

## Casabella® LAMINATE FLOOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

- ◆ **PLEASE REMEMBER**, like any floor covering, our factory finished floors will show signs of wear over time, depending on the size and lifestyle of your family. By observing a few precautions along with setting up a regular cleaning and maintenance program, you can expect years of beauty from your floor.
- ◆ **REGULAR CARE AND MAINTENANCE:** Regular cleaning and sweeping of sand and dirt is required to maintain your new Casabella Laminate flooring surface. Sweep or vacuum regularly since built-up grit will damage the surface of the wood. The vacuum head must be a brush or felt type. Be certain the wheels of the vacuum are clean and do not damage the finish. Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar head.
- ◆ **SPILLS:** Remove all spills immediately. Use a dry or damp cloth to wipe the surface clean and dry. CAUTION: FLOOR SURFACE IS VERY SLIPPERY WHEN WET. ALLOW FLOOR TO DRY BEFORE WALKING ON SURFACE.
- ◆ **CLEANING:** Use **CASABELLA® LAMINATE** approved products to maintain your floor. Bona Laminate Cleaner can be used. Consult an approved dealer for instructions. **ALWAYS SWEEP OR VACUUM THE FLOORS PRIOR TO USING WOOD FLOOR CLEANERS. DO NOT ALLOW EXCESS CLEANER TO REMAIN ON THE FLOORS SURFACE AS THIS MAY PERMANENTLY DAMAGE THE WOOD.**
- ◆ **DO NOT USE HARSH CLEANERS OR ABRASIVE CLEANING PRODUCTS TO CLEAN CASABELLA® FLOORING. NEVER WET-MOP, DAMP-MOP, OR CLEAN YOUR FLOOR WITH WATER OR OTHER PRODUCTS. THIS CAN SEVERELY DAMAGE THE FLOORING AND WILL VOID THE WARRANTIES. DO NOT USE FLOOR CLEANING MACHINES OR STEAM CLEANERS.**
- ◆ **DO NOT USE 2 IN 1 CLEANERS – THE USE OF THESE PRODUCTS WILL VOID THE FINISH WARRANTY AND MAY PRODUCE UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS WHEN NOT APPLIED PROPERLY. DO NOT USE OIL, SOAPS, LIQUID OR PASTE WAX PRODUCTS OR OTHER HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS THAT CONTAIN CITRUS OILS, LEMON OIL, TUNG OIL, SILICON, OR AMMONIA SINCE OUR WARRANTIES DO NOT COVER DAMAGE CAUSED BY NON-RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS. USE OF THESE AND OTHER SUCH PRODUCTS WILL HARM THE LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE OF YOUR FLOOR AND WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY.**
- ◆ **FURNITURE:**
  1. NEVER SLIDE FURNITURE OR OTHER HEAVY ITEMS ACROSS FLOOR.  
Always protect the floor surface when moving items across the floor. Use a dolly and protective sheets of plywood when moving heavy objects, furniture, or appliances.
  2. NEVER PLACE HEAVY OBJECTS ON THE FLOOR WITHOUT “FLOOR PROTECTORS”.
  3. NEVER PLACE HEAVY FURNITURE ON FLOOR FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME WITHOUT FLOOR PROTECTORS. AVOID HARD ROLLING CASTERS. USE FLOOR PROTECTOR PADS FOR ROLLING CHAIRS. Make certain furniture casters are clean and operate properly (a minimum 1” wide vinyl surface where it comes in contact with laminate is recommended). Clean wheels periodically to remove dirt and debris.
- ◆ **HOT ITEMS:** NEVER place “HOT ITEMS” on the floor surface.
- ◆ **PETS:** Clean up pet waste immediately as it is harmful to your **CASABELLA® LAMINATE**. Keep pets’ nails trimmed, and paws clean and free of dirt, gravel, grease, oil, and stains.

- ◆ **REMOVE SHOES** with spiked or damaged heels before walking on floor.
- ◆ **MAINTAIN THE PROPER RELATIVE HUMIDITY** in your home between 35% - 55%. The use of a humidifier during heating seasons may help reduce shrinkage of the wood due to low humidity.

