

INSTALLATION GUIDE

LAMINATE FLOORING

1. BEFORE INSTALLING

The importance of reading and properly understanding the information contained in these instructions cannot be exaggerated, since improper handling, installation, use or maintenance of the product could result in cancellation of the warranty.

1.1.-Receipt and storage

All material must be carefully inspected prior to installation to verify that it is free of defects in terms of type, color, design, quantity supplied, dimensions, appearance, visible defects, and possible damage during transport. The warranty does not cover materials installed with visible defects. It is the responsibility of the installer and the owner to ensure that the conditions of the site and the subfloor in the work area are acceptable before installing any laminate flooring. It is also necessary to ensure that the environmental conditions described in this document are maintained at all times. Before installation, check and record in writing the environmental conditions and moisture conditions of the substrate or subfloor.

The product data sheet, which can be consulted on the website www.anticcolonial.com, cannot reflect all the applications and conditions involved in the use of a material, so in situations not described in the data sheet, it is recommended to consult our technical department.

If you are not satisfied with the flooring before installation, contact your distributor—DO NOT INSTALL the flooring.

We recommend that, as the final inspector, you examine the color, finish, style, and quality BEFORE installation. Verify that the flooring is the correct material. We will not be responsible for any expenses incurred once pieces with visible defects have been installed.

Materials with different shades/production batches may not be mixed, unless expressly approved by L'Antic Colonial. Check that all material comes from the same collection and is made in the same batch.

Laminate flooring must be stored away from the elements, in a ventilated, clean, and dry place, and stacked with spaces between the wood, the floor, and the walls. If the products are wrapped in shrink wrap, they must remain in their closed packages until use. Packages should only be opened immediately before installation.

Upon receipt at the site, the items must be checked, taking into account aspects such as type, color, and design; quantity supplied; dimensions and appearance; moisture content of the elements; general condition and physical integrity of the elements (e.g., absence of dents in machined parts). If any observations are made during the inspection, they must be noted in the documentation. This record must be signed by the supplier and the representative of the Construction Management/Client, confirming that the item is in compliance.

1.2.-Environmental conditions

The laminate must be acclimated to the environmental conditions in the place where it is being installed. Leave the material in its unopened packaging for 48 hours, at normal ambient temperature, in the middle of the room where the floor is being installed. The laminate floor coverings should not be exposed to draughts. The packages should not be stored so that they rest on or are in contact with the walls during the acclimation period. We recommend placing the flat boards on the floor or on four battens that are at least 0.5 m from the walls. The best conditions for storing, acclimating and installation are a temperature of 20-23°C // 68-73°F and with relative air humidity ranging from 40% to 60%.

The UNE EN 13329 standard establishes that the moisture content of parts leaving the factory must be between 4% and 10%.

1.3.- Substrate

As a general rule, the surfaces on which the laminate is to be installed must be compact, solid, flat, not excessively rough, and absorbent. They must also be dimensionally stable, non-deformable, dry, free of rising damp, free of cracks, clean, and free of loose substances and dust. IMPORTANT: never install on a subfloor with moisture, or one that you know may have moisture-related problems.

Although it is possible to install laminate flooring on different types of subfloors, L'Antic Colonial recommends cement mortar, marble, terrazzo, or anhydrite subfloors, which must comply with the following:

a) Subfloor measurement (only in the case of mortar or anhydrite):

Before starting to lay the laminate, the moisture content of the subfloors must be measured. It is recommended that at least one check be carried out per 100m². In multi-story buildings, it is recommended that these checks be carried out on different floors and in the most unfavorable orientations (generally north) or in the least ventilated areas (corridors). They should be carried out at a depth of approximately half the thickness of the subfloor, and in any case at a minimum depth of 2 cm. The moisture content can be estimated using electric, capacitive, microwave, or carbide hygrometers. In each case, the instructions of the manufacturer of the equipment used must be followed. Measurements taken with carbide hygrometers are the most accurate and should be considered as a reference and comparison for the other methods. In all cases, regardless of the measurement or estimation method used, it should be noted that the sample must be representative of the thickness of the floor slabs. Written records of the measurements taken must be kept. These records must be signed by both the person responsible for the measurements and the representative of the project management/client (for example, a clear photograph of the measurement may be considered an adequate record). It is recommended that the moisture content of the screed be less than 2.5% (mortar) or 1% (anhydrite). If the installation is to be carried out on a water-based underfloor heating system, the moisture content must be less than 2% (mortar) or 0.5% (anhydrite).

b) Planimetry and horizontality: It is recommended to determine the surface flatness of the installation by placing a straight ruler on the surface protrusions and measuring the size of the largest deflection relative to the surface (vertical deviation). The result of this measurement is expressed in relation to the separation of the protrusions on which the ruler rests (reference points).

The maximum allowed is:

—for two reference points 1.00 m apart, the allowable vertical deviation is 2 mm;

—for two reference points 2.00 m apart, the maximum allowable vertical deviation is 3 mm.

