

## 8 & 12MM MR LAMINATE (WATER RESISTANT) - CLICK FLOATING INSTALLATION

For our Aspect 72hr and Oakleaf HD PLUS 48hr laminate ranges we provide important guidelines that must be followed to ensure a quality installation. Please read the entire document as many important considerations are noted for a floating installation, we encourage you to use professional contractors to ensure the flooring is correctly installed.

Moisture resistant (MR) or otherwise known as Water Resistant (WR) refers to normal household interior topical water & liquid spills such as drinks etc. it does not cover flooding, site leakages, or abrasive & corrosive cleaning solutions. Do not use Supermarket labelled hard floor cleaning liquids that are often in a concentrated form and if used incorrectly will damage the surface coating.

All floating installations require an Acoustic Underlay & Moisture Barrier (MB) system. **Substrate flatness is critical; sub-floor should not exceed 3mm over a 3m radius in all directions. Any hollows or humps need to be assessed and rectified prior to installation.** Please follow manufacturer's guidelines for leveling compound application and drying times. Loose planks, particle board and plywood need to be secure, additional fixings may be required. Do not install during temperature extremes, hot or cold. Whenever possible cover windows & door openings 24 hours prior to install to moderate the interior temperature, reduce excessive heat, and direct UV.

**Please note: our structural warranty covers the professional installation for use over, In-slab Hydronic under-floor heating only.** The heating system and flooring must be installed in compliance with the strict guidelines of the heating manufacturer's recommendations for pre & post installation. Operational & service guidelines must be followed as overheating will damage the floor. **In-screed hydronic heating or electric heat blanket systems or similar are not covered by our warranty. Do not install in close proximity to an open fire place or static heating unit.**

**Before proceeding with installation** site conditions need to be inspected by the installer prior to commencing. Site specific circumstances such proximity to water, river systems and coastal regions along with other climatic extremes will require more complex installations methods and extra expansion allowances. Under floor inspections must be conducted before installation whenever possible.

Ensure installers are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and that the site is well ventilated and protected from excessive heat, direct sunlight, or moisture ingress. Use temporary window coverings if the site is unoccupied or if no coverings exists.

### PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

Importantly, a professional contractor should perform the installation. The installation process and method selected is solely the responsibility of the contractor and you must be satisfied that the contractor is qualified to conduct your site installation. Workmanship of installation is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Should you have any concerns contact the retailer or building contractor.

At site, please store the product in original cartons placed on a flat, dry area away from any extreme temperatures or moisture.

1. The planks must be carefully inspected prior to install to detect any imperfections, do not install planks that contain defects. If certain planks are displaying slight bow set aside under load to assist with site acclimatisation, these planks can be reused later.
2. **FAULTY PLANKS SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED; no warranty will apply. A waste factor of 10 % is required for length cutting, sorting and visual selection. If product faults are detected set aside and contact the point of purchase or builder promptly.**
3. The site area must be clean and free of any contaminants, dust, or other construction / painting activity whilst the installation is in progress. Make sure you have the necessary protective floor covering available if further construction activity is still occurring at the site. Do not use adhesive tape directly on the surface of the planks.
4. Our Laminate click flooring ranges are designed to be installed without glue. The Angle/Angle or Fold Down 5G click system allows the planks to be joined without adhesive to the sub-floor. In some situations, a cross-linked DIN certified PVA adhesive will make it easier to assemble planks under door thresholds and tight floor spaces, the black plastic tongue may be removed if adhesive is being used to secure the short - end joint. **Refer diagram, Special Installations.**

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**FLOATING INSTALLATION – Acoustic underlay with attached moisture barrier (PE) film or an acoustic underlay with 200uM builders' plastic (BP) placed on the sub-floor to function as a moisture barrier is required. No moisture barrier, no warranty.**

All floating installations require a moisture barrier and acoustic underlay on top of all substrates. Our 2mm Standard and Ultra Green Underlay are suitable 2 in 1 products. Both options incorporate a PE moisture barrier film attached to an acoustic sound dampening foam. If the product selected does not include a moisture barrier PE film, you must install 200uM builders' plastic (BP) under the acoustic foam prior to installation.