## **MAINTENANCE TIPS:**

- ◆ Place outside doormats in all outside doorways to reduce dirt and moisture.
- ◆ Wipe up all moisture spills immediately.
- ◆ Clean the floor often.
- ◆ Do not use excessive water.
- ◆ Do not use unapproved cleaners, soaps, or detergents. **MANY OF THESE PRODUCTS WILL DESTROY THE FINISH ON YOUR FLOOR. BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO USE CLOTHS CONTAMINATED WITH OTHER CLEANING PRODUCTS ON YOUR FLOORS. IT WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY.**
- ◆ **BONA HARDWOOD FLOOR CLEANER AND TERRY CLOTH MOP KIT WILL REMOVE MOST SUBSTANCES FROM YOUR FLOOR.**

USE CASABELLA LAMINATE™ FLOORING APPROVED PRODUCTS FOR LONG LASTING PERFORMANCE AND BEAUTY. **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE CARE AND MAINTENANCE TIPS WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY.**

## **JOB SITE INSPECTION & ACCLIMATION (Please read carefully!)**

- ◆ It is the installer/ owners' responsibility to ensure that the jobsite conditions and jobsite subfloor are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to the installation of any Laminate flooring. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of flooring resulting from or related to sub-floor, sub-surface, or job-site environmental conditions. All substrates must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.
- ◆ Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt, curing compounds, sealers, drywall mud, paint, wax, grease, urethane, or other materials that may affect the integrity of the flooring material or adhesives used to install the flooring.
- ◆ All subfloors and subfloor systems must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance of a Laminate floor. Whenever possible install the planks perpendicular to the floor joists for maximum stability. Our warranties **DO NOT** cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.
- ◆ Test wood sub floors and wood flooring for moisture content using a pin-type moisture meter. Take readings of the subfloor – minimum of 20 readings per 1000 sq. ft. and average the results. A “dry” subfloor that is ready to work on has a moisture content of 10% or less and the subfloor moisture content should be within 4% of the wood moisture content.
- ◆ The moisture content for concrete subfloors registered after a calcium chloride test should not be greater than 3 pounds per 1000 square feet of area. If it exceeds these limits, **DO NOT** install the flooring.
- ◆ Before moisture testing begins, the slab must be cured for a minimum of 30 days.
- ◆ Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist to be no less than 18” and

perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.

- ◆ The subfloor must be flat, meeting a minimum of 3/16" within 10' or 1/8" in 6'.
- ◆ Concrete subfloors - Grind high spots or use a Portland-cement-based leveling material (minimum compressive strength 3000 psi) to fill all low spots. Follow the leveling compound manufacturer's instruction. Leveling compounds must be allowed to thoroughly cure and dry prior to installation of wood flooring.
- ◆ All "wet" work – i.e. – paint, drywall, concrete, masonry, plumbing must be complete and dry well in advance of delivery of flooring.
- ◆ Gutters and downspouts should be in place and the exterior grade complete to allow for proper drainage of water away from the building's exterior perimeter.
- ◆ Flooring should not be exposed to extremes of humidity or moisture.
- ◆ Permanent HVAC should be on and operational a minimum of 5 days and maintained between 65 – 75 degrees (F) and a relative humidity of 35%- 55% prior to delivery, during, and after installation of the flooring.
- ◆ **IT IS THE INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE CONDITIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE PRIOR TO THE INSTALLATION OF THE FLOORS. THE MANUFACTURER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY AND ALL PROBLEMS/DAMAGES THAT ARE RELATED TO OR ATTRIBUTED TO IMPROPER JOBSITE CONDITIONS.**
- ◆ In new construction, CASABELLA® LAMINATE should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture, (plumbing, plaster/drywall ceilings or wall finishes, painting, etc.), should be finished and adequate time allowed for complete drying, prior to CASABELLA® LAMINATE being installed. Heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC) should be fully operational and capable of maintaining a consistent room temperature at 60-80° F, and a constant relative humidity range of 35%-65%, for at least **5 days (for existing construction) and 30 days (for new construction)**, prior to beginning the wood flooring installation.
- ◆ Where the above referenced site conditions have not been met for at least five days, normal 48-hour flooring acclimation in the previously stated climate controlled conditions is required.
- ◆ Flooring should not be delivered until the above environmental guidelines are met. Concrete and plaster should be fully cured and dry. **Check basements and under floor crawl spaces to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.** Casabella Laminate™ requires a minimum of 6mil vapor barrier placed on 100% of the surface of the ground in crawl spaces not finished with cement.
- ◆ Wood Subfloors must be dry, (less than 10% moisture content), and within a 4% range of the moisture content of the CASABELLA® LAMINATE being installed.
- ◆ Handle with care. Do not stand on ends or sides. Store Casabella Laminate flooring flat with proper support on the ends and center sections in a dry place.
- ◆ Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed as close to the center of the installation area as possible, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors. Keep out of direct sunlight and away from heat or air vents.
- ◆ **Do not open the CASABELLA® LAMINATE cartons until ready to begin the installation.**

