

# TORLYS Laminate INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Dear Customer,

You have purchased a high quality TORLYS Laminate flooring, well suited for all residential rooms\*. Please take a moment to review the installation instructions and plan your installation carefully.

**\*TORLYS Laminate flooring is not suitable for use in SAUNAS.**

**SET UP** To ensure you have sufficient material on hand, calculate the total area of the room and add 5% of material to allow for custom cutting. 24 hours prior to installation, place the closed packages in the middle of the room, NEVER against a wall or in a corner. Do not open the packages until you are ready to begin installation. Inspect each plank before installation. If you find any defects, do not use the plank. Contact your dealer immediately.

**PREPARATION** Remove existing carpet, baseboards, quarter-rounds and thresholds. Undercut door jambs using a piece of flooring material (plus the respective underlay) as a guide. Repair all defects in the sub-floor. Ensure all doors can still open and close after installing the floor (minimum 3/8" – 1 cm clearance). The door frames may need to be adapted. To ensure visual appeal, we suggest you first dry-lay the material across the width of the room. The planks in the last row should be no less than 3" (7.5 cm) wide. For any special flooring design, find the center of the room, then measure out to build the pattern.

**SUB-FLOORS** Repair any defects in the sub-floor. All sub-floors must be clean, firm, flat (within 3/16" - 4.8 mm in 10 ft - 3m), dry (less than 3% moisture on concrete, 10% or less on plywood) and smooth. You can lay the planks over any solid and stable sub-floor material, including plywood, chipboard, old non-creaking flooring boards, hardwood flooring, concrete slabs, PVC or most ceramic tile (avoid heavily embossed tile). DO NOT install over existing carpet. Wood sub-floors must be structurally sound. Any loose parts must be nailed or screwed and, if necessary, a levelling compound must be applied. It is essential that the crawl space under wood sub-floors is sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and provide sufficient ventilation. A 6 mil (.15mm) poly vapour barrier must be installed on the crawl space floor. A freshly poured concrete slab must dry for at least 1 week per centimetre thickness, up to 4 cm (1-5/8"), and 2 weeks per centimetre thickness above 4 cm, with sufficient ventilation. A 6 centimetre (2-7/16") concrete slab must therefore dry out for a minimum of 8 weeks.

**LAYOUT** The floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to insure colour and shade mix. If possible, lay the planks parallel to window light. The ideal environment is a temperature of 60°F - 70°F (15°C - 20°C) and relative humidity of 40- 60%. The floor will be stronger and more stable if the joints are staggered at least 8" - 20 cm in each row. Staggered or irregular joints result in less waste and enhance the overall appearance of the floor. Expansion wedges must be used on all walls to allow for proper expansion space. The wedges should be removed after the flooring installation has been completed, and the expansion space should be covered by baseboard and/or quarter round.

**NOTE** Never hit the planks directly with your hammer. Always use a Uniclic® tapping block to protect the edges of the planks. DO NOT USE ANY OTHER TAPPING BLOCK – otherwise you will damage the planks!

## TOOLS

- Hammer (1 lb)
- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- 3/8" (8-10mm) wedges
- Uniclic® Tapping Block
- Last-board Puller
- Saw



**When sawing pieces off the planks, use a fine-toothed hand saw, jigsaw or cross-cut saw.**

**FLOATING METHOD** Prepare the sub-floor. Cover all solid ground with Torlys foam (or cork) underlayment, rolled out and taped at seams. The TORLYS foam underlayment includes a 3" adhesive overlap, which makes the use of damp-proof tape necessary only at the short ends of the rolls. The TORLYS underlayment will also provide a sound deadening barrier for your floor. When using TORLYS cork underlayment (instead of TORLYS foam) over concrete or ceramic sub-floors, first cover the sub-floor with 6 mil (0.15mm) poly, overlap edges by 12" (30cm), damp-proof tape the seams and run up 4" (10cm) on each wall. DO NOT USE GLUE

**PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE** To ensure the full benefit of the TORLYS Laminate Flooring warranty and to extend the beauty of your new floor for years to come, we recommended the following preventative maintenance suggestions: Install floor protectors on furniture legs to protect against scratches and dents. These furniture pads should have no wrinkles and be made of soft, non-staining material (e.g. felt pads). Do not drag furniture or other heavy objects across the floor. Avoid high heels or shoes with protruding nails. Some types of high heel shoes can severely damage the surface of any floor covering. Sweep and vacuum floor regularly. Avoid sand and grit build up. Use protective mats or rugs at doorways and areas of heavy wear. For dry maintenance, use a dust mop, vacuum cleaner or dry cloth. For damp maintenance, use the TORLYS Cleaning Kit, available from your Authorized Dealer, and follow the maintenance instructions on the container.

**IMPORTANT!** To keep your warranty valid, use TORLYS recommended maintenance products and follow TORLYS maintenance instructions.

Maintain the humidity level at 30-60%. Certain regions within North America have extreme changes in humidity levels, which may affect all floors. To maintain humidity within a healthy range, a humidifier or dehumidifier may be required. Never wet mop your TORLYS Laminate floor. Never wax or use oil based products on your TORLYS Laminate floor.

