

Before you get started...

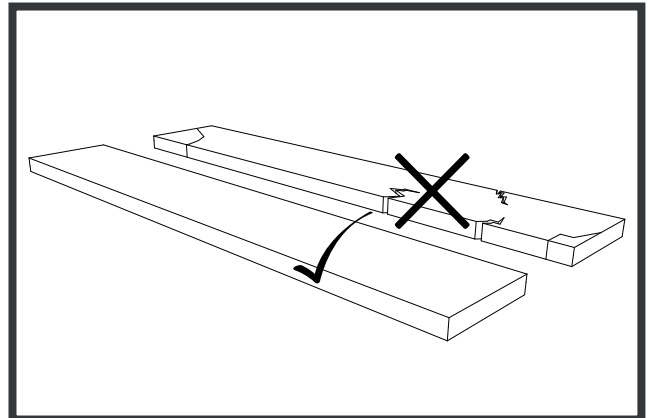
Equipment You Will Need:

- Pencil, bracket, folding ruler
- Circular or compass saw or laminate cutter
- Moisture metre (recommended) & spirit level (recommended) for subfloor
- Spacers, fitting wedges, pull bar, tapping block, spatula
- DPM or Underlay with DPM, insulating material, cutter knife
- Laminate, skirting boards, transition profiles
- Knee protector, ear defenders, goggles, face mask

1. Check The Packs

We would advise checking each pack to ensure you are happy with the product before proceeding with the installation.

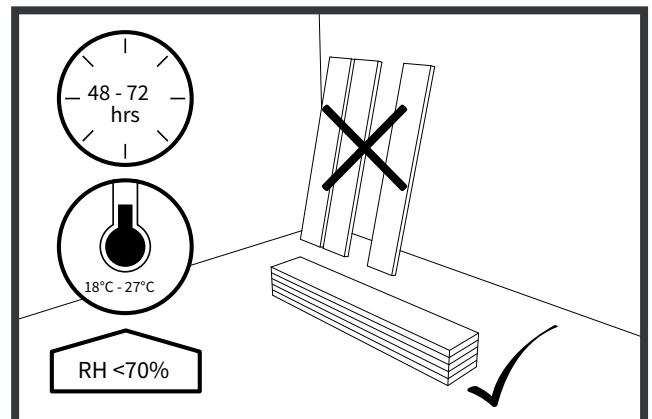
In every pack of laminate, each plank will have its own unique natural variation, when laying your floor you can make the most of this contrast and design the perfect flooring for your home!



2. Allow Packs To Acclimatise

You should allow your laminate floor to acclimatise outside of the pack for 48-72 hours.

Try to ensure the room stays between 18 and 27°C and don't allow the floors to be exposed to the elements. If you're using underfloor heating, you'll need to gradually increase the temperature to get the wood used to the heat. We would strongly advise that you refer to the advice given by your heating supplier on how to do this.

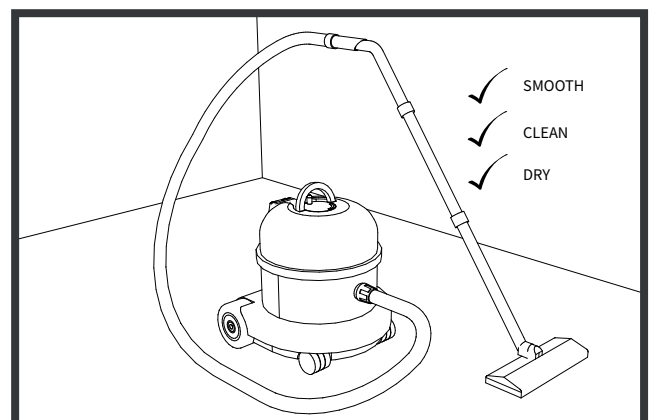


3. Prepare The Subfloor

In preparation of your new flooring you will need to remove your existing floor and ensure that the subfloor is clean and free of any debris.

