



ENVIRO
BUILD

Sisū

Laminate Click

Laminate Flooring: Installation Guide

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Sisu Laminate Installation: Must Read

✓ Always leave expansion gaps

- Min. 10 mm gap must be left at the perimeter of the room and around objects/pipes/etc. to allow for thermal expansion.
- Not leaving an expansion gap will result in tiles warping and invalidate the warranty.



✓ Remember to acclimatise the flooring

- Once delivered, Sisu Laminate needs to be laid flat at room temperature (18-23°C) and left for 48 hours to acclimatise.
- The temperature must also be maintained for at least 24 hours after the installation is completed.

✓ Always use a level, dry floor surface

- Your subfloor must be solid, level, clean and dry, any unevenness can cause non-flush surfaces and board edge damage.

✓ Take into account any underfloor heating

- Ensure when using underfloor heating not to exceed the maximum operating temperature.
- The underfloor heating system should be turned off 24 hours prior to installation and should remain off until at least 24 hours after your laminate has been completely installed.
- Gradually increase the temperature of your underfloor heating by 3-5°C a day for smooth acclimatisation.
- We then suggest keeping your underfloor heating at no more than 30°C maximum to avoid ranging temperatures, which may unsettle the flooring.
- Do not use furnishings over laminate with underfloor heating that may create hot-spots or thermal blocks, such as rubberbacked rugs or other items which do not allow heat to circulate freely.

Acclimatisation

Before installing your laminate it's important to ensure it has been acclimatised to the conditions of the installation room. Leave your boxed Sisu packs in the room for 48 hours, laid flat and under the typical heating conditions of the room (ideally 15-22°C at a relative humidity of 30-75%). The temperature must also be maintained for at least 24 hours after installing to reduce any movement due to heat expansion. If climate conditions are outside of this suggested range, we strongly advise leaving the opened packages for a week prior to installation. Keep the boxes in the middle of the room where the floor is to be installed, away from heat (such as radiators) and moisture (such as recently plastered walls or damp basements).

Subfloors

Before fitting Sisu, your subfloor must be solid, smooth, level, clean, dry and dust-free. Remove all furniture from the room and then brush and vacuum the floor. Time should be spent ensuring the subfloor is completely level, as any bumps or nails will prevent the boards from lying perfectly flat. Irregularities in the subfloor can be more easily located with the aid of a long straight edge, such as a spirit level. Place the straight edge in various areas of the room, any inconsistencies of over 2mm across a 1 metre run should be levelled using a floor levelling compound. The same applies to any unevenness of more than 1mm over a length of 20cm.

Carpet, bamboo or brick flooring must be removed before installing your Sisu laminate. It is recommended to remove engineered wood or any floating floor before installation.

- **Concrete / Screeds**

Ensure all cracks and joints are filled, the floor must be completely level. If you are laying

onto new concrete, make sure it's fully dried. Concrete floors under 4cm in thickness need at least 1 week, with an additional week per 1cm to fully dry. Remember that drying times depend on the climate conditions of the building, so these lengths may differ. Moisture contents must be under 2.5% for cement bound screed, and 0.5% for anhydrite bound screed.

- **Tiles / Mosaics / Ceramics**

Use a screed filler or smoothing compound to fill and level the grout lines.

- **Timber**

The subfloor needs to be solid. Nail down any loose boards and fill any gaps. It is important to make sure that there are no signs of mould or insect infestations.

- **Linoleum / Vinyl**

Check the subfloor is solid and make sure to fix loose tiles.

- **Metal / Painted Floors**

Remove any loose paint or finishes for a solid, smooth subfloor.

Vapour Barrier and Underlay

Laminate flooring is wood-based and will therefore warp in contact with water. Vapour barriers are the simplest and most effective method of protection; they are essential if installing laminate onto concrete subflooring and highly recommended if installing onto wooden subfloors. The vapour barrier prevents moisture rising up from underneath the flooring and damaging the laminate.