## INSTRUCTIONS

**1) GENERAL** Uniclic® is a revolutionary system for installing floating floors without glue. Instead, Uniclic® uses an ingenious tongue and groove system to "click" the planks together. The Uniclic® system enables you to work 50% faster than with traditional glued floating floors. Since there is no glue, Uniclic® is much easier to work with.

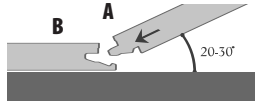
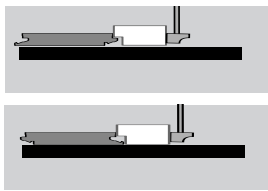
**IMPORTANT!** Use a hammer and the special Uniclic® tapping block. Never use any other tapping block, as it may damage the planks. Use a Uniclic® "last-board puller" to pull exposed joints tight, where a tapping block and hammer will not fit. For a short edge, use several small taps until the planks click together completely. For a long edge, tap planks together gradually. Begin tapping lightly at the corner of a plank until the joint has clicked together. Repeat the process approximately every 12" (30 cm) until the entire long edge of the plank has clicked in with the next plank. Never attempt to knock the Uniclic® joint into place with just one hit.

For the best results, follow the installation instructions and use only:

- A) UNICLIC® INSTALLATION KIT (spacer wedges, Uniclic® tapping block and last-board puller).
- B) TORLYS MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS.
- C) 6 MIL POLY VAPOUR BARRIER for installations of cork underlayment over concrete or ceramic sub-floors.

## 2) CORRECT INSTALLATION

Wood is the primary component of TORLYS Laminate flooring. Since the humidity of a room can vary from one season to the next, the floor must be able to expand and contract in ALL directions. An 3/8" (8 - 10 mm) expansion gap must be provided at all walls, around pipes and at thresholds. These gaps should be covered by a moulding that is not fixed to the floor but to the sub-floor (T-moulds, Reducers, Square-nosing) or to the wall (Baseboards and/or Quarter-round). Provide expansion gaps under doors. Install the planks in the same direction as the longest wall, or, if possible, parallel to window light, for a more appealing look. In areas longer or wider than 50 feet (15 meters), an expansion T-mould must be used. Begin installing the floor from the left corner of the room. Always remember that the easiest way to install the floor is by placing the tongue (A) in to the groove (B).



**3) THE FIRST ROWS** Saw off the tongue of the first plank, both on the short as well as the long edge. For all other first row planks cut off the tongue on the long edge (Photo I).

Orient the first plank in the left corner of the room. Maintain a spacing of 3/8" (8-10 mm), using wedges. Lay the planks with the tongue side (I) facing the wall in order to use the tongue/groove system. Lay the first rows along the wall (note that an expansion area of 3/8" i.e. 8-10mm must be provided at the wall, as well as at all columns, pipes, steel doorframes, etc). Turn plank inclined with the end joint into the already laid plank. Click the two together. Ensure that the planks of the first row are straight (II).

**When installing 3-lengths' TORLYS Uptown laminate, the installation sequence of the planks should be: long – medium, long – short, long – medium...**

The cut piece from the first row becomes the starting piece for the second row. Install the cut edge facing the wall, with the expansion wedge in place. Now angle this piece and click it into the first plank of the first row. The cut pieces should be a minimum of 8" - 20 cm in length (III).

Continue the second row with a full piece, placing the tongue of the long side into the groove of first row piece (IV). Move the end joints together until they are approximately 1/4" – 6 mm apart. Click the plank lengthwise into place. For the short edge, use a number of smaller taps with the Uniclic® tapping block, until the planks click into place completely.

Do not attempt to knock the Uniclic® joint into place with one hit. Continue this method for each plank, covering the entire width of the room.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the stagger between the head joints should be 8" (20 cm) minimum, and preferably 12" (30 cm). Cut the last planks of each row leaving a 3/8" (8-10 mm) gap to the wall.

**4) THE FINAL ROW** There should be a 3/8" (8-10 mm) expansion joint between the final row and the wall. To create this, saw off the long edges of the last row of planks. Place the planks one by one next to the planks of the previous row. Tap the edges together using the last board puller and hammer. Tap the short edges together using the Uniclic® tapping block.

**5) UNDER DOOR FRAMES** Saw the planks so that after installation there is a 3/8" (8-10mm) expansion joint. If you cannot incline and click this plank, use the last-board puller or the Uniclic® tapping block and hammer to tap the planks together.

**6) COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION** After installing your floor, you can immediately walk on it and begin the final touches. This is one of the major benefits of the Uniclic® system. Remove all spacer wedges and install baseboards and/or quarter-rounds. Never attach the baseboard to the floor itself, but to the wall instead. You need to allow the floor to expand and contract underneath the baseboard. If a vapour barrier has been used, attach the baseboard through the plastic membrane sticking up from the floor, using finishing nails. Finish the pipes with rosettes or silicone seal. Where no mouldings or baseboards can be installed, fill the expansion gap with silicone seal. **IN BATHROOMS:** the use of silicone to seal the expansion gaps is mandatory in all bathroom installations.

**7) RADIANT HEAT APPLICATION** Contact TORLYS for installation procedures regarding radiant heat applications.

[www.torlys.com](http://www.torlys.com)

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