If you have a concrete subfloor, make sure it's completely dry before installation. A damp-proof membrane should be installed on top of the subfloor to reduce the risk of moisture reaching the laminate boards.

The next step will be to lay down your chosen underlay and secure this to the subfloor with adhesive tape.



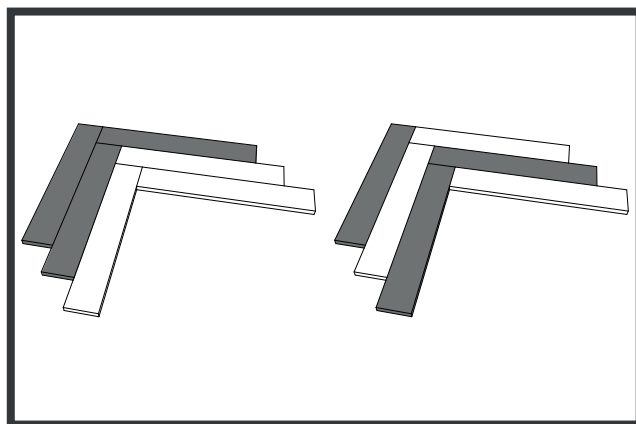
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4. Plan The Look

Think about how you want your new floor to look .

Take the planks from each pack and look at the natural grains and deviations in shade. Select your favourites and use these planks as a focal point, whilst ensuring to mix and match shades and patterns around these so that you can get the desired look in your rooms. Should there be any planks you don't love as much as others, these would be the perfect choice for cuts, or in areas that will be covered by furniture or rugs.

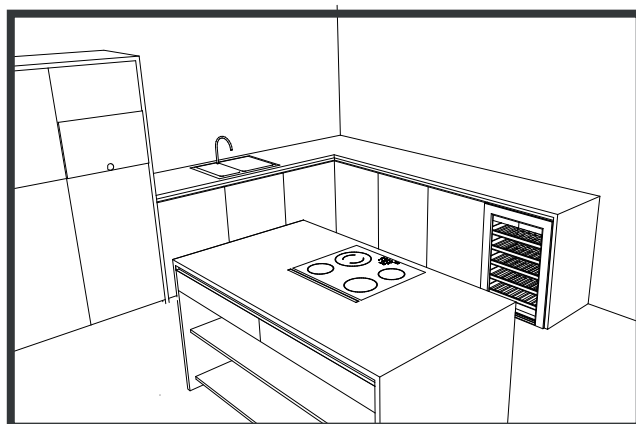
Consider the direction you would like your planks to lay. As a general rule of thumb, lay the boards against the middle wall when installing herringbone. If the room is square, you may want to consider the room's light flow or follow on from the entrance.



5. Installation Tips

It's best to fit your floor as the last thing you do in a renovation project.

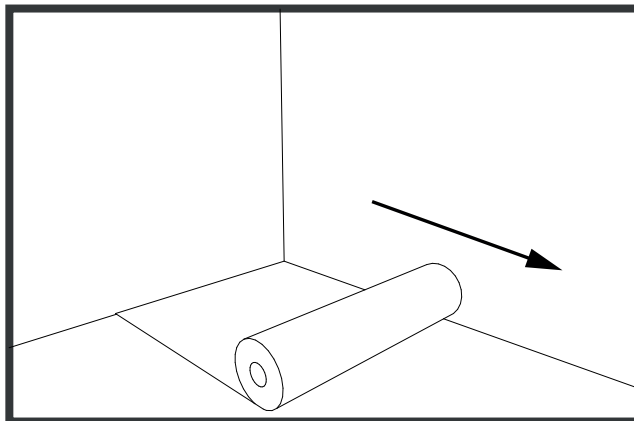
Always fit the floor after units have been installed, this will make sure the floor does not buckle under the weight of the units.



