

Glossary of Common Engineered Flooring Terms

High-Density Fibreboard (HDF): A high-strength, engineered fibreboard designed for applications where increased strength is needed. Made by compressing wood fibres with resins under high pressure into an engineered substrate. Often used as an engineered floating floor core material. HDF pressure is greater than 50 lbs. per cu. ft. or 800 kg per cubic metre.

Uniclic® Joint: The joint system patented by Unilin Décor of Belgium. A glueless tongue-and-groove design milled to tolerances of 1/1000" in which the lower lip exerts constant pressure at a 45° angle on the tongue, holding Uniclic® floors in place by constant pretension.

Engineered Floating Floor: A hard-surface floor made from wood or other natural products adhered to a core such as High-Density Fibreboard (HDF) for structural stability and durability. An engineered floating floor is designed for minimal expansion and contraction with changes in interior temperature and humidity.

Glueless Floating Floor: Any engineered floor that fastens in place without nails or glue over an existing floor or subfloor. TORLYS floating floors use the patented Uniclic® joint and are the only glueless floating floors that can be unclicked, lifted and reinstalled in another room, up to 3 times under Warranty.

Décor Layer: The top finish layer of a laminate floating floor, adhered to an HDF core. The décor surface is a photographic reproduction of a real-wood surface or ceramic tile. The décor layer is covered with a top layer made of aluminum oxide.

Wear Layer: The finish layer of an engineered floating floor such as Hardwood, Cork or Leather, adhered to an HDF core. A wear layer may be natural or stained with a finish colour. The wear layer is usually coated by a top layer of urethane.

Underlayment: Foam or other material such as Cork (which is also used as a sound barrier) and laid over an existing floor or subfloor. Floating floor planks or tiles are installed on top of the underlayment material.

Expansion Gap: A gap (usually 3/8") that must be left around the edges of a room and any installed obstructions to allow for natural expansion and contraction in a floating floor that occurs with changes in room temperature and humidity.

T-Moulding: A T-shaped moulding constructed of wood or polymer used to join floating floor tiles or planks of the same height together in doorways between rooms, or in single large rooms

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where the distance is extreme and a mid-way joint is required for proper stability of floating floor tiles or planks.

Floating Stair Nose: A moulding constructed of wood or polymer, used along the leading edge of a stair tread to finish off the installation of floating floor planks or tiles over existing stair treads.

Square Nose: A moulding constructed of wood or polymer, used to trim floating floors along walls around the perimeter of a room.

Floating Reducer: A sloping, graduated moulding constructed of wood or polymer, used to join floating floor planks or tiles to an adjoining floor surfaces of unequal height.

Laminate: A hard-surface floorcovering made with a melamine-impregnated décor wear layer with an aluminum oxide finish layer, and a HDF core on top of a melamine backing layer. Laminate floors have a high-resolution photo of wood on the top layer whereas engineered wood floors have a top layer of real wood.

Subfloor: A pre-existing structural supporting surface, such as plywood, waferboard or concrete.

Wear Resistance: The ability of the surface protection (such as aluminum oxide or urethane) that has been applied to either the décor layer or the wear layer, to withstand normal traffic.

This is a glossary of some common terms only, as a general reference guide when writing about Uniclic® engineered floating floor systems. A more extensive glossary of terminology is available from the North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA, www.nalfa.com/), or The Association of European Producers of Laminate Flooring (EPLF, www.eplf.de/).