## Recommended Subfloor Surfaces Concrete Subfloor Guidelines

Concrete slabs should be of high compressive strength and constructed to prevent groundwater from permeating

the concrete. Engineered Laminate flooring can be installed on, above, or below-grade. In addition, it can be

installed over above-ground, suspended concrete floors. The suspended concrete must be a minimum of 1 1/2 inches thick and must be structurally sound. The exception to this is lightweight concrete (which usually contains high amounts of gypsum) having a density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot. Test for lightweight concrete by using a nail to scratch the surface of the concrete. If the concrete crumbles or turns to powder, it is not sound, and you should NOT install the laminate flooring. Use the floating installation method (5 ply products 3" or wider) only for lightweight concrete subfloors.

### **Wood Subfloors Guidelines**

Subfloor panels should conform to U.S. Voluntary Product Standard PS1-07, Construction and Industrial Plywood and/or US Voluntary PS 2-04 and/or Canadian performance standard CAN/CSA 0325.0-92 Construction Sheathing. Other CSA standards also apply.

### **Acceptable Panel Subfloors**

Truss/joist spacing will determine the minimum acceptable thickness of the panel subflooring. On truss/joist spacing of 16" o/c or less the industry standard for single panel subflooring is minimum 5/8" 19/32", 15.1 mm CD Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4x8 sheets. On truss/joist spacing of more than 16", up to 19.2" (488mm) o/c, the standard is nominal 3/4" (23/32", 18.3 mm) T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1) or nominal 3/4" 23/32", (18.3mm) OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4'x8' sheets, glued and mechanically fastened. Truss/joist systems spaced over more than 19.2" (488mm) o/c up to a maximum of 24" (610mm) require minimum 7/8" T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1), or minimum 7/8" OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4'x8' sheets glued and mechanically fastened – or two layers of subflooring or brace between the truss/joist in accordance with the truss/joist manufacturer's recommendations and with local building codes. Some truss/joist systems cannot be cross-braced and still maintain stability.

For existing wood floors install new flooring at right angles to the existing flooring.

Do not glue, staple, or nail down flooring over particleboard, floating application is acceptable (products 3" or wider).

Do not install over existing glue down laminate floors.

**WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC "CUTBACK" ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.** These products may contain either asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to [www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com).

**Ceramic tile and terrazzo:** All wax and sealers must be removed with an appropriate cleaner/stripper. Ceramic tile and terrazzo should be abraded to allow for proper adhesion. Check for loose tiles by tapping and re-adhere. Fill grout lines with a cementitious latex fortified leveling compound.

**Resilient tile, resilient sheet vinyl:** Material must be full spread and secured to the subfloor. Do not install over perimeter glued floors. Do not install over more than one layer that exceeds 1/8" in thickness.

Acoustic Cork Underlayment: (Glue Down Only) – Install the cork underlayment according to the manufacturer's instructions. The cork underlayment must be fully adhered to the subfloor. The cork underlayment should be of pure granulated cork combined with a polyurethane binder with a minimum density of 11.4 lbs. per cubic foot and not to exceed 13 lbs. per cubic foot.

## **Pre-installation / Job Preparation**

Inspect the Flooring – Inspect material for color, finish, milling, and grade. Remove pieces that may not be acceptable once installed.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not accept responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been permanently installed.