To install, start in the corner of the room and spread the barrier out across the subfloor, overlapping the membranes slightly to ensure full coverage and taping them together for security. You can lay the vapour barrier over expansion joints. Ensure that the membrane is extended 5mm up the walls; this will be later cut off or covered by skirting boards.

Underlay is installed on top of the vapour barrier in order to provide the stability and support necessary for a consistent and sturdy laminate floor. Underlay also reduces subfloor preparation time and improves ease of installation. Due to the rigid nature of the board, laminate is not able to easily adapt to inconsistencies and gaps in the subfloor, and can create noise when walked on. Underlay is important in preventing the transmission of imperfections from the subflooring below, which cause damage over time, as well as offering a greater level of sound and thermal insulation.

Installation is very similar to that of the vapour barrier. Gradually lay the underlay across the breadth of the room over the vapour barrier, taping the strips together securely. Extend the underlay around 5 mm up the walls surrounding the room; excess can be cut off later.



Required Tools

We offer a convenient **Laminate Floor Fitting Kit** which includes some of these key tools.

- Utility knife
- Carpenters square
- 5mm wall spacers
- Tape measure
- Rubber mallet
- Pull bar
- Pencil
- Fine cut saw

You may also need:

- Tapping block (for laying boards)
- Power drill and drill bit (for pipes)
- Wood glue (for pipes)
- Profile strip (for adjacent floor types)

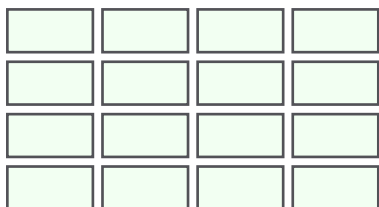
Required Materials:

- **Sisu Click Laminate boards**
- **Scan Underlay**
- Vapour Barrier

Plan Your Layout

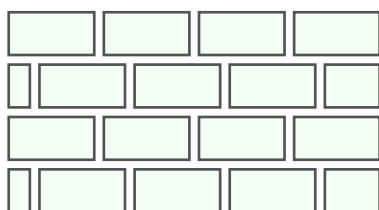
- **Grid**

An arrangement in which all joints are continuously aligned.



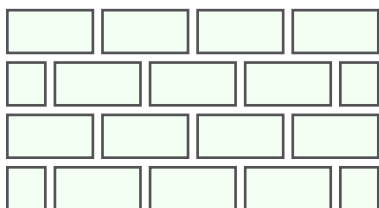
- **Staggered**

Have your boards offset by some amount. You can start the second row with the leftover piece from the first row to achieve this.



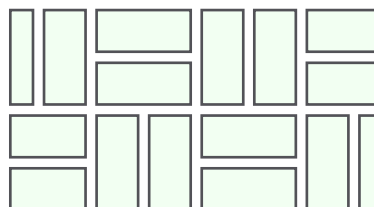
- **Offset**

To achieve this layout, measure half the width of the boards and offset the next row by that amount.



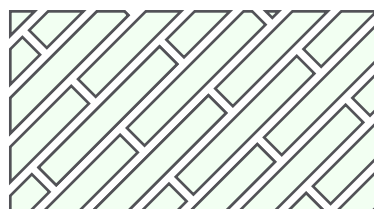
- **Weave**

This weave pattern can be achieved with boards of particular sizes and is highly adaptable when mixing and matching colours.



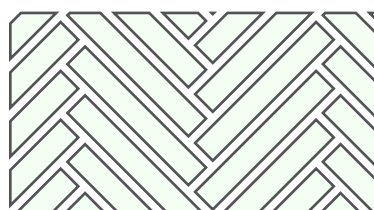
- **Diagonal**

The same as 'offset' but rotated 45°.



- **Herringbone**

A sophisticated pattern consisting of alternating diagonal boards.