**Perimeter and room to room expansion provisions must be followed to ensure warranty guidelines are compliant.**

1. **Concrete slab must be dry, approx. 2.5% - 4.5% and wood-based floors dry, maximum 14 %. Substrate flatness is critical; sub-floor should not exceed 3mm over a 3m radius in all directions.** For concrete slabs, any hollows or humps must be levelled prior to installation. Please follow manufacturer's guidelines for leveling compound application and drying times. **Do not install flooring if levelling compound is not dry. Do not install if the subfloor has a history of moisture related issues.**
2. **Place acoustic underlay with PE film & or 200uM BP with underlay on sub-floor & up wall skirt area approx. (>50mm), overlap and tape securely to avoid any moisture ingress from the subfloor and perimeter walls.**
3. **First and last plank length should not be less than 300 mm, short end joins on parallel planks should be at least 300 mm in distance from the adjoining plank, Figure 1.** Plan the layout of plank lengths and for visual aspects prior to final fix. This will assist in providing a balanced blend of grade, colour, and joint alignment. For optimum visual impact planks should run in the direction of the longest wall area. It is always a smart idea to make sure the owner's expectations are consistent with the installer's layout plan.
4. The floor installation requires **perimeter expansion of 12 – 15mm for all floating installations, this cannot be avoided. Width areas greater than > 6m and typical hallway length runs greater than >11m** will require expansion and transmission joins to assist with the natural movement of a floating installation. Compartmentalising each room or area of install is recommended.

**Allow an extra 1 - 2 mm expansion gap for every extra 1m of width over the standard raft/room size, (6m x 8m), for hallways greater than > 11m . Adequate space around heating and service ducts must be created to allow the floor to expand and contract. Refer Figure 2 & 3. Aesthetic surface caulking for small holes and cut outs is ok or add a foam backing rod and surface fill around waterfall bench tops, do not fill the expansion gap with caulking. Note: perimeter caulking in room areas will stop necessary floor movement, do not use. Also, do not fix skirting/scotia directly to floor planks, fix to wall surface.**

5. If the client objects to room to room, in-room, or perimeter trim inclusions, both the reseller and installer should keep a record that the client did not wish to include necessary expansion trims **and the warranty will not apply. All expansion guidelines must be followed for warranty compliance.** As stated previously, wherever possible, each room or area should be treated as a separate install, this will assist in reducing floor movement and floor tension for an optimum install.
6. **Large objects such as Kitchen Island benches & cabinetry should not be placed on a floating floor.** The floor planks need to be installed around the perimeter of the Island Bench or under the bench kick boards/fascia to allow for natural floor movement.
7. To better blend and balance the natural batch variation the installer should always work from several open cartons of product to create a balanced and natural visual for the installation. Planning the install areas is a critical part of the project.

Figure 1. Spacing.

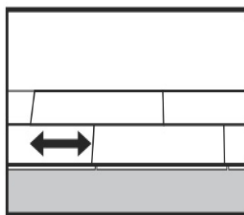


Figure 2. Cuts.

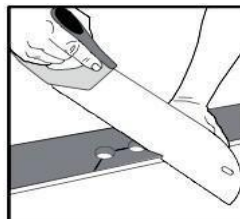


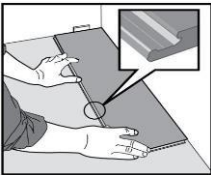
Figure 3. Cuts & glue.



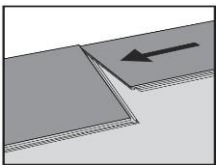
## DIAGRAMS: EXAMPLE, OAKLEAF 12MM LAMINATE FLOORING WITH 5G CLICK ANGLE / FOLD PROFILE.

**Note; ASPECT 12MM & OAKLEAF 8MM USE AN ANGLE/ANGLE ASSEMBLY METHOD.**

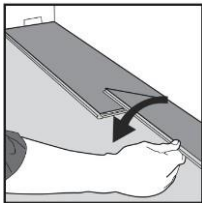
**Sawing / Cutting tip;** Take care when cutting to avoid surface chipping, if you are using a cross-cut hand saw or electric drop saw, the surface of the plank should be face up to avoid chipping. If you are using a handheld electric sawing device such as a jig saw, then it is recommended you place the surface face down to avoid chipping.