Undercut Door Casings - Undercut all door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. To do this, use a scrap piece of flooring as a guide. Lay it on the substrate and cut the casing with a handsaw or use a power jamb saw set at the correct height.

Blending of Cartons- To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we highly recommend that you open and work from several cartons at a time and dry-lay the flooring, mixing the planks from several cartons. This will allow you to blend the planks for maximum aesthetic appearance. Make certain the room is well lit to ensure color is consistent and that any visual defects can be seen and removed.

Match Transition Moldings: For best appearance blend all transitions and moldings to planks that have similar color and graining. Set them aside for use as needed.

Layout of Flooring: "Racking the Floor" is essential to achieve a random appearance. Start by cutting four or five planks in random lengths, differing by at least six inches. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a nine-inch minimum between end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance. Never waste materials; the end cuts from starter rows should be used at the opposite side of the room to complete rows or used to start the next row.

Expansion space: Expansion space around the perimeter is required and should be equal to the thickness of the flooring material. For floating installation, the minimum is ½" regardless of the thickness of the material. For commercial installations use a minimum of ½" expansion.

**Please read BEFORE you begin installation.**

**At Casabella Laminate, we want you to be fully satisfied with your new floors. Casabella Laminate has one of the lowest warranty rates in the industry and the highest manufacturing standard in the industry. We want you to be satisfied with your purchase. CASABELLA LAMINATE, WILL UNCONDITIONALLY ACCEPT ALL FLOORING RETURNED IN FULL UNDAMAGED CARTONS.**

**PLEASE BE AWARE, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INSTALLATION PROCEDURES OR YOU CAN VOID YOUR WARRANTY.**



### Retailer/Installer/Owner Responsibility

#### **Carefully inspect all Casabella Laminate flooring prior to installation for defects/objections:**

Materials installed with visible defects are not covered under our warranty. **This is an industry standard.** Accepting or rejecting the material must be done on full cartons not plank by plank. Casabella Laminate flooring has one of the lowest warranty rates in the industry and the highest manufacturing standard in the industry. We want you to be satisfied with your purchase.

**You MUST, as the final inspector, inspect for proper color, finish, style, and quality PRIOR to installation.** **Verify that the flooring is the correct material.** Care should be taken at this time to remove or repair particular characteristics you do not desire.

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INSPECT THE FLOORING BEFORE IT IS INSTALLED. IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE FLOORING PRIOR TO INSTALLATION, CONTACT YOUR DEALER. DO NOT INSTALL THE FLOORING. IF YOU INSTALL THE FLOORING, YOU HAVE ACCEPTED ITS MANUFACTURED APPEARANCE.**

**MANUFACTURER SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COSTS INCURRED WHEN PLANK(S) WITH VISIBLE DEFECTS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.** A VISIBLE DEFECT IS ANY DEFECT THAT EXISTS BEFORE INSTALLATION AND WAS VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE. IF YOUR LAMINATE FLOORING IS INSTALLED PROPERLY AND NOT DAMAGED BY EXCLUSIONS NOT COVERED BY OUR WARRANTY, CASABELLA LAMINATE, WILL ALWAYS WARRANTY THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR FLOORING AS PER THE WARRANTY AGREEMENT.

The use of stain, filler, or putty stick for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.

An 8% cutting allowance, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (Some installations will require a higher percentage.)

#### **CAUTION: WOOD DUST**

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified wood dust as a nasal carcinogen. The sawing, sanding, and/ or machining of wood products can produce wood dust that can cause respiratory, eye, and skin irritations. Equipment should be equipped with a dust collector to reduce airborne wood dust. Wear an appropriate NIOSH designated dust mask to reduce exposure to airborne wood dust. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes. In cases of severe irritation; seek immediate medical attention. For further technical or installation questions or to request a Product Specification Data Sheet contact the manufacturer. 1-281-766-1600

**BE CAREFUL TO SELECT THE INSTALLATION THAT MATCHES THE PRODUCT YOU PURCHASED**

#### **INSTALLATION WHEN USING A LOCKING SYSTEM:**

##### **A. WHERE CAN THE FLOORING BE INSTALLED?**

Install **CASABELLA® LAMINATE** in most rooms and most grade levels WHEN PROPER PREPARATION IS USED, AND AREA MEETS MOISTURE TEST REQUIREMENTS.