Installation

Laminate Click should be installed with a 5mm expansion gap at the perimeter of the room and around objects, pipes, between adjacent flooring types and under doors. This is critical in ensuring that there is space for the laminate flooring to expand and contract with changes in weather.

Begin the first row with a whole board. It's recommended to lay Laminate Click from left to right as it is much easier to install tongue into groove than vice-versa. Check all boards before installation for any visible defects and mix boards to make sure that you do not end up with too many similar, light or dark boards close to each other.

1. Determine the direction you want the flooring to run. Typically the length of laminate flooring will run with the length of the room or floor plan. Carefully cut the tongues off the wall-facing boards for your first row (fig. 1).
2. Begin by laying along the longest wall. Place 5mm spacers between the boards and the wall to ensure that the expansion gap is wide enough (fig. 2).
3. Continue to lay the first row along the length of the wall, clicking together the short edges (fig. 3). Use as many full boards as possible.
4. The last board in the row will most likely have to be cut to size. To do this, measure the remaining gap between the last full board and the wall, remembering to exclude 5mm for the expansion gap. Mark this length on the board with a straight line in pencil (fig. 4). Use this as guidance when cutting.
5. To ensure a clean line, cut with the patterned side face down if using a jigsaw, sabre saw or

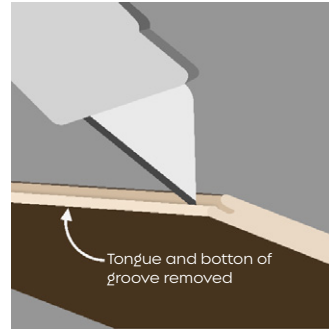


Fig. 1

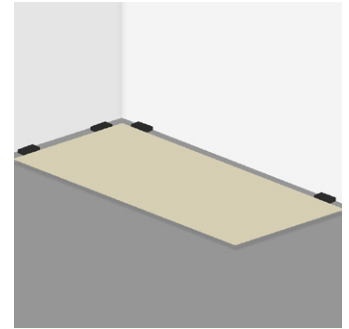


Fig. 2

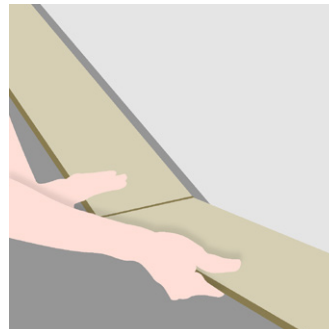


Fig. 3

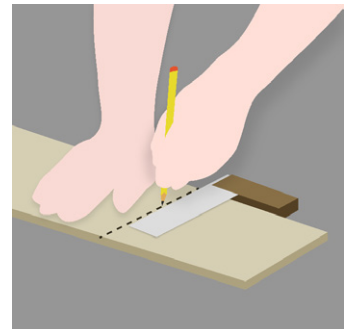


Fig. 4

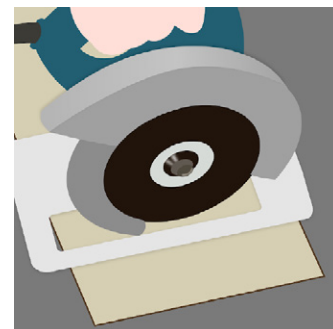


Fig. 5

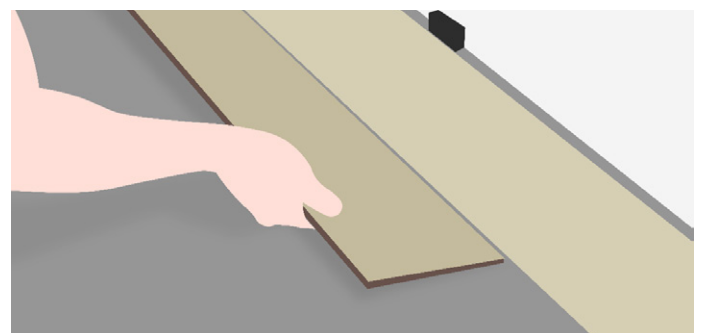


Fig. 6

circular saw, and face up if using a handsaw or crosscut saw. We recommend using a fine-tooth saw blade, as they cut much smoother without significantly chipping the laminate surface (fig. 5).