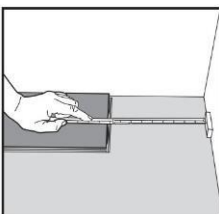
**Fig. 1 First plank, first row.** Place a spacer of **12-15 mm thickness** to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances **12- 15 mm**.



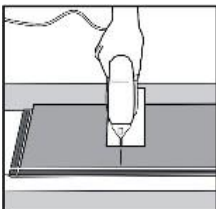
**Fig 2. Second plank, first row** angle long side & fold short end into place gently and tight to the short end of first plank. Light hand pressure or a lengthways tap maybe required to secure tightly. **Please make sure both long edges and short ends are tight with no visible gaps.**



**Fig 3. Fold / Angle the plank down.** During the angle process make sure the planks are tight against each other. Afterwards press down or slightly tap down at the short end or long edge of the installed plank till its flat. No major force is or required, use a tapping block or piece of softwood to avoid edge damage. **8 & 12mm Angle / Angle click is similar, just requires angle into join rather than fold down.**



**Fig 4. At the end of the first row, put a spacer 12 - 15 mm at the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.**

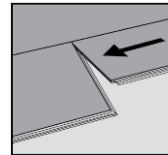


**Fig 5. Cut to length– remember sawing tips,** if cutting using a drop-saw or hand saw, cut it with the visible face up. Then install it as per previous plank. If using a jig saw its face down to avoid chipping.

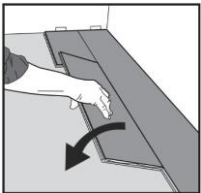
## DIAGRAMS: EXAMPLE 5G CLICK PROFILE CONTINUED.



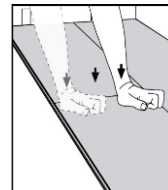
**Fig 7.** General distances between short ends. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows **shall not be less than 300-500 mm**. This improves the stability of the floor.



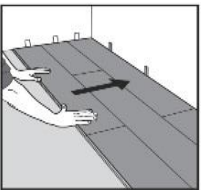
**Fig 8a** Second plank, second row place the panel at an angle into the groove of the previous row make sure that the end of the plank is tight/flush to the short end of the previous plank. Lengthways tap is required to flush and secure short end join.



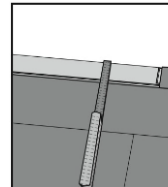
**Fig 8b** Fold or angle the plank down with a slight press slight press to the left to the short end of the previous plank. Again, using the tapping block tap it against the against the long end into the previous row. During the fold /angle fold / angle down, make sure the plank is tight against tight against each other.



**Figs 8c** as it flattens itself to the floor **press or gently tap** the top of the short end of the installed panel until its flat. Finish installing this plank by tapping it with a tapping block on the long side to ensure secure installation.



**Fig 9** After 2-3 rows adjust the spacing distance to the front wall by placing spacers spacer's 12- 15 mm. Once the adjustment is done against wall, continue install till the last row.



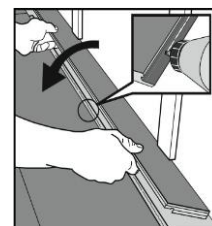
**Fig 10.** Last row (and perhaps also first row). The minimum width of the last plank should be **NOT LESS** than 50 mm. Remember distance to wall is 12-15 mm. Tip! Put a spacer before measuring. Cut the planks lengthwise and glue the short ends. See instructions below.