## B. LAUNDRY ROOM FLOORS ARE NOT OK:

Do not install CASABELLA® LAMINATE in areas of excessive moisture or excessive humidity. Moisture damage from water dispenser that is not cleaned up timely is not covered by this warranty.

## PREPARATION OF FLOOR:

Install CASABELLA® LAMINATE on concrete, ceramic tile, terrazzo, marble or stone sub-floors that are smooth, level and well bonded. CASABELLA® LAMINATE may also be installed on wood or wood product sub-floors that are clean, well bonded and smooth.

DO NOT INSTALL OVER CARPET OR ANY CUSHIONED BACKED PRODUCT. DO NOT INSTALL OVER ANY PRODUCT THAT IS NOT PROPERLY ADHERED.

1. Sub-floors **MUST BE CLEAN, DRY, LEVEL, AND WELL BONDED.**
2. Remove all existing trim throughout the room.
3. Measure the door clearance. If the door will not clear the floor, the door must be trimmed to fit from the bottom.
4. Install plastic sheeting on sub-floors. Always use moisture barrier plastic sheeting on any below grade floor and on all concrete floors. Overlap the plastic sheet 6-8 inches and tape the plastic sheeting with 2inch plastic or clear vinyl tape.
5. Use ¼" spacers to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor. In large rooms, a ½" expansion gap may be preferred. **IMPORTANT:** this ¼" gap must be maintained around cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any other obstacles in floor.
6. Always work from left to right. Planks should run lengthwise against the longest wall, and if possible, parallel to incoming sunlight.
7. Always install tongue side facing wall.
8. A CASABELLA LAMINATE approved UNDERLAYMENT MUST be laid down prior to applying CASABELLA® LAMINATE.

## Sub-Floors:

- ◆ Test floor for excessive moisture before installing over concrete, vinyl tile, concrete covered with ceramic tile, marble, stone, or linoleum. To do so, cut 3' x 3' squares of polyethylene plastic (one plastic square for every 200 sq. ft. of floor space). Spread plastic around different areas of the subfloor for a more accurate evaluation. Firmly tape down all edges of the plastic sealing them directly to the existing subfloor. Leave plastic down for 24 to 48 hours. **Look for moisture under the plastic or for the cement to darken, this indicates excessive moisture.**
- ◆ Always perform a Calcium Chloride Moisture Emissions Test. The maximum allowable reading is 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft/24 hours. You MUST retain your test and results to have a valid warranty.
- ◆ Concrete Sub-Floors – use minimum 6-mil polyethylene (plastic) sheeting as a vapor barrier. Roll out the plastic, overlapping the seam area 6 to 8 inches and tape the seamed with a 2" clear plastic sealing tape.
- ◆ Wood Sub-Floors – no additional plastic vapor barrier should be installed but subfloor must meet moisture restrictions. If moisture levels are too high, this must be alleviated before flooring is installed. Your contractor will need to diagnose your individual site conditions to solve this issue.
- ◆ WATER/PET RESISTANT FLOORS require that the entire perimeter of the installation must be sealed with 100% silicone sealant. All expansion spaces must be filled with 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod and covered with 100% silicone sealant. You must apply 100% silicone sealant to all moldings at the point of contact with the flooring surface and at all connections to doorframes or any other fixed objects.
- ◆ Installations exceeding 4,356 sq. ft. must have the proper expansion joints installed.