6. Begin laying the second row. Click the tongue into the groove of the neighbouring board by holding the board at around a 20-30° angle and pushing forward (fig. 6). Lower the board until it lies flat against the ground.
7. You can tap the boards securely into each other without having to lift them. Use a tapping block and mallet to secure the boards neatly in place. Make sure that this is a gradual and gentle process so that the boards remain undamaged (fig. 7). In areas where this is difficult, you can use a pull bar and a mallet to ensure that the boards are tightly positioned (fig. 8). If done correctly, the end joints should be tight with no gaps.
8. Repeat steps 1-5 until completed, remembering to leave 5mm expansion gaps between the flooring and the wall using a spacer.
9. Remove all spacer tabs.

In some cases, it may be advised to use an offcut in place of a tapping block on tongue sections of the laminate board, which are thinner and more fragile. The offcut will be gentler on the board to avoid harsh contact and potential damage.



Fig. 7

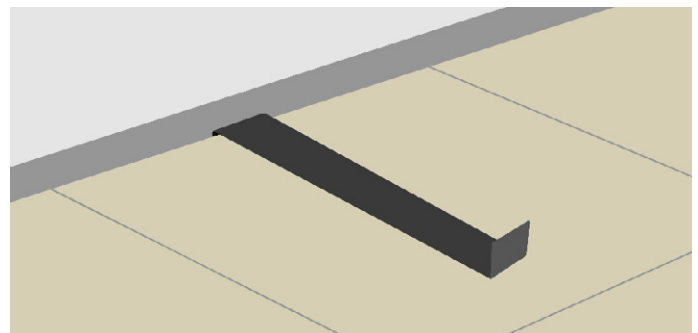


Fig. 8

Gaps between boards are likely to be caused by not lifting them to a high enough angle when clicking into place. If this is the case, disassemble and re-click the board at a higher angle.



Finishing Touches

Don't let room elements and obstacles daunt you; there is an easy way to finish your flooring around aspects like these. Kitchen islands should be installed before flooring and not placed on top of the laminate boards.

Pipes and Tubes

You will need: Pencil, jigsaw or butterfly drill, pipe collar

Before starting, cut holes in the underlay to fit around the tubes. Measure and mark on the board where the pipe will sit once installed (taking into account the expansion gap at the wall). Using a drill bit at least 5mm wider than the diameter of the pipe, drill through the marked area. Draw two angled lines from the hole to the edge of the board and cut this section out (fig. 9). Lay the board, fitting the pipe into the hole that has been drilled. Reinsert the cut shape behind the pipe (wood glue can be used). The same steps can be followed for multiple pipes or other similar obstacles. A circular pipe cover can be used to hide the expansion gap around the pipe.

Doors

You will need: Handsaw

To install Laminate Click around a door frame, the frame may need to be trimmed in order to fit the board beneath it. A handsaw can be used, using an offcut of your laminate as a guide for cutting at the correct height as shown (fig. 10). A board should now be able to fit neatly beneath the frame. When installing close to doors, ensure that there is at least a 10mm space between the board surface and the bottom of the door.