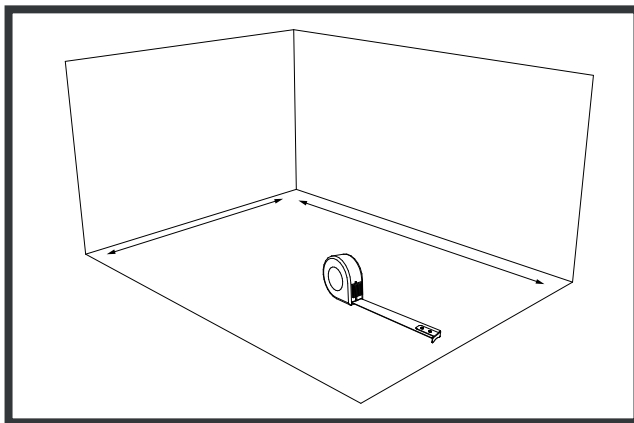
Installation Guide

Step 1.

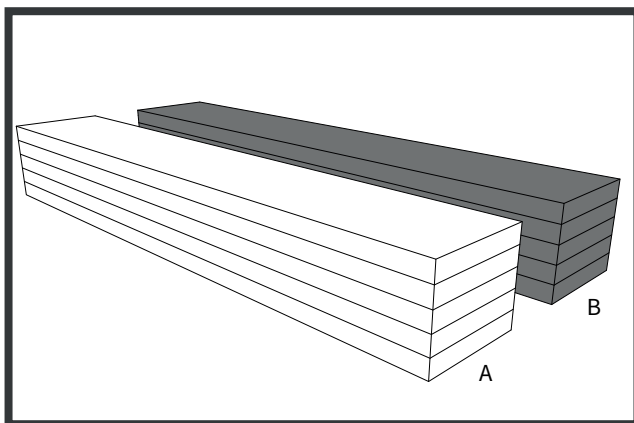
Before you begin to install your laminate you will need to lay down your chosen underlay and secure this to the subfloor and edges with adhesive tape. Always read the manufacturer's instructions when installing your underlay.

**Step 2.**

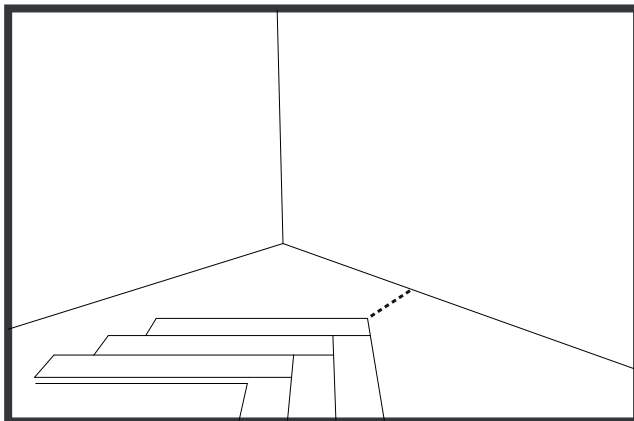
Begin by measuring the longest wall in the room and divide the length by two to find the centerline. Chalk can be used to create a line to mark this out for you. The first strip of planks you install will be aligned to this centerline.

**Step 3.**

Separate the A and B planks into two piles for ease. One strip of planks refers to an A and a B plank connected together.

**Step 4.**

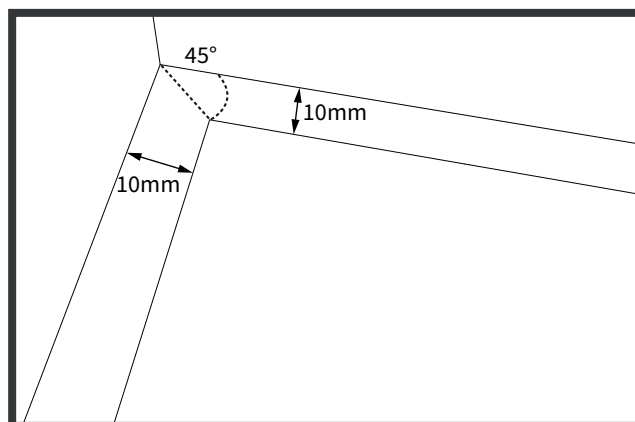
Align the planks so that the highest point of the entire strip is on the centerline. The pattern may look as though it is slightly to the right of the centerline, however this will look more professional once you've added further strips. We would advise gluing the first row of planks for a more durable and secure finish, however it can be installed as a floating floor.



