



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

READ COMPLETELY PRIOR TO INSTALLING

Pre-Installation:

Store the flooring in a **horizontal position at room temperature** (between 17oC and 24oC) for at least **48 hours prior** to installation to allow the product to acclimate. Always **check the floorboards for defects** such as chips and color differences under good light conditions. Check that the locking channel is clean and free from defects.

Tools Required:

Ruler or spirit level – to ensure the subfloor is level
Saw – fine tooth hand saw or electric jig saw to cut boards
Installation Kit – includes tapping block and spacers
Tape measure – to measure all rooms accurately
String line – to ensure walls are straight
Utility knife – to cut moisture barrier and underlay

Underlay:

Your subfloor will require an underlay covering and it is **strongly recommended to use an underlay with a moisture barrier film** to prevent moisture from affecting the floorboards from underneath. **Such underlays must be at least 2.0mm thick** and be laid with the film side down. A suitable underlay will provide enhanced sound reduction & eliminate minor imperfections in your subfloor.

Please note that **if your floors already include an underlay backing, the moisture barrier must be below 1.0mm.**

Suitable Subfloors:

Ensure your **subfloor is even, clean, flat, and dry**. Carpet staples and glue residue must be removed prior to commencing installation. Use your ruler or spirit level to check if the subfloor is level. Any unevenness of more than 3.0mm per 1.0 meter must be sanded down, filled, or leveled with an appropriate floor compound.

Check your floor for any moisture problems which must be resolved before commencing installation. New concrete needs to be cured for at least 60 days before installation. The use of an effective foam underlay with a built-in moisture barrier is always recommended.

Heated Subfloors:

Turn off the subfloor heating for 48 hours prior to installation and do not turn it back on for 48 hours after installation. The surface temperature of the floor must not exceed 24°C during installation.

Cleaning and Maintenance:

Your floorboards are sealed on all four edges with wax to protect them from moisture. Any waxy residue on the surface of the boards can easily be cleaned off with a cloth and warm water.

After installation, regular vacuuming or the use of a dry mop will clear loose debris and dust. The use of a laminate floor cleaner will clean up dirt and footprints but **avoid using excessive moisture** on your floor. **Never use a wax, polish, or scouring agent** as this will dull or distort the finish.

To avoid scratches apply felt pads to the legs of all furniture and use only soft rubber castors. Protect high-traffic areas with rugs or runners. Flooring laid in entrance areas must be protected by a suitable entrance mat.

Caution! Never use a steam cleaner as this may damage the floors.

Basic Installation:

1. All flooring installations require good-quality foam underlay with a moisture barrier. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the floor panels with the body of the foam butted side-by-side. Tape the seams together with vapor barrier tape or use the self-adhesive overlap included with some underlays.
2. Begin laying in the left-hand corner & use spacers to maintain an expansion gap of 8mm minimum between the wall & the flooring. (This can be done without spacers by leaving a gap in the wall and then pushing the flooring to within 8mm prior to completion of the floor). The first floorboard should be placed on the floor with the long (tongue) side facing the wall.
3. To attach the second floorboard insert the end tongue of the second floorboard into the end groove of the first floorboard at a 45° angle. Lower the floorboards flat to the floor & line the edges up carefully.
4. Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last floorboard. Fit the last floorboard by rotating it 180° (pattern side upwards) & place it next to the row you are completing. Mark where it needs to be cut (remember to leave an 8mm

minimum expansion gap), then saw off the excess and fit as described in step 3 above.