Vertical surface irregularities of more than 1.2 mm are not permitted.

The expansion joints of the building where the laminate is to be installed must be respected.

c) Cleanliness: the subfloor must be clean and free of any elements that could hinder the correct laying of the boards.

d) Cracks and fissures: Cracks may form and must be repaired before installing the boards.

e) Wooden substrates: Wooden substrates must be solid, rigid, level, properly secured, and dry. The wood must have an equilibrium moisture content, i.e., it must be dry under normal conditions of use at the time of

covering. It is important to ensure adequate ventilation and aeration of the wooden substrate, so it is advisable not to use a vapor barrier with this substrate.

For more information on installation, please refer to standards UNE-CEN/TS 14472-1 and UNE-CEN/TS 14472-3.

f) Existing substrates:

Laminate flooring should not be installed on a floating subfloor.

Laminate flooring should not be installed on textile flooring, any type of carpet, or padded elements.

When installing on ceramic substrates, it is necessary to ensure that no moisture is transmitted to the laminate flooring.

1.4.-Laying direction

Arranging the boards longitudinally with respect to the main light source is recommended to prevent the joints between the pieces from being highlighted.

1.5.-Planning the installation.

Both the perimeter joints and expansion joints as specified below are designed to absorb the dimensional movements of swelling and shrinkage experienced by the laminate floor as a result of normal moisture variation occurring in the rooms where it is installed. These joints are not designed to absorb abnormal dimensional variations such as those arising from inadequate condition of the premises, flooding, condensation or other similar circumstances.

a) Perimeter joint

Laminate flooring expands and contracts in the plane when subjected to climatic variations in the room where it is installed.

For rooms with relative humidity between 40% and 60%, it is necessary to leave a perimeter joint of at least 8 to 10 mm. Once installation is complete, there should be no contact between the laminate flooring and the vertical walls of the building or heavy furniture. The laminate should not be screwed or fixed to the subfloor in any way.

b) Expansion joints

If the dimensions of the premises exceed 8 metres wide and 12 metres long there must be space left in an adequate place for expansion joints (not to be confused with the perimeter joint) to absorb the movements of distension and shrinkage typical of this type of flooring. These expansion joints must be at least 15 mm wide to work properly. The most suitable places to locate expansion joints are at the beginning of passages, doorways and the tapering between dividing walls that separate different areas within the same space. In houses where the partitioning creates obvious constrictions, expansion joints will have to be arranged at critical points (even if they cannot meet the dimensional specifications in this section). Heavy furnishings may cause discontinuity in the floating behaviour of the flooring.

c) Staggering

Lay the floor so that the end of each board is separated from the next by at least 30 cm.

d) Skirting

The baseboard will cover the perimeter expansion joint. In laminate flooring, baseboards should only be attached to the wall, not to the laminate flooring, thus allowing for expansion of the laminate flooring. It is essential to remove the expansion wedges before installing the baseboard. The use of adhesives or silicones is also possible, but does not guarantee the same durability and stability as the previous method. Never use adhesives or acidic silicones.

For more information on installing baseboards, visit www.anticcolonial.com.

2. INSTALLATION

It is advisable only to install the laminate floor covering when the building is free from any risks of water damage, i.e. when the exterior walls, doors, windows and roofs have been installed and any additional work has been completed. And after the necessary measurements have been taken on the support layers.

Mixing pieces from at least three different boxes during installation will help ensure an even distribution of any minor color variations or slight variations in texture and gloss levels.

Depending on the model chosen, the procedure for assembling the pieces will depend on the anchoring system. You can view the joining system on our website, in our catalog, and/or on the inlay inside the boxes.

2.1.-Floating system

When installing floating flooring, it is necessary to use an insulating sheet applied to the surface of the subfloor. L'Antic Colonial recommends using the Anti-humidity Sheet + Foam, which consists of polyethylene with a transparent film adhered to one side, with a final thickness of 2 mm. This sheet is laid overlapping the joints at the ends of the polyethylene films between sheets. It should be raised around the perimeter to at least half the height of the skirting board. The film acts as a vapor barrier and the foam improves acoustic performance and corrects slight deviations in the subfloor. It is advisable to lay the strips perpendicular to the slats.

Depending on the conditions and requirements of each installation, another type of sheet may be chosen, such as the sheet for increasing footfall noise insulation and reducing ambient noise. L'Antic recommends the Insulating Sheet. Always start the installation with the female ends facing the wall. Ensure a distance of 10 mm from the wall. For the third panel and all the remaining panels in the new rows, follow the same installation procedure as before. It is very important to install the first rows correctly; they must be perfectly straight, as this is the only way to ensure that the remaining rows are correctly parallel. Before starting the installation, please measure the installation area to determine the width of the last row. This should not be less than 5 cm, otherwise you will have to cut the first row to the previously calculated size. Always maintain a minimum recommended distance of 10 mm from the wall using wedges. Align the row precisely (check with a ruler); join the tongues and grooves correctly and check that the row is straight. Continue with the same installation technique on the subsequent panels until you have finished the desired area. Make sure that the minimum distance between the panels and the wall is maintained in all rows.