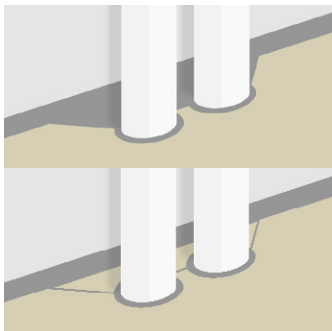


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Adjacent Floor Types

You will need: **Threshold Floor Profile**

To join Laminate Click with other flooring types, lay the boards up to the doorway, leaving a 5mm expansion gap between the laminate and the other floor covering. Once installed, a profile strip can be installed to cover the gap (fig. 11). Never fix a profile or threshold directly to Laminate Click boards as they need to be able to expand under heat. Instead, fix to the exposed subfloor in the expansion gap, leaving a small amount of space between the profile and the board for heat expansion. If Laminate is being used across multiple rooms, lay the boards up to the doorframe on both sides, leaving a 10mm expansion gap.

Uneven Walls and Contours

You will need: Pencil, jigsaw

Lay a board of Sisu laminate on top of the last full board. Take a discarded offcut and push it against the wall. With one side against the wall, rest your hand on the other side of the offcut, drawing the curve onto the board below with a pencil as you move along the contour of the wall (fig. 12). Once the curve has been drawn, cut along the line with a jigsaw. This piece should now fit into the curve. Allow a 5mm expansion gap.

Skirting Boards

When fitting a skirting board, do not attach the board directly onto Sisu boards. Leave a gap between the bottom of the skirting board and the laminate in order to allow for natural movement during heat expansion. Install the skirting over the laminate board at the wall, ensuring an expansion gap beneath. Alternatively, if using pre-installed skirting, fit the laminate boards alongside the existing skirting. Use our effective **scotia** to cover any expansion gaps (fig. 13).

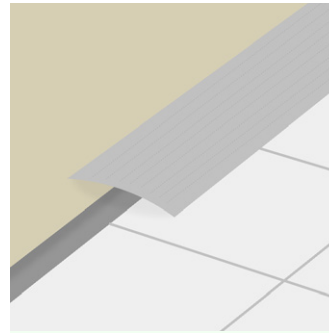


Fig. 11

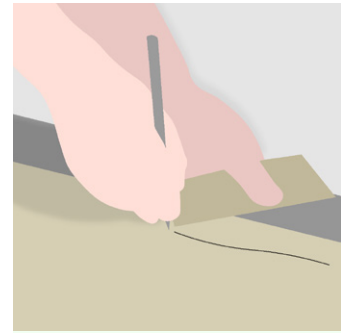


Fig. 12

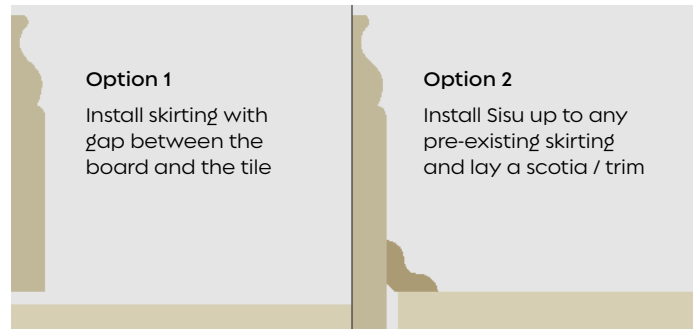


Fig. 13

Underfloor Heating

The underfloor heating system should be turned off 24 hours prior to installation and should remain off until at least 24 hours after your laminate has been completely installed. Gradually increase the temperature of your underfloor heating by 3-5°C a day for smooth acclimatisation. We then suggest keeping your underfloor heating at 40-50°C maximum to avoid ranging temperatures, which may unsettle the flooring. Do not use furnishings over laminate with underfloor heating that may create hot-spots or thermal blocks, such as rubber-backed rugs or other items which do not allow heat to circulate freely.

Maintenance

Sisu Click is a durable material and its protective wear layer will keep it looking great for years to come.

Regular Cleaning

Regular cleaning by sweeping or vacuuming is recommended to remove loose dirt and grit, which can damage your flooring. Avoid vacuums with beater bars as they may visibly damage Sisu, and use a hard floor attachment where possible. A dry microfiber mop or cloth can also be used to clean away dust and dirt, such as our **Dual Purpose Mop**. Do not steam clean your laminate floor as it can damage the boards. Laminate Click requires no treatment, oiling or waxing. For issues such as dropped candle wax or chewing gum, harden the spot with ice before gently scraping the substance off with a plastic scraper.