5. If using a hand saw cut with the decorative side up but if using a jig or circular saw, have the decorative side down to avoid chipping.
6. Begin the next row from the left by using the off-cut piece from the previous row as this will assist in creating a staggered effect. Off-cut pieces should be a minimum of 200mm & always ensure the end joint offsets are at least 400mm.
7. To start the second row push the longer tongue side of the floorboard into the shorter groove side of the very first installed floorboard at a 45° angle. When lowered the floorboard will click into place.
8. Attach the second floorboard of the new row on the long side at a 45° angle & click into place leaving a small gap on the short end next to the short end of the previous floorboard.
9. Tap horizontally on the end of the second floorboard of the new row using a tapping block to close the end gap between the floorboards (being careful not to over-tap) until the panels touch. Continue with the rest of the floor as described above.
10. To fit the last row, lay a floorboard upside down & using a ruler measure the space that needs to be cut – remember to allow 6-8mm for spacers to provide an expansion gap – cut the floorboard & attach it into position.
11. Door frames & heating vents also require an expansion gap. Cut the floorboard to the correct length then place the cut board next to its actual position & use a ruler to measure the area to be cut – mark accordingly. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion gap on each side.
12. Trim the bottom of door frames as necessary to allow clearance over the newly laid floorboards.
13. Installations: If the room is more or less square and does not experience major temperature during the course of a day, then you can lay a surface of up to 10m long and 8m wide without extra expansion joints in the floor surface. With lengths of more than 10m and widths of more than 8m, there should be an intermediate expansion joint. It is also recommended to foresee expansion joints under the doors between rooms to separate the rooms.

Finishing:

Remove spacers and you are ready to install finishing moldings/trims. To finish the perimeter of the room, install a wooden quad molding by nailing to the skirtings (**never nail to the floorboards**).

Warranty:

Stonewood recommends that all their floor coverings be professionally installed for a valid warranty.

Stonewood warrants all products to be free from defects in material and workmanship, under normal use and service, for a specified length of time from the date of purchase as set forth below. This Limited Warranty only applies provided the flooring covered by this warranty is installed and maintained according to the Stonewood Installation & Maintenance Manual.

Warranty Owner:

This warranty extends only to the original end-user. Stonewood warranties are non-transferable. No installer, retailer, distributor, agent, or employee of Stonewood may alter the obligations or limitations of any Stonewood warranty.

Warranty Limitations:

Please take notice that none of the following kinds of problems are problems arising from defects in material or workmanship, and are therefore not covered by this Product Warranty:

- a) Defects arising from poor installation (this includes - damage arising from sub-floor irregularities, for example, excessive unevenness, loose nails or other protrusions; visual surface defects caused by previous floor coverings that should have been removed or covered, for example ceramic or bitumastic tiles, floor-boards, cushioned vinyl, or by failure in the underlayment; seams 'peaking' or opening due to use of incorrect adhesive or seaming method; edge-to-edge shade variation; discoloration arising from installation next to a source of excessive heat); and visible trowel marks.
- b) Dissatisfaction due to improper maintenance.
- c) Problems arising from excessive moisture, alkali, or hydrostatic pressure in the substrate.



- d) Problems arising from cuts, tears, gouges, burns, or other damage caused by stiletto or sharp high heels (these will damage even concrete!), sharp or hot objects dropped on the floor, dragged appliances, unprotected furniture feet, damage from pets, etc.
- e) Damage caused by chemically reactive material, carpet crocking, dye, mold, stains, spillage, burns, gouges, scratches, indentations, floods, accidents, abuse, or any harsh scouring pads while buffing.
- f) Small differences in color and or texture between the actual material or photographic images of the material and the actual flooring purchased.
- g) Construction or installation-related damage.
- h) Surface scratches, changes in shading, texture, and/or gloss during use.
- i) Damage caused by inappropriate end-user activities.
- j) Installation of products with adhesives other than those recommended by Stonewood
- k) Products may have slight color variations not detected at the factory. All products must be dry laid and examined under standard lighting conditions for color acceptance before being installed.

The preceding list is not exhaustive but is merely illustrative, of the many kinds of problems that are not due to defects in material or workmanship in the products and are not within the coverage of this warranty. Other such problems not described on the list above are also outside the scope of this warranty.

This Limited Warranty is in lieu of any other warranties, expressed or implied. Please keep your receipt or obtain it from the original purchaser. Stonewood requires the receipt to verify the date of purchase to help resolve any problems.