2.2.-Underfloor heating

L'Antic laminate flooring is compatible with water-based underfloor heating systems. To ensure compatibility, the system must be running at 25-30°C for 10 days prior to installation, so that the floor can dry out any moisture it may contain. Once the flooring has been installed, turn on the heating gradually, increasing the temperature by 2.3°C each day until the maximum is reached. This temperature must be maintained for at least one day for each cm of subfloor thickness, and must be maintained throughout the night. Then, the temperature should be lowered by 2.3°C per day until the floor reaches 15°C (this will take approximately 10 days) and never exceed 28°C. If the installation already exists, the same criteria as above should be followed, except for the initial heating and installation processes. For more information on installation, please refer to the UNE-CEN/TS 14472 standard.

L'Antic Colonial recommends installing the Anti-Static Radiant Floor film, which

distributes the heat from the radiant heating evenly throughout the rooms, preventing it from concentrating in certain areas. This sheet is laid overlapping the joints at the ends of the polyethylene films between sheets. It should be raised around the perimeter to at least half the height of the skirting board. It is advisable to lay the strips perpendicular to the slats.

2.3.-Installation in kitchens and bathrooms

Only products identified with the 'Suitable for bathrooms and kitchens' icon may be installed in wet areas. This information can be found in the catalog, in the technical data sheets, and/or on the inlay of each box.

- Installation in bathrooms and kitchens is recommended for residential use only.

- Do not install in saunas, commercial laundries, or areas where the floor is often very wet or subject to extreme temperatures.

- To prevent water from penetrating under the floor in wet areas, it will be necessary to seal the entire 10 mm perimeter joint with flexible silicone.

- Do not install kitchen units on laminate flooring. Also fill the expansion joints of all fixed obstacles, such as kitchen units, pipes, door frames, sinks, and toilets, with silicone sealant.

- Do not install laminate flooring in rooms with underground water drainage.

- Expansion joints must be made at doorways.

- Use the moisture barrier or underfloor heating membrane recommended by L'Antic Colonial.

2.4.- Inspection for acceptance

Once the installation work has been completed, an inspection will be carried out in the presence of the customer, who will be given a copy of the Maintenance and Care Manual for the installed floor covering.

The inspection of the laminate flooring will be carried out while standing, with natural light behind the observer. Angular light sources will not be used, nor will backlighting be used to locate irregularities in the floor surface. The final inspection of the installed flooring will be carried out no later than seven days after installation, and a work acceptance document will be drawn up, which must be signed by the installer and the customer, with any comments they deem appropriate.

2.5.- Instruction manual Maintenance and conservation manual

Once the installation work has been completed, the company responsible for it will provide the contractor or customer with a manual or instructions for use and maintenance.

3. MAINTENANCE

These simple tips will help you to prolong the life of your laminate flooring.

1-Avoid stepping on laminate flooring with footwear that has been worn outside (especially if it is wet or contains bits of gravel, soil or mud). We recommend placing a doormat outside the front door to avoid walking in bits of soil, gravel or dirt from outside the property.

2-Avoid knocking the laminate flooring with hard objects.

3-Place slippery caps or felt pads under furniture legs, especially if they are heavy, to prevent scratching. Be especially careful when moving furniture; do not drag it. Use W-type casters that are suitable for vinyl flooring and are not pigmented. Place protective mats under chairs with casters.

4-When any type of liquid is spilled onto the floor, wipe and dry it immediately, as the water may seep between the boards.

5-Changes in ambient humidity cause the wood to contract and expand. Prevent or reduce these changes by using a dehumidifier, ventilation or heating.

6-Maintain a constant temperature of 20-23°C // 68-73°F in the property.

7-Maintain ambient humidity at between 40% and 60% in properties.

8-In the case of properties that are going to remain closed for a long period of time, we recommend carefully monitoring these parameters and taking special care to ensure that they are fully insulated against the ingress of water from outside. It cannot be kept as an inert element.

9-Do not affix adhesive masking tape or similar onto the floor or baseboards, as the solvents contained in the adhesive act on the surface and may damage them.

For more information on maintenance, visit www.anticcolonial.com.

3.1.- Cleaning The Laminate Flooring**DRY CLEANING**

Generally you can simply dry clean the laminate flooring using a mop, broom or vacuum cleaner. For an especially effective form of dry cleaning, we also recommend using any pH-neutral product and a damp cloth for cleaning without water.

DAMP CLEANING

We recommend damp cleaning the floor when the level of dirt so requires, by regularly using Clean & Green Active.

For more information on cleaning laminate flooring, visit www.anticcolonial.com.

4. WARRANTY

You can check the warranty conditions of the product on the website www.anticcolonial.com, in the catalog, or by contacting your distributor.