1. Sweep the floor with a soft brush to remove dust and loose dirt.
2. Mop the floor with a pH neutral cleaner, such as our **Laminate Floor Cleaner**. Abrasive chemicals containing bleach should be avoided. It is important to ensure that the mop is well-wrung to avoid excessive moisture contact.
3. Allow to dry before walking on.

Spills

Spills should be wiped with a damp cloth to prevent staining. Use a dry cloth immediately afterwards to wipe away any residue. Never use highly abrasive scrubbing tools. White cloths are recommended in order to avoid colour bleed. Do not allow standing liquid on Sisu Laminate. Our **Dual Purpose Mop** would be the perfect solution for this.

Stains

When cleaning Laminate Click it is recommended to use mild substances, however more stubborn stains may require a more robust solution. Our **Laminate Floor Cleaner** will effectively clean your flooring without the worry of damage.

Scuffs

Although laminate flooring is durable and hardwearing, the surface can still get scratched. Shoe and furniture scuffs will resist most cleaning solutions. To remove from the product, use some acetone on a cloth. Never use highly abrasive scrubbing tools.

Furniture

Felt pads, such as our **Floor Protectors**, can be used to prevent the scraping of furniture legs, while castor cups can be used to prevent indentation from heavy furniture. Do not drag furniture across the floor when moving, lift objects and move them to prevent marking the floor. Very heavy objects such as fridges can be laid on a board and “walked” across it to move.

Entrance Mats

A suitable entrance mat is recommended to capture dirt and grit that would otherwise be tracked inside, potentially scratching the floor. Avoid mats with a rubber backing as they can cause staining or marking.

Replacing Boards

You can fix minor damages in your laminate floor with a filler product, but in the case of severe damage, you may wish to replace a board. Replacing and repairing Laminate Click is easy to do without any professional help.

You will need: Pencil, circular saw with rail, wood glue, chisel, mallet, and tapping block.

1. Mark the edges of the board with bright tape to ensure you remove the correct one.
2. Using a circular saw, cut a line through the middle of the damaged board, getting as close as possible to the end.
3. At the end, make angled incisions so that the board can be removed with more ease (fig. 14).
4. Remove the pieces of damaged board. If needed, a chisel can be used to pry open the board (fig. 16) from the middle and allow the four cut pieces to be removed.
5. Vacuum away any sawdust or excess.