## Special installations - small plank widths. Diagram 1 & 2

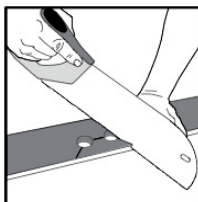


**Diagram 1**

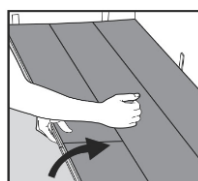
**For tight spaces under door thresholds or wall ends.** Joining at short ends length cut planks. Cut the tongue at the same time you cut the length of the plank and install as shown above. Note that the smallest width of a plank is 50 mm at the last row. If it is not, the first-row width must be adjusted. This can be calculated when measuring the room width before installation. Cut off the locking element with a chisel, push the planks horizontally together. If necessary, place spacers between the last plank and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the glue. **Black plastic tongue can be removed in these circumstances. Angle / Angle click will not have a Black Plastic Tongue.**



**Diagram 2**



**Radiator pipes, installation at radiators.** Drill the holes 20 mm larger than the diameter of the pipes. Cut out the panel (with the thinnest blade possible) as per diagram. Install the plank as per normal. Glue the cut-out piece back again. Surface caulking for small holes or cut outs is ok, avoid filling.



**Disassembling,** the floor can be disassembled which enables replacement during installation and during use. Separate the whole row by carefully lifting and slightly knocking just above the joint. Fold up or angle and release the whole long side. Disassemble the planks by sliding horizontally where possible or fold up and angle to release.

## MR LAMINATE - FLOOR CARE & MAINTENANCE

- Our MR Laminate ranges provide a moisture / water-resistant surface and core that will not require any special treatment directly after installation. Whilst the MR Laminate ranges provide a certain level of extra moisture / water-resistant attributes it is important that regular care and maintenance responsibilities are performed to better preserve the floor. If you follow these general cleaning and required maintenance guidelines your new floor will perform as intended for many years to come. **An expanded MR Laminate floor care guide is available for easy reading or download from our website.**
- **Please cover flooring with adequate protection if construction or painting is still occurring at the site.** Floor protection such as compressed cardboard, thin MDF panels or similar are worthwhile but cannot be left in place for an extended period. **Do not use adhesive tape directly on the surface of the laminate planks, the coating surface may get damaged when removed.** Incidental scratching, chipping and indentations from external sources are site related and therefore will not be covered by our warranty.
- For floating installations requiring skirting-boards or scotia, these items should be installed by fixing them directly to the adjacent wall. **Do not fix skirting or scotia trim directly into the laminate floor,** this will stop the floor from moving freely and create floor tension and floor buckling (speed bumps). Undercutting existing skirting or door jambs is a common method to accommodate the necessary perimeter expansion if you intend to keep the original skirting.
- The floor must be protected from direct sunlight. Screens, blinds, or window tinting must be used to inhibit direct sun. **Large rugs and mats should not be introduced until the floor has acclimatised in its environment; this will take approx. 8 weeks. Move rugs regularly to avoid colour variations in the floor surface from internal light and UV exposure.**
- Do not place office chairs or castor wheel chairs directly on the surface of the floor, a rigid plastic chair protector or similar must be placed on the surface to stop damage from chair movement and grit build up.
- Place felt or similar floor protection pads under all kitchen or occasional furniture & chairs. This should assist in reducing general wear & tear in higher traffic areas.
- **Do not use steam / electric mop or excessive wet mopping to clean the floor at any time.** Static or absorbent towelling mops or well wrung damp mops can be used for all laminate floor surfaces. When incidental spills occur simply wipe dry with an absorbent cloth or clean with a well rung damp mop. Use a light bristle broom for daily cleaning. **Do not use generic supermarket floor cleaning solutions on the floor,** we recommend professional floor care products such as **Bona** or **Loba**. **Spray Mop Kits and refill floor cleaning** products are readily available online or through popular retail outlets in Australia & New Zealand.
- **An expanded MR Laminate floor care guide is available for easy reading or download from our website.**

Our MR laminate flooring products are manufactured from natural wood-based materials that will expand and contract in shape if moisture or humidity is elevated, they may also shrink if moisture or humidity become extremely low. As a natural product changes from these circumstances may lead to irreversible damage if the interior temperature and humidity is constantly exposed to extremes. Please review the floor care guide to familiarise yourself with the requirements on how best to live and maintain your laminate floor. By following our simple floor care and install guidelines a well-maintained laminate floor can last a lifetime.

**Disclaimer:** Preference Floors has used its reasonable endeavours to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained herein and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be liable for any inaccuracies, omissions, or errors in this information nor for any actions taken in reliance on this information. Products must be installed in accordance with relevant installation recommendations and industry best practices.

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