Installation Guide

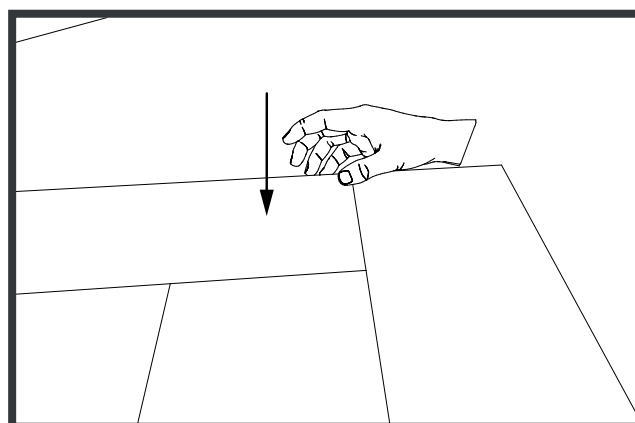
Step 5.

The distance to the wall should be 10mm wide. Use a spacer, such as wooden wedges to help maintain the 10mm distance. Expansion gaps are important for seasonal changes where the wood may expand or contract with moisture and humidity.

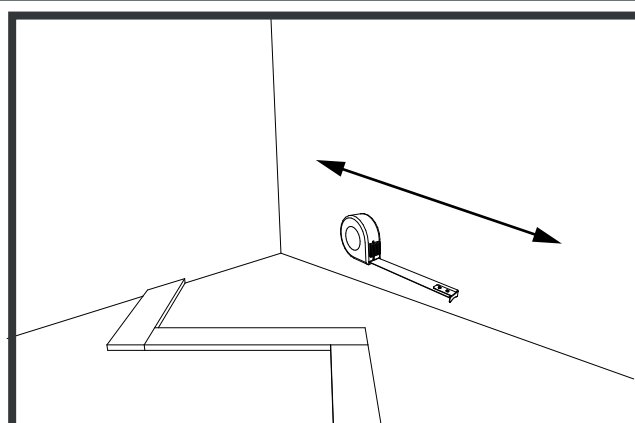
**Step 6.**

Begin laying the planks in your chosen pattern. Lay the planks easily with our innovative click system, place the panel to be laid at an acute angle on the already lying panel and press it down until you hear it click into place.

You can very easily do this by lifting both panels at the joint a little and then pressing on the joint from above with your thumb until it clicks. A rule of thumb for checking if the angle is correct is that the panels can be connected easily without much effort.

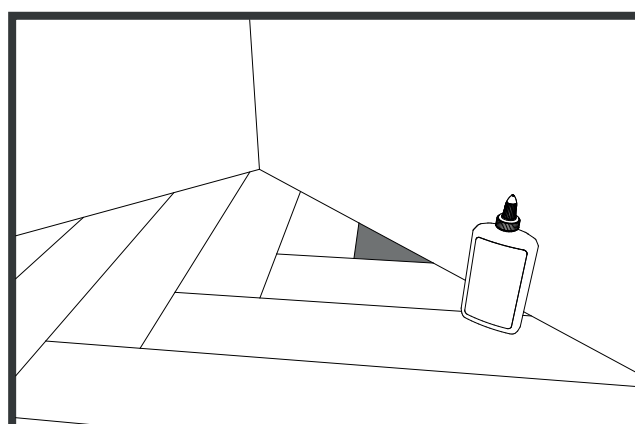
**Step 7.**

After the first row is complete, make sure to check that all boards are laid and in line to allow for your chosen design, and then continue to fill out the remaining space.