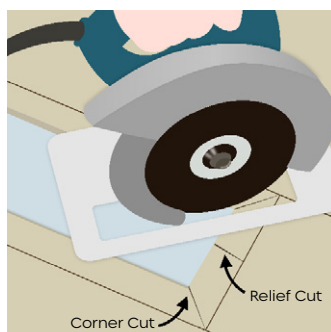


Fig. 14

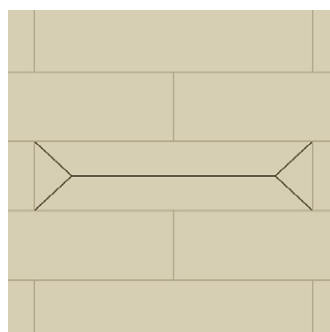


Fig. 15

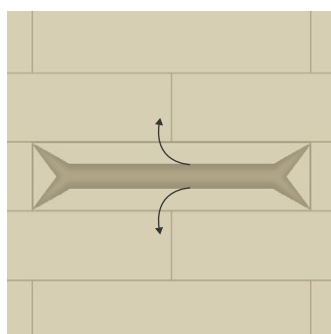


Fig. 16

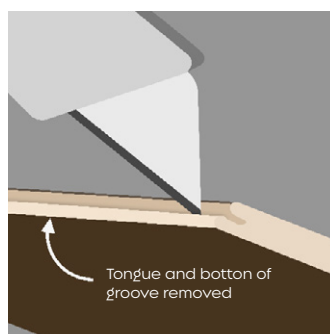


Fig. 17

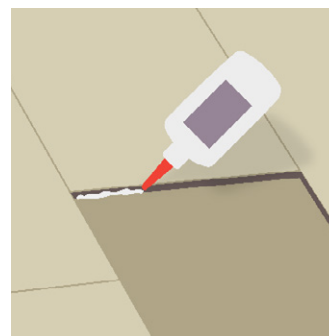


Fig. 18

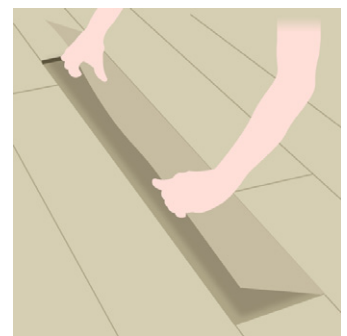


Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

6. Take the replacement board facing pattern-side up and carefully cut and remove the tongue and groove click system (fig. 17). Ensure the click system is flush with the board edge.
7. Wood glue can be applied to the tongue and groove sections left exposed (fig. 18).
8. Install the replacement board at a 20-30 degree angle, pushing the length of the board under the tongue of the floor (fig. 19).
9. Push the board down firmly into place and then use either a rubber mallet or a hand roller to press the board flush with the floor (fig. 20).
10. Excess adhesive should be removed with either a damp cloth followed by a dry cloth, or with a cloth containing a small amount of acetone (fig. 21).
11. Apply weight to the board and allow it to dry.

FAQs

Environmental credentials?

100% of the wood used in our laminate flooring is recycled. Due to adhesives and other layers, the total recycled content of each laminate board is 72%. The flooring is phthalate free and with Class E1 formaldehyde emissions.

How easily does Laminate Click scratch?

Laminate floors are more resistant to scratches than hardwood and even LVT, though some precautions should be made to keep your product looking fresher for longer.

Is it possible to remove a scratch?

In many cases, yes. Scratches can be made almost invisible to the eye after using a laminate scratch repair kit. The physical indentation will remain, however the visible scratch can be removed. If a board becomes more seriously damaged, it is easy to replace without disrupting the rest of the floor (page 12).

Can I steam clean my laminate flooring?

No. Intense moisture can warp the laminate. See page 11 for information on how to clean your Sisu floor.

Is Laminate Click waterproof?

Laminate Click meets the water tightness requirements in EN 13553. Due to its high wood content, laminate has a low moisture resistance. Areas with constant interaction with water should be avoided, such as bathrooms. Water should not be left to stand on laminate flooring. Our **Laminate Moisture Protection Sealant** can be used during the installation process to prevent moisture damage in areas likely to be splashed.





Are there any rooms in which I shouldn't install Sisu Laminate?

Avoid installation in rooms with constant contact with water, such bathrooms and poolsides.

Can I use rugs and mats on Sisu?

Yes, but only if labelled "colourfast" by the manufacturer. Use non-staining backed mats. Avoid rubber, carpet tape or latex as it marks laminate.

Does Laminate Click need any particular waxing or treating?

No special treatment is required. Laminate is incredibly low maintenance and is ready to go once installed.

Will office chair wheels damage Sisu?

Some precautions should be taken with office chair wheels to avoid wear. Don't use office chairs with rubber wheels as they can leave marks. A modified transparent office chair mat can be placed beneath the chair for protection. Alternatively, ask your supplier if you can order soft casters with your chair.

Can Laminate Click be used with underfloor heating?

Laminate is perfectly suitable for use with underfloor heating. Read more on page 10.

How long after laying can Laminate Click be used?

Click flooring is ready once installed.



Laminate



Beauty



Balance



Design