## BEGIN INSTALLATION:

- ◆ Begin the installation in the left-hand corner. Place the plank a minimum of ¼" from the left wall. Use spacers throughout all perimeter areas to ensure the correct expansion space is maintained. **(a)**
- ◆ Place the second plank tight against the short end of the first plank. **(b)**
- ◆ Fold down into the locked position with a single movement. **(c)**
- ◆ Place the final plank face down with the short side towards the wall. The remaining expansion space should be at least a minimum of ¼" from the wall. Draw a pencil line where the plank is to be cut. **(d)**
- ◆ Place the plank face down on the work surface and cut to size with a power saw. If you are using a hand saw, use a fine-toothed blade and cut the planks face up. **(e)**
- ◆ Begin the second row. The first and last planks in the rows should have a minimum length of 24 inches. **(g)**
- ◆ The minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 24 inches. **(g)**
- ◆ Connect the planks in the following rows by aligning the end seam of each plank directly above the end seam of the preceding plank. Insert the long side seam at a slight angle first and as the top surfaces meet, rotate the plank down into the locked position. **(h)**
- ◆ The distance to the walls can be adjusted when three rows are completed. **(i)** Remember to place the flooring a minimum of ¼" from all walls or other vertical obstructions such as cabinets, pipes, or columns. **(j)**
- ◆ In areas such as a doorjamb or cabinet kick base where planks cannot be angled to lock into place, use a wood chisel to remove the locking ridge from the bottom of the plank groove. Apply a 1/8" bead of tongue and groove adhesive to the bottom groove and gently tap the plank into place using a pull bar and hammer. Next, apply enough strips of painter's tape across this seam to hold the joint securely in place until the adhesive sets. Using a clean, soft cloth, carefully clean up any excess adhesive on the surface of the planks. **(k)**
- ◆ On the first and/or last row where there is no polymer tongue on the short side, glue the joint with Clear Elmer's glue where they join on the short end. **(l)**

## DISASSEMBLY WHEN USING A LOCKING SYSTEM:

Your floor can be disassembled very easily, enabling replacement during installation and also during use. **(m)** Disassemble the panels by sliding them apart horizontally at the end seams. **(DO NOT FOLD CONNECTED PLANKS UPWARDS!)** **(n)**

## RADIATOR PIPES:

- ◆ Drill the holes ¾" larger than the diameter of the pipes. **(o)**
- ◆ Remove all spacers.
- ◆ Install molding and transition pieces. Attach wood color coordinated molding or your desired trim and transition pieces using nails, screws or adhesive. **NEVER ATTACH ANY MOLDING USING NAILS, SCREWS OR GLUE DIRECTLY TO DIAMONDLIVING FLOORING.**



## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

**Doorways:** Attempting to continue installing rows through a doorway into another room can be difficult because the narrow opening is a very small base upon which to continue consistent, straight and even rows into the next room.

**T-moldings are available to install in doorways when joining flooring room to room.**

To achieve alignment of plank rows from room to room, it is best to use a master reference line to run through the doorway to the far ends of each room involved. Position the line so that it is square and parallel from each room's corresponding wall. Use this line to align the plank rows from room to room.

**The maximum install in any direction is 66 feet before a transition is required.**

**Pipes, vents and other fixed objects:** Each can be unique, but the general rule is to measure very carefully before you cut and remember to leave a 3/4" expansion gap between the object and the flooring. You will cover expansion gaps with molding, vent covers or pipe rings when the floor is complete.

**Installation on Stairs:** Working from the top step down, flooring should be installed using adhesive and screw type fasteners or nails. All stair nose moldings must be glued and nailed, or screwed every 8", for your safety.

**Glue down over cork: Using Casabella Laminate Approved flooring adhesive, CASABELLA® LAMINATE can be installed over a structurally sound concrete sub floor that is covered with full spread, permanently bonded acoustic cork. Cork thickness should not exceed 1/4" (6.35mm), with a density between 11.4 and 13 lb / cubic foot. Install cork in accordance with cork manufacturer's recommendations. Acoustic cork should be pure cork with a polyurethane binder.**

## MOLDINGS, TRIM & TRANSITION PIECES

### Installation Tips:

- \* Moldings should be acclimated 48 hours
- \* Moldings must be predrilled to avoid splitting whenever they are to be secured with nails or fasteners.
- \* The tool of choice for cutting hardwood moldings is a 10" or 12" motorized miter saw with pre-set adjustments for the basic miter cuts at 22.5°, 45°, and 90°. A carbide tipped blade makes the best finished cuts. Be sure the saw blade is positioned to cut into the finished face.
- \* When installing Wall Base molding, eliminate the need to putty as many holes on the molding by placing the bottom nail below the finished line of the Quarter Round.
- \* On Wall Base or Quarter Round moldings, never restrict the floor's natural contraction/expansion movement by driving the fasteners at a downward angle. Attach the moldings to the wall or vertical surface.
- \* Always miter cuts rather than having butt cuts when splicing. Decide the direction of the miter by cutting the molding with the long point oriented in same direction as your natural line of vision when you enter the room.