**Step 8.**

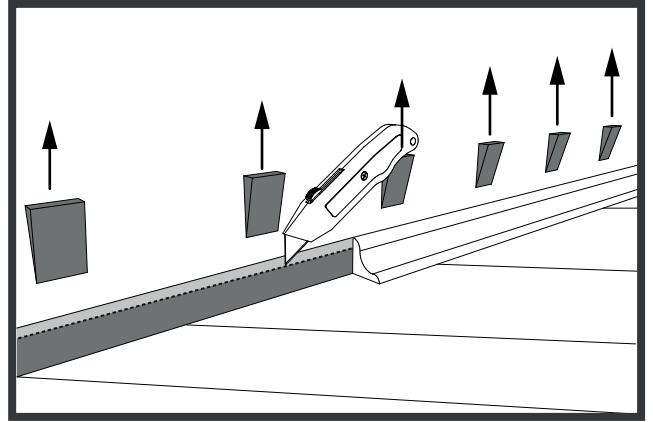
Once you have laid all of the full planks, you'll need to measure and cut the planks to fill in the pattern around the edges. Remember to leave an expansion gap at the walls using spacers to account for any minor movement and expansion after installation. If you are placing smaller pieces around the edges of the room then a little glue can help secure these in place.

It is important to note that all panels should be cut or sawed with the decor side facing down.



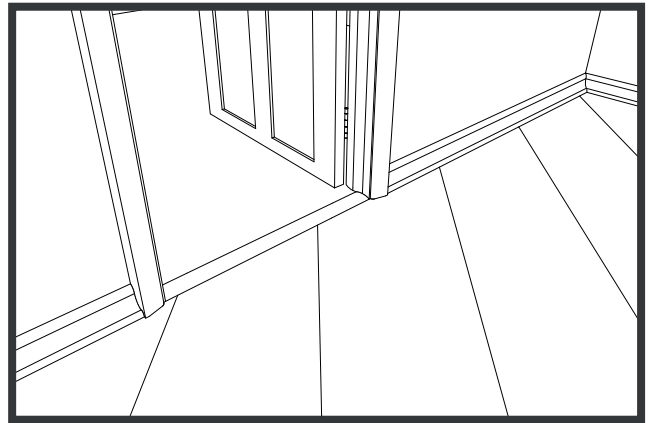
Step 9.

Before attaching the skirting boards, first trim any excess underlay and vapour barrier with a cutter knife so that it does not protrude beyond the boards.



Step 10.

You can then use matching scotia beading and door bars to cover expansion gaps and blend the new floors in with your existing walls and joining rooms, creating a professional and seamless finish.



WHY DOES MY LAMINATE FLOOR CREAK?

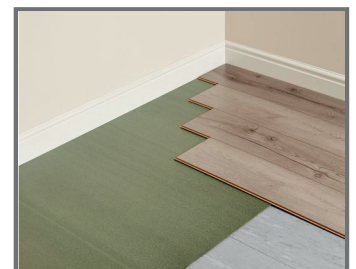
Is your laminate floor creaking when you step on it? This could be caused by a number of factors, but don't worry they are simple to fix once you know the cause. Your floor could be creaking because...

- The distance to the walls, door frames, heating pipes, and expansion profiles were not observed and are therefore causing the floor to not fit together as it should. To resolve this firstly remove one section of skirting board, door bar and/or pipe cover and measure the expansion gap, there should be a 10mm expansion.
- An uneven sub-floor can cause the floor to creak as the fitting mechanism is not laying flat. A suitable underlay should help to fix this!
- The sub-floor consists of old floorboards, you could replace the subfloor with new floorboards or purchase a sound-proofing underlay.
- The boards are not correctly connected to each other. Ensure there are no gaps or lifting between boards, as the fitting mechanism is a click fit system this should be easy to fix.
- You have installed the wrong impact sound insulation or underlay. Always take into consideration the total thickness of your floor, if your underlay is too thick it could cause the floor to lift at the join.

