

Installation Instructions

SUPREMEFIBER BOARD LAMINATE

McMillan

Introduction

Read all instructions and warranty details before installation. Installation means you accept these requirements and our Limited Warranty.

Our water-resistant laminate is designed to withstand everyday spills and tracked-in moisture when properly installed and maintained. However, if water remains on or under for prolonged periods due to flooding or plumbing failures, or if there is ongoing moisture exposure, the core will eventually react by expanding or contracting. In all cases, environmental moisture control is essential.

Before installation, all sources of moisture must be corrected, including underfloor moisture and any construction dampness in the slab or subfloor. The subfloor must be dry, flat, clean, and structurally sound. Do not install in areas with active leaks, hydrostatic pressure, or visible moisture.

We offer two laminate constructions:

- **EVOLVED Series:** Includes an attached underlayment pad. Do not add foam underlayment. Over concrete, install only a 6-mil polyethylene vapor barrier beneath the floor.
- **EVOLVED ELEMENT Series:** Does not include an attached pad. Use a high-quality underlayment up to 3 mm-6mm thick, and always install a 6-mil vapor barrier over concrete.

Do not install any McMillan laminate over carpet, cushion-backed flooring, or additional stacked underlayments. Over concrete, never omit the vapor barrier.

Inspect each plank carefully for visible manufacturing defects, damage, or color concerns before installation. Do not install any plank you would not accept as part of the finished floor; installation signifies acceptance of the product.



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Introduction (cont.)

Where It Works

- Interior spaces only
- Above grade
- On grade
- Below grade
- Radiant heat systems, provided the surface temperature does not exceed 85°F (29°C).

Where It Doesn't

- Outdoors or areas exposed to the elements
- Spaces with ongoing moisture or structural issues

Handling & Storage

- Carry and store with care
- Keep boxes flat
- Never store on ends or in extreme temperatures

Inspection

- Check every plank before installation
- Look for: color, finish, quality, locking system
- Do not install flooring with visible defects — McMillan cannot accept responsibility

If There's a Problem

- Stop immediately
- Do not open more cartons
- Do not discard opened cartons
- Contact your retailer for help



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Jobsite Preparation

Prep

- A vapor barrier must be installed over concrete substrates.
- A minimum 6 mil (0.15 mm) plastic poly sheeting should be used as a moisture barrier.
- Do not install cabinets or fixed objects on top of the flooring.
- We recommend installing cabinets and islands first, then running flooring to the toe kick while maintaining the required expansion space.
- Leave a 3/8" (10 mm) expansion gap around the perimeter. For rooms wider than 50', allow 1/2" (12 mm) expansion space.
- Undercut all doorjamb.
- Inspect your subfloor before you begin. Subfloors must be clean and level to within 3/16" over a 10-foot span. Concrete subfloors must be dry.

Acclimation

- If the relative humidity in the room is below 35% or above 70%, acclimate the unopened boxes in the installation room for 48 hours.
- Room temperature must be between 60–78°F (18–25°C).

Exterior

- Fix any structural damage from water or humidity before installing.
- Ensure exterior grading slopes 3" in 10' away from the structure.
- Crawl spaces:
 - Minimum height: 18"
 - Insulated to code
 - 6-mil vapor barrier required
 - Cross-ventilation vents = 1.5% per 100 sq. ft. of floor space



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Jobsite Preparation

Interior

- Detect and correct all moisture issues before installation.
- McMillan Laminate is water resistant but not a moisture barrier.
- The jobsite must be enclosed and climate-controlled:
 - Temperature: 65°–85°F
 - Humidity: 35%–55%
 - HVAC must be running before, during, and after installation.
- Do not install where exposed to extreme heat or cold.
- Do not place cabinets or heavy fixtures directly on top of flooring.
- Flooring should be installed last to prevent damage from other trades.

Subfloor Conditions

Proper subfloor preparation is essential.

Acceptable Subfloors:

- CDX Plywood
- Concrete (minimum 3000 PSI)
- OSB / Particleboard
- One layer of existing resilient tile, sheet vinyl, or ceramic tile

Minimum Subfloor Requirements

- Must be structurally sound, smooth, clean, and free of debris: staples, nails, wax, grease, paint, sealers, old adhesives.
- Level within 3/16" over 10'.
- Dry for the lifetime of the installation.

Wood Subfloors

- Moisture must not exceed 11%.
- Secure with nails or screws every 6" along joists to eliminate squeaks.
- Sand down high spots; fill low spots with leveling compound.
- Leveling material must result in a structurally sound surface.



