



Installation Instructions for TerraMater NuCore Laminate



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It is highly recommended that Laminate Flooring is Installed by a experienced contractor.

Installers responsibility prior to installation.

It is the installers responsibility to carry out the final inspection of the floor to ensure the colour, grade, quality and finish are acceptable.

The inspection needs to be carried out before it is installed by viewing each piece as the floor is installed to pick out any potential defects such as large variation in colour, gloss or image defects in the flooring as you install it.

The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out pieces that should not be installed or cut off any deficiencies whatever the cause.

If the product is deemed not acceptable for any reason, do NOT install it and contact your supplier immediately. The product must be checked when accepting it from your retailer that the colour is correct as per customers invoice, also check with the end user that the right product has been supplied.

Once a product has been installed and any of the above warnings mentioned are not done correctly then no financial assistance can be given, nor can the product be returned.

Flooring should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions. Care should be taken to store the packs flat; packs should never be lent against a wall.

Laminate flooring does not need to be climatized on site its moisture content will range from 6-8% MC, but upon delivery check the flooring moisture content before installation with a moisture meter to ensure no great changes have occur since the product left the warehouse.

All flooring contractors should possess a moisture meter for timber flooring and concrete sub-floors.

A waste factor of 5-10% should be taken into account when installing a floor.

It is also highly recommended that during the installation process the correct PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) is used by the installer. These include P2 rated face masks, protective glasses or face shield, steel capped boots and protective work gloves.

Required Environmental Conditions

Laminate Floors are Hygroscopic by nature so to make sure that the floor is not exposed to high levels of humidity.

The OPTIMAL HUMIDITY is between 40% - 60% if humidity drops below 40% and above 60% please either humidify or dehumidify the home or environment where the floor is installed. Maintaining a consistent and correct in home environment is very important so the Laminate will not face any dimensional changes.

With the use of a Hygrometer in the home and with the correct use of air conditioners, heaters and good air flow within the home, these all play a part that will help maintain a stable environment for your floor. (NOTE: If you are unsure about the correct use of these devices for correct humidity control contact your retailer.) The TEMPERATURE should be maintained between 18 - 24 Degree Celsius.

NOTE: Not every location is the same throughout Australia, so please understand the environment you are installing the floor in, the perimeter expansion will need to be adjusted accordingly. E.G Coastal seaside areas are known for very high humidity during certain seasons therefore more expansion will be required this can be done by undercutting the plaster where you will pick up another extra 10mm. Humidity changes throughout the seasons, and through unusual weather patterns, coastal locations, outback desert environments and mountainous areas which collects higher levels of rain fall leaving moisture environments of high humidity. It is vital that the correct air conditioning or ventilation is used. Such as Refrigerated or Evaporative Air Conditioning. Please check with your retailer or manufacturer to understand the effects that they can have on timber flooring.

Expansion requirements

If the floor area across either the width or length of the floor is greater than 10 meters expansion joins need to be considered to compartmentalise the large floor area into smaller ones so they will move independently of each other.

NOTE: different products will move at different rates due to their different structures and genetic properties, this also needs to be taken into consideration when allowing the right expansion, so if you are unsure about the product and how it will respond to the environment then please contact the supplier for guidance.

Laminate flooring is designed to move as one continuous sheet, not like solid timber strip flooring which moves as individual boards.

Expansion required around the perimeter of the room and all fixed internal objects can vary. **As a general rule we recommend at least 8-12mm expansion gap be allowed.**

All skirtings and scotia fitted should allow easy movement of the flooring beneath and no caulking should be fitted in this gap.

Expansion joins come in many forms and colours please consult with the retailer if you require them.

At doorways the door jamb needs to be undercut well and all material removed for the timber floor to slide under and move freely if required.

Doorways are also a very good place to insert expansion trims if required.

Stairs

Flooring on stairs must be glued to the existing tread & riser, matching stair nosing to be fitted on the front edge of each step. Also please make sure that the stair nosing meets the slip test guidelines for each state in Australia

Subfloor preparation

We recommend using TerraMater EVALAY 3mm or 2mm underlay to achieve the correct feel and movement allowance.

Overlap the plastic moisture barrier sheet by at least 150mm and tape joins fully with a moisture proof tape, also tape the joins of the underlay.

The sub-floor should be dry and clean, absolutely flat and free of any cracks.

Irregularities on the sub-floor should not exceed 3mm over 1 l/m in all directions uneven floors give you a bouncy feel when walked on and also possibly cause squeaking.

When there is a need to level the concrete sub-floor use a reputable cement-based levelling compound.

If unsure of the relative humidity or moisture level of the slab or subfloor it is strongly advised that you first install 200um plastic moisture barrier sheet first on the concrete and then the underlay.

Should the RH of the sub-floor be above 95%, no flooring should be installed, This Is Strictly Prohibited.

Other Installation conditions

Kitchen Cupboards & Island Benches MUST never be installed on top of a floating floor system; this will restrict the overall movement of the flooring.

The correct installation process is to remove the kitchen kickers and finish the last board 5-10mm under the front edge of the kicker this cannot be affected by the weight of the cabinetry or cut 10mm short of the kitchen kickers and finish with a beading to cover the expansion gap.

In areas where the flooring comes into contact with direct heat from a fireplace, stove, heating system or direct sun light the floor will have a tendency to dry out more in these areas which may cause some shrinkage and gaps appearing. If possible, protect the floor with blinds or a mat to help reduce excessive moisture loss.

NuCore Laminate must not be installed in Wet Areas such as bathroom, laundries.

Under Floor Heating

- When installing over under floor heating system, ensure that the instruction of heating procedures is obeyed, before laying the floor.
- Floating floor laying instructions must be followed, and plastic sheet/ vapour barrier must first be fitted. The surface temperature from the underfloor heating must not exceed 27 degrees Celsius and the wattage should not exceed 60 watts/m².
- Turn on the heating system for at least 3 weeks prior to laying the floor and run at the desired temperature then switch off 48hrs before installation, the heating system can be started 1 week after the floor has been installed with gradual increases by 2 degrees increments each day until you reach the correct temperature and when turning off the heating system go down gradually by 2 degree increments each day until off.

Installation of Click Laminate

First plank, first row. Place a spacer of 8 to 10 mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances \approx 10mm.

Second plank, first row place this plank gently and tight to the short end of the first one.

Fold the panel down in a single action movement. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other. Afterwards press down or slightly tap down at the short end just installed till it clicks. No major force is required.

At the end of the first row, put a spacer \approx 10mm, to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.

Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 500mm. This is for stability of the floor.

Second plank, second row place the panel at an angle into the groove of the previous row making sure that the end of the panel is tight/flush to the short end of the previous panel.

Fold the panel down in a single action movement with a slight press to the left to the short end of the previous panel. Again using the tapping block tap it against the long end into the previous row. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other.

As it flattens itself to the floor, press or gently tap the top of the short end of the installed panel until it clicks. Finish installing this plank by tapping it with a tapping block on the long side to ensure secure installation.

After 2-3 rows, adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacers \approx 10mm. Once the adjustment is done against the main wall, continue to install till the last row.

Last row (and perhaps also first row). The minimum width of the last plank should be NOT LESS than 50mm. Remember distance to wall is 10mm. TIP: Put a spacer before measuring. Cut the panels lengthwise and glue the short ends.

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 **NuCore**
Real Wood Laminate