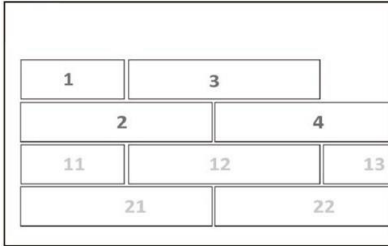




Installation Instructions for the Next Generation Floors MauiMtn XL & SeaPerfection



A. Products should be staggered in brick laid pattern; stagger equal to half of a plank for the first 2 rows, and then at least 18" for the following rows. Spacers should be placed against walls to maintain proper distance (1/4" - 1/2"). Tools needed: planks, underlayment, spacers.



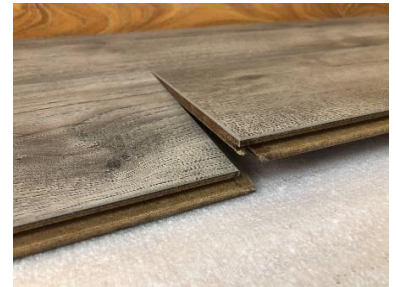
B. The first row must be installed straight. Begin installation back and forth between rows one and two for the first two rows only. Start small plank positioned close to the wall, angle a long plank into the long side of the short plank, and drop long plank tongue into lock. Make sure there are no gaps.



C. Take another long plank, repeat the previous step, insert the long side of plank into long side of previous plank. Then slide plank to your left until the short side is in contact with the short side of the first laid plank.



D. Using the drop lock system, drop the short side of the last long plank into the short side of the first laid plank. Slightly tap on the top of the joint of the short side with your fist to secure.



E and F. Finishing rows 1 and 2— continue alternating planks on rows 1 and 2 to avoid misalignment. From row 3 onwards, installation does not require alternating rows. Install one row after the other by starting with angling on the long side, sliding until the short sides are in contact and then locking the short side. As you go, ensure the short sides are securely locked by tapping with your fist, or if need be, a rubber mallet.



G. Remove spacers and cover gaps with a trim.

General Requirements:

It is the sole responsibility of the installer/owner, prior to installation, to assure that the planned installation area is suitable for the flooring and meets local building codes. Confirm that all subflooring meets or exceeds all industry standards and local building codes; as well as the recommendations listed herein. The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for product failure extending from or related to failure to meet job environment and subflooring requirements. The installer/owner assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include: print/color/texture/ factory finish /visible conditions. If the product is not acceptable, DO NOT INSTALL IT. Contact your supplier immediately for assistance. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and quality accepted. Casabella will not accept any responsibility for any flooring installed with visible defects. This product is waterproof but is not a moisture barrier. Water traveling over or around the outer edges of the flooring wont damage the structure of the flooring but can damage the subfloor. This damage to the subfloor is a site related condition and/or associated conditions are not warranted. In addition, other contaminates could migrate up in the moisture, as well. These are not manufacturing related conditions and are not covered by your warranty. Elevated moisture levels below your flooring can migrate through the joints as vapor emissions possibly causing a milky white appearance known as Blushing. Blushing is a site related condition, and thus is not covered by your warranty. It may dissipate once the moisture levels have decreased. When installing in a lavatory, bathroom, laundry room, or other area with frequent water usage, it is possible for water to travel under the floating floor and create bacterial growth and the problems associated with it. These are not manufacturing issues, not covered by your warranty, and should be mitigated before installing the flooring and should be dried, as necessary.

Always allow ½" expansion space around the entire perimeter of the room and at all fixed objects/fixtures and pipes for any installation under 4,356 sq. ft. and runs less than 66 feet. For jobs above 4,356 sq. ft. and runs greater than 66 feet, use transition pieces and allow at least 5/8 inch for expansion. Cabinets may be installed over your flooring, but appropriate expansion areas must be maintained around any fixed objects including pipes. Cabinets should be fastened to the walls and not to the flooring. Do not allow screws or nails to penetrate flooring.

Preparing the Area

Remove all furniture and appliances from the room(s). Remove wall and doorway trim. Undercut door casings and remove all debris and equipment that may damage finish. Do not install over soft, rough, uneven surfaces, or floating floors. The Flooring should only be installed after all the other trades have finished and the jobsite has been cleared of any/all debris that could damage a finished installation. All sub-floors and substrates must be clean, flat (smooth) and dry prior to installation. Sweep or vacuum your subfloor prior to installation ensuring nothing will interfere with the installation. All subfloors must be flat. High or low areas exceeding 3/16" per 10' (7.5 cm in 3 meter) or 1/8" per 6' (2.5 cm in 1.8 meter) must be corrected. Permanent HVAC should be on and operational a minimum of 5 days and maintained between 65° – 75° (F) and a relative humidity of 35%- 55% prior to delivery, during, and after installation of the flooring.

