



HOW TO FIT YOUR NEW FLOOR LAMINATE



Tools you'll need

To install these floors yourself you'll need some tools to help with the job.



HAVE THESE TO HAND:

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Pencil
- Workbench or sawhorse
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Planks of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Handsaw or electric saw
- Chisel (for fitting around architrave)
- Drill (for covering pipework)
- Moisture meter – the correct type for your subfloor
- Combination square
- Rubber mallet
- Beading or skirting boards (to finish the look)
- Safety precautions i.e. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders

[Some of these tools are available through our website](#)

Your installation options

Our Laminate Flooring is best installed with the following method:

THIS GUIDE IS BASED ON SINGLE PLANK LAMINATE FLOORING, SO IF YOU'RE FITTING PARQUET, PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT OUR PARQUET-SPECIFIC GUIDE TOO.

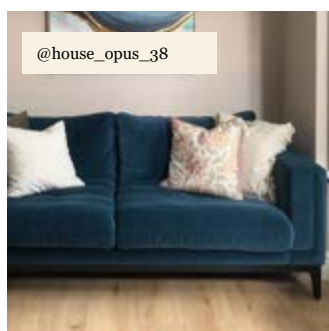
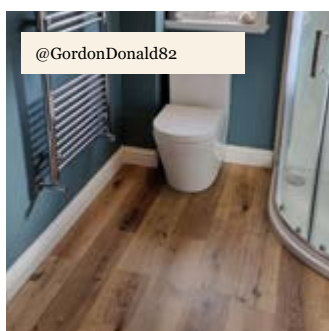
FLOATING FLOOR

In a floating floor, the boards click together and join to each other, instead of to the subfloor. This is ideal for a click-joining floor such as laminate as it's a lot easier to fit. For this method, we'd advise you to have underlay installed and prepped.



Need inspiration?

Head to our social media channels to see how our customers have laid their floors to see if it gives you any ideas. Or you could try out our [Room Visualiser tool](#) to test out how your floor would look laid in different directions.



Before you jump in

1. CHECK THE PACKS

Once the flooring arrives you should check one box to make sure you're happy with the product.

Some of our wood-effect laminate flooring is designed to look just like real wood which means there may be some colour variation between the planks and batches. When you get to laying the floor you can make the most of these colour contrasts by mixing and matching planks with different shades to get a lovely natural look.



2. LEAVE TO ACCLIMATISE

Your laminate floor should be left for 24 hours in the room it's going to be fitted in.

This time allows the floor to acclimatise. To do this, lay the packs on the floor or in stacks, just as long as they stay horizontal and that there's equal weight distributed across them all. Leave the planks in their packaging but open each end to let some air in. Try to make sure the room stays at the same temperature you'd usually have it at so 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 planks used to the heat. Refer to the advice given by your heating supplier on how to do this.



3. PREPARE THE SUBFLOOR

Before you lay your new floor, you'll need to remove the existing flooring, prepare the subfloor and ensure it is clean, dry and level.

We recommend a concrete or wooden subfloor for the best result. Use a moisture meter to check the subfloor is dry enough before you start.

If you do 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 boards. You'll need to do this to prevent the floors from expanding and buckling (many underlays now come with built-in damp-proof membranes).

Any screws or nails in your subfloor should be fixed below the surface. This is so you can be sure they won't puncture through the underlay (if you're using it). Remove any old adhesive from previous floors and vacuum the floor to pick up any excess dust or debris.

Now's the time to get your underlay down if you're using it. Roll it out in the same direction as you're fitting the floor and secure the rows together with tape.

If your subfloor is made of joists, you'll need to fix a layer of plywood over the top, to ensure it's stable before you fit your floor.

JOIST SPACING	PLYWOOD THICKNESS
40.6cm - 48.6cm	19mm
48.7cm - 60.8cm	19-22mm
60.9cm +	22-28mm *

*Use tongue & groove (T&G) plywood or oriented strand board (OSB).

Once your plywood is down, check again that the subfloor is level.

4. PLAN THE LOOK

Think about the direction you'd like your planks to lie. As a general rule of thumb, lay the boards against the longest wall for the best effect.

If it's a square room you might want to follow the room's light flow, or follow on from the entrance.

If you've gone for herringbone or parquet you can choose the direction and style of the pattern and how you want the eye to be drawn when you enter the room.

