your boards.
3. If you're installing your flooring above underfloor heating, you must ensure that your underlay is fully compatible, i.e. it can distribute heat evenly across the surface of your room. We recommend you look up and follow the manufacturers guidelines when choosing an underfloor heating underlay.



Fitting

We recommend you avoid using Laminate boards that are less than 50mm wide at the edges of your room. To do this, we advise that you measure the width of your room and divide it by the width of your Laminate board. The outcome will indicate how many boards wide the room is, and will express how wide the last board at the edge of the room will be. If your last board is less

than 50mm wide, you can simply cut your first board slightly thinner so that both boards at the start and at the finish edge are wider than 50mm.

All of our Laminates consist of a glueless locking system, which is incredibly easy to use. Essentially, every plank will fit together like jigsaw pieces, creating a resilient tight bond across each and every board.

To start, Laminate boards should be laid from the edge of the room, making sure that the groove side of each plank is facing the wall adjacent to the side you're laying your floor. Ensure that you use expansion spacers as you go along, maintaining a consistent 10mm gap between the Laminate and the wall.



The very first board on your first row should be a full plank length Laminate. The second row should be started with a board two thirds of the size of the plank. Next, the third row should be started with a plank one third of the size of the plank, and the fourth row would start with a full-length board again and so on. We recommend you follow this pattern as you go along until the full area is covered with your new floor.

Once the fitting process of your flooring is complete, you can then start to cover the expansion gaps with your new beading/scotia or skirting boards.

Fitting around objects (Cutting & The Use Of Tools)

Marking your floor:

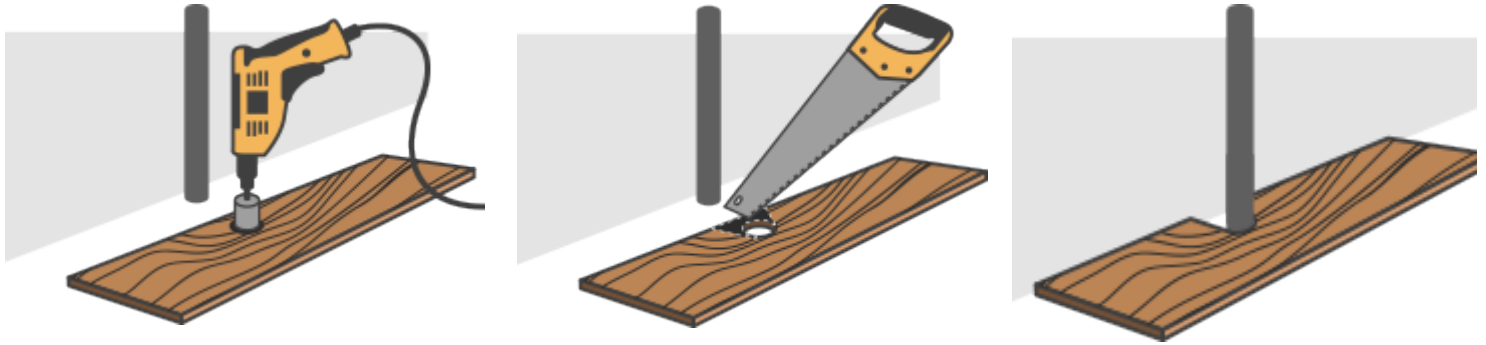
Always try to label and mark your floor prior to cutting, as this will keep your work consistent and tidy. You should also try to use a pencil or a chalk when marking your floor, as it's least noticeable and easy to remove. This is the most efficient method that usually prevents errors from occurring.

Picking the right tool:

Chop saws are usually very stable when it comes to cutting your floor, however the blade in place has to be exceptionally sharp. Circular saws on the other hand are commonly used for cutting long straight lines. Jigsaw's usually come into play when you're required to cut around objects such as pipes, toilets, and stairs. Whilst fitting, try to avoid accumulation of dust in the house by using these tools outside.

Cutting your floor:

Remember that the top layer of your flooring can chip very easily whilst cutting. To prevent any damage or chipping of the boards, you must use a saw that has very fine teeth/blades, and cut only downward into the board. If you're using a hand saw, you can cut the board whilst it's facing upwards, only place pressure on the saw when applying the downward strokes. Make sure you don't allow the saw to come in contact with the uncut sections whilst pulling the saw back up, as this could cause the surface of the board to chip. If you're fitting around pipes, you should mark the position of the pipe on the board you are planning on laying. Then simply drill a hole about 10mm larger in diameter than the actual pipe and make two angle-saw cuts from the edge of the board (cutting a wedge out of the board). Finally, fit the board passing by the pipe and carefully glue the small off-cut wedge at the back of the pipe.



Maintaining your Laminate floor:

The challenge with any floor is to ensure that it continues maintaining its appearance and purpose for as long as possible. The average lifespan for Laminate flooring is between 10 – 20 years. The difference in life expectancy usually depends on the quality of the floor, whether it was fitted correctly, and the amount of traffic it experiences. However, inappropriate maintenance, such as the use of potent cleaners and regular contact with water, can heavily reduce the floor’s durability and lifetime.

Here’s a quick list of things you should and shouldn’t do, followed by some useful tips to help increase your floor’s life expectancy.

Things to do

Things to avoid

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| Use doormats to keep water, damp and grit outdoors | Avoid bleach or chemical products |
| Use a very light mop or cloth to remove stains | Wet mopping can damage the floor over time |
| Sweep and vacuum regularly | Avoid steam cleaners |
| Wear soft/heel shoes | Ensure toilet or furniture spays do not come into contact with the floor |
| Always lift furniture when moving it around | Avoid walking over the floor with high heels |
| Place pads beneath table legs, chairs and other furniture around the room | Avoid wearing muddy/dirty shoes in the house |



Useful Tips & Information

- ⇒ When sweeping or vacuuming, always be aware of the beveled edges as these can carry considerable amounts of dirt and dust.
- ⇒ Products with bleach/soap content can leave unwanted marks and can sometime dissolve the top layer of your flooring.
- ⇒ Quickly mop up any spillages that may stain your floor. Beware of liquid such as red wine, as these can forever stain your floor if not dealt with immediately.
- ⇒ The use of doormats is highly recommended, as they take in considerable amounts of moisture and grit before you step into your property.