Wood Subfloors

This product is suitable for installation over a minimum of 3/4" CDX Plywood, OSB, or APA approved plywood. All wood subfloors should be flat, structurally sound, and free from deflection (up and down movement). Sand high areas and fill low areas with a Portland based patching compound. To avoid squeaking of the subfloor, nail or screw the floor every 6". Repair or replace any damaged sheathing. Joist spacing should not exceed 19.2". Set fasteners 1/32" below the subfloor surface, sand joints, smooth and fill holes, or gaps wider than 1/8 inch wide. Install suitable underlayment when necessary to achieve a flat or solid surface. Next generation planks can be installed

over underlayment grade plywood, lauan plywood and other underlayment recommended by the manufacturer for use with rigid core flooring. Installation over oriented strand board and particle board is not recommended unless it is underlayment grade and non-weathered since these panels present a greater risk of sub-floor instability and can detract from the performance of the floor. Wooden subfloors installed over a crawl space should have a moisture barrier installed in the crawlspace with at least 18 inches of ground clearance with a black ground cover minimum 6mm thick Polyethylene overlapped a minimum of 6" (115 cm) and taped using a moisture resistant tape to avoid moisture migration from the ground up through the flooring. Cross ventilation (vents located around the perimeter) equal to 1.5% of the square footage of the area should be highly considered (if not already a local code). Wood floors installed directly on concrete or installed over sleeper construction are not satisfactory for installation and should be removed. Repair all squeaks prior to installation. Wood subflooring moisture should not exceed 15%. Install planks at a 90° angle to any existing wood floor. NOTE: Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement or deflection because subfloor movement will telegraph through to the finished installation. Indications of excessive deflection are subfloor fastener release, squeaking, compromised, or sectional contours such as bowing or dipping in floors and uneven flooring material. Nail or screw subfloor panels to secure boards with excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, then it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete. Our warranties DO NOT cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said structures. The suitability of any subfloor is the responsibility of the installer and the final consumer.

Concrete Subfloors

The flatness of concrete subfloors must meet or exceed the requirements of ACI FF25. Most concrete subfloors are not flat/smooth and must be properly prepared before installation. In all cases, verify the substrate is flat (See above subfloor and substrate requirements). All concrete floors must be properly cured and allowed to dry for at least 60 days after the curing process. This product can be installed over concrete on all grade levels.

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.

Radiant Heat Guidelines:

- Newly installed water-type radiant heating flooring systems should be in operation, with the temperature set between 64°-72 °F, for a minimum of 4 weeks. This will ensure that any subfloor moisture has properly dried.
- Older/existing water-type radiant floor heating systems need to be fully pressure tested, properly maintained, and set to a minimum of 64° F for at least 4 days before delivery, acclimation or installation of the flooring begins.

Electric mat or mesh radiant heating systems many times are not acceptable. They must be specifically designated as suitable for use with laminate flooring systems by the manufacturer. Casabella makes no warranties as to their suitability and disclaims any defects caused by them. • Always check wood sub-floors to ensure that the moisture content is less than 10% using an accurate wood moisture meter. Concrete sub-floors must register "dry" using a reliable concrete moisture meter. • The PH level of concrete sub-floors should register between 6 and 9. • Sub-floors must fully comply with Casabella "dry" requirements before proceeding with the delivery, acclimation, installation and any other required curing processes. • Regulate the job site to ensure that the relative humidity is between 35 and 65 percent, and that the temperature is between 60° and 80° F, throughout the flooring delivery, acclimation, and installation. • After completing the installation, do not change/adjust the radiant heat settings for at least 48 hours. At any given time after the initial 48-hour period, the homeowner should only increase or decrease the temperature settings 4° to 5° F per day, so that the laminate flooring can gradually adjust to the temperature changes. • Never raise the flooring surface temperature setting above 85° F. • It is important to note that when wood products are used over a radiant heating system, minor gapping can occur and should be expected. Maintaining consistent relative humidity levels will help to minimize this occurrence. Seasonal changes can also have the same effect on laminate, so temperature and humidity controls should always be monitored to ensure the best performance.

Mold/Mildew

Mold/Mildew are not covered by your warranty and may destroy the functionality/aesthetics of your purchase. Mold/Mildew is a function of excessive moisture in the foundation of your home or from a water source in your home.

Moisture

It is recommended that your slab have less than 5% Moisture content, 5 lbs./1000 sq ft/24 hours MVER and less than 75% RH. Exceeding these numbers will not directly damage this product but can lead to many hazardous and damaging conditions (mold, mildew, rot) that are not covered by your warranty.

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.

RETAILER/INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Carefully inspect all Casabella flooring prior to installation for defects/objections: TO REPLICATE NATURAL WOOD, CASABELLA CREATES A SLIGHT BACKGROUND COLOR VARIATION ON EACH PRODUCTION RUN. JUST LIKE REAL WOOD, THIS LAMINATE WILL HAVE A NATURAL COLOR VARIATION. THEREFORE, BE SURE YOU ARE SATISFIED WITH THE BOXES YOU HAVE PURCHASED. IF YOU ARE IN ANY WAY DISSATISFIED, CASABELLA WILL UNCONDITIONALLY ACCEPT UNINSTALLED RETURNED PRODUCT. ONCE YOU INSTALL, THIS OFFER IS NO LONGER VALID. 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 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 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.)