5. AND ONE LAST THING...

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

Work your way from the top of the room to the bottom so that once you're ready for the floor to go in, there's much less chance of damaging it. This counts for new kitchens and islands too so always fit the floor after units have been installed rather than before. This way you'll make sure your new floor doesn't buckle under the weight.





Floating method

TIME TO LAY YOUR FLOOR...



1. Before laying the planks, measure the width of the final row. You can do this by dividing the total width of the room by the width of an individual plank. This will allow you to cut down the first row of planks to ensure the final row is at least 60mm wide.
2. Place spacers between the first row and the walls to make an expansion gap of at least 2mm. If you're using underfloor heating, we recommend a minimum of 5mm.
3. Lay the floor from left to right starting at the longest wall with the tongue part of the plank facing the wall.
4. Stagger each plank by at least 30cm to create a natural look and a strong foundation. To do this, you'll need to cut a plank at the end of each row. Ensure these planks are laid so that the cut side is facing the outside wall. Use the remainder of the previous plank to continue to stagger the joints from row to row.
5. To fully connect the planks, knock gently (don't use a mallet here as you may damage the click connection) on the outer end.
6. After the first row, connect each plank to the previous row as well as the plank next to it. You can do this by clicking each joint into the gap of the plank in front, starting at a high angle and applying light pressure. After you hear a click, lower it flat on the floor. Repeat the previous step to make sure all planks are connected as closely as possible with no gaps.
7. The last row might be tricky, but a pull bar and rubber mallet can help to create a tight fit.

Finishing touches

- To fit your laminate around any pipes, first mark the position of the pipe in the board you're using. 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 hole and then reattach this wedge with glue behind the pipe so the plank appears intact.
- For fitting around door frames, start by removing the door from the frame. Line up an offcut of flooring along with a threshold bar stacked on top to make sure it will fit underneath the architrave. If needed, use a handsaw and chisel to trim the bottom of the architrave to the correct height. You may also need to trim the bottom of the door before refitting.
- You can then use matching beading and thresholds to cover expansion gaps and blend the new floors in with your existing walls, making it look professional and seamless. Make sure not to attach any trims to the flooring itself or it may affect the expansion gaps.
- Any spare planks or cuttings can be kept in case any repairs need to be made.
- If the expansion gap has been left too large and the skirting or moulding doesn't cover it, you can use spare floorboards to cut strips using a hand saw and glue these strips into place.

Forgotten something? It's not too late to order these...



PIPE COVERS



SKIRTING BOARD



RAMP



T PROFILE

Your flooring is finished!

- After putting in the finishing touches (like our range of beautiful radiator pipe covers, skirting boards, stair nosing, and door profiles), you can introduce your furniture, stand back and take it all in. You just fitted your very own Luxury Floor!
- We'd love to see your accomplishments! So make sure you take plenty of pictures and post them online **@luxuryflooring** on Instagram and Facebook. Tag us **#MyLuxuryFloor**

We hope you're happy with your new laminate flooring but if you have any questions or issues, don't hesitate to check out our advice centre or get in touch with our Luxury Flooring customer service team at **0333 577 0025**

Now that you've fitted your new Luxury Floor let's keep that new floor feeling for as long as possible with some helpful hints and tips on how to care for it.

Some general tips

- Laminate is water-resistant but it's still best to clean up any spillages straight away to make sure water doesn't get absorbed into the wooden layer underneath.
- If you have any furry friends, keep their nails nice and trimmed so the floor doesn't get scratched. Laminate flooring is scratch-resistant but prevention is always better than the cure.
- Be careful not to drag furniture across the floor and always use felt pads.
- Keep the floor's exposure to direct sunlight down to a minimum.
- You might want to swap shoes for slippers to avoid any dents, especially with high heels.

Keep it clean

- Brush up at least once a week to get rid of any dust and dirt that could scratch the floor. Choose a brush with soft bristles that will be nice and gentle.
- If you're using a vacuum cleaner, make sure to use a suitable attachment that won't scratch the floor.
- Microfibre mops are great as they use static electricity to pick up dirt rather than just pushing it around the floor.
- Mop the floor every couple of weeks with a slightly damp mop that's been well wrung out so that no water soaks into the floor.
- Only use cleaning products that are suitable for laminate floors. If you're ever unsure, test the product out on a small hidden area before you apply it to the whole floor.
- Try to avoid vinegar and soap-based cleaning products as these can be too harsh on the surface of the floor.
- Stay away from steam cleaners as the floor won't do well with the water and heat.

If you have any questions...

Get in touch with our Luxury Flooring customer service team on **0333 577 0025**.