CHOOSING THE CORRECT UNDERLAY

There are a few things that you should consider when choosing the right underlay for your new flooring:

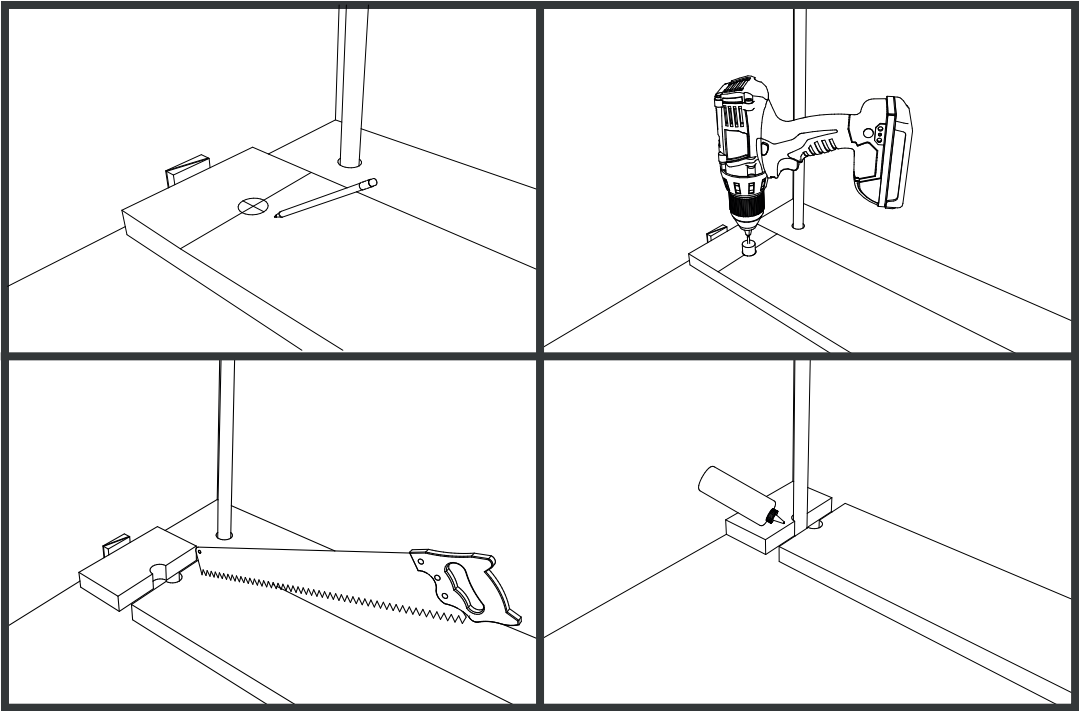
- The overall thickness of the floor; you don't want your floor to sit too high as this could put strain on the join and also cause the floor to not be of a suitable height for your doorbars, skirting boards etc.
- Do you require added thermal insulation? There are underlays which are designed to help provide extra insulation to your home.
- If you live in an upstairs apartment then a sound-absorbing underlay will help to keep unwanted noise to a minimum.
- If you have underfloor heating you will need to make sure your chosen underlay is compatible with your heating system.



Head over to our [accessories page](#) where we offer a fantastic selection of underlays for your new flooring!

Heating Pipes

If you are fitting your laminate flooring around pipes, first mark the position of the pipe in the board you're using with a pencil. Then carefully drill a hole in this position and make two angled cuts with a saw. These cuts should form a wedge from the edge of the board to the hole which can then be removed. Fit the board around the pipe and then reattach the wedge with D3 glue behind the pipe so the plank looks intact.



DISCOVER THOSE PERFECT FINISHING TOUCHES...



Pipe Covers



Profiles



Skirting Boards



Scotia Beading