**Wall Base** - Borders the wood floor at the base of the wall to give the room a finished look. This molding along with the Quarter Round conceals the required expansion space between the wall and the flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks.

**Quarter Round** - This molding conceals the required expansion space between the wall/ wall base and the Laminate flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks where a wall base won't fit or at the base of the stairs to provide a subtle blend between the floor and the wall or vertical surface.

**Threshold** - This molding is used at exterior doorways as a transition between flooring and the doorway threshold. It also can be used to transition a wood floor to different floor types to make them fit together perfectly, such as high pile carpeting or tile. Another typical use for a threshold is to conceal the expansion space between the flooring and a vertical surface such as fireplace hearths and sliding glass doors.

**Installation:** Lay the threshold molding in place to determine a proper fit. The threshold molding should overlap the flooring by 1/2" to 3/4" leaving the balance for expansion. To attach the threshold, nail into the subfloor behind the lip of the molding. Be sure when nailing not to obstruct the floors expansion space.

**T Molding** - Doorway molding used to join two wood floors in adjoining rooms. Also used when making

transitions from a wood floor to another floor that is approximately the same height, such as ceramic tile, hardwood, or laminate floors. T-Moldings are also used to provide expansion joints when a floor dimension exceeds the length or a width of 66'.

**Installation:** A space of 1 1/4" between the two adjoining floors is necessary to properly install the molding. This is to allow for the expansion space. Lay the T-Molding in place to determine proper fit. To attach the T-Molding between a ceramic tile floor and the floor, apply 1/4" bead of construction adhesive to the top edge of the ceramic tile. To attach between two floors, apply the 1/4" bead to the top edge of one side of the only. Seat the molding in place allowing for a minimum of a 1/4" overlap on the wood flooring. Make sure to allow for the expansion space between the T-Molding and the tile. When installing over a wood subfloor, use finish nails to secure T-mold. When installing over concrete, use heavy-duty construction adhesive to secure T-mold.

**Overlap Reducer- (Floating Method)** Used to join floors that utilize the floating installation method with floors of different heights such as vinyl, ceramic tile, or low pile carpeting.

**Installation:** To attach molding, pre-drill and nail in appropriate 6" to 8" intervals. Do not nail less than 2"- 3" from the ends of either side. To attach the molding using glue, apply glue to the front edge of the molding. Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor and seat the molding in place. It is important not to attach the reducer directly to the floating floor to allow expansion and contraction.

**Overlap Stair Nose – (Floating Method)** provides the proper transition for stairways or steps, which have floors that have been installed using the floating installation method. The Stair Nose also provides the proper overhang for a transition from one floor level to the next such as the step into a sunken living room.

**Installation:** To attach molding, pre-drill and nail in appropriate 6" to 8" intervals. Do not nail less than 2"- 3" from the ends of either side. Also apply glue to the front edge of the molding. Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor and seat the molding in place. All stair nose moldings must be nailed and glued to secure the molding adequately. It is important not to attach the reducer directly to the floating floor to allow expansion and contraction.

**Flush Reducer -** Used to join floors that have been glued down or nailed down to transition with floors of different heights such as vinyl, ceramic tile, or low pile carpeting.

**Installation:** To attached molding pre-drill and nail in appropriate 6" to 8" intervals. Do not nail less than 2"- 3" from the ends of either side. To attach the molding using glue, apply glue to the front edge of the molding. Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor and seat the molding in place.

**Flush Stair Nose -** Provides the proper transition for stairways or steps which have floors that have been installed by either the nail down or glue down installation method. The Stair Nose also provides the proper overhang for a transition from one floor level to the next such as the step into a sunken living room.

**Installation:** When used on a stair step, the Stair Nose molding should cover and overlap the riser. When used on a step-up to another room, the Stair Nose molding becomes the starting "edge" of the floor. Because of the interlocking of the molding with the floor, the Stair Nose molding should be installed first. Once the molding is in place, the interlocking floor can be installed. Moldings should be installed using adhesive and screw type fasteners or nails.