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Jobsite Preparation

Concrete Subfloors

- Must cure 60–90 days before installation.
- Test for relative humidity, moisture, and pH:
 - $RH \leq 85\%$
 - Calcium Chloride ≤ 8 lbs/1,000 sq. ft. in 24 hrs (MVER)
 - $pH = 7-9$
- Over all concrete slabs, install a minimum 6-mil polyethylene vapor barrier between the concrete and the flooring.

Resilient Tile, Sheet Vinyl, or Ceramic Tile

- Only one layer permitted.
- Must be securely attached to structural subfloor.
- Grout lines must be filled with cementitious leveling compound for a flat surface.

Do Not Install Over

- Cushion-backed flooring or any flooring not fully adhered to the subfloor.
- Carpet, needle felt, cushion vinyl, or floating floors of any kind.
- Parquet, solid or engineered hardwood over concrete.
- Sleeper substrates.
- Wood flooring glued to concrete.

Radiant Heat Guidelines

Laminate can be installed over 1/2" (12mm) embedded hydronic (water-based) systems with at least 1/2" (12mm) separation from the product. Maximum temperature must not exceed 85°F (27°C); use an in-floor temperature sensor to prevent overheating.

- Before installation on new systems: Run at max capacity to cure out residual moisture from cementitious topping.
- Operate the system for at least 3 weeks prior to the flooring installation.
- Concrete subfloor moisture $\leq 2.5\%$ (CM method).
- Install vapor barrier and underlayment per the main guide.
- Turn the heat OFF 24 hours before, during, and 24 hours after installation.
- Maintain room temperature 60°F–85°F (16°C–27°C) during installation.
- After installation, gradually increase the heat in 5°F increments to normal operating temperature.

Warning: Electric heating mats are NOT recommended under flooring and will void the warranty.



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Installation

Tools Needed

1. Safety glasses
2. Tape measure
3. Pencil
4. Chalk line
5. Rubber mallet
6. Pull bar
7. Jam saw or undercut saw
8. ½" spacers
9. Crosscut power saw
10. Circular or radial arm saw
11. Tapping block

Plank Layout

- McMillan Laminate replicates natural wood with variations in color, texture, and grain.
- Shuffle planks from multiple cartons for the best visual effect.
- Avoid placing similar planks next to each other.
- Planks are often laid parallel to the longest wall, but the final layout is the installer/owner's choice.
- Install in a staggered pattern for a natural look, or choose another pattern before starting.

Starting Installation

1. Choose a Starting Wall

- Begin along an outside wall — usually the straightest reference.

2. Set a Working Line

- Measure one plank width from the wall at both ends.
- Snap a chalk line to establish a straight line.
- If the wall is out of square, scribe cut the first row to follow the line.

3. Prepare Openings

- Undercut or notch door casings to plank thickness using a piece of flooring as a guide.
- Remove thresholds and base moldings; reinstall after flooring is complete.



Installation

Starting Installation (Continued)

4. Allow for Expansion

- A continuous expansion gap of 3/8" (10 mm) is required around the entire perimeter of the installation, including at walls, columns, stairways, door jambs, pipes, built-ins, and any other fixed vertical objects.
- For rooms or continuous runs wider or longer than 50' (15 m), increase the expansion gap to 1/2" (12 mm) at the perimeter.
- In very large areas or open plans, install T-molding expansion joints as needed to divide the floor into sections that do not exceed 50' (15 m) in length or width.
- Do not fill expansion gaps with grout, mortar, or rigid materials. Expansion spaces must remain free to allow the floor to move.
- Baseboards and moldings should cover the expansion gap without pinning or fastening the flooring.

5. Layout and Planning

- Our Laminate replicates natural wood with variations in color, texture, and grain. Shuffle planks from multiple cartons for the best visual effect. Avoid placing similar planks next to each other.
- Planks are often laid parallel to the longest wall, but the final layout is the installer's choice.
- Install in a staggered pattern for a natural look, or select another pattern before starting.
- Ensure planks in the final row are at least 1/3 the width of a full plank.
- Measure across the room and adjust the first row if needed.
- Dry-lay a few rows to confirm layout and working line.

6. Stagger Joints

- Stagger end joints by at least 8" (20 cm) row to row.
- Use cut-off pieces longer than 8" to start the next row.
- If shorter, cut a new plank to a random length of at least 8".

7. Install Rows

- Start each row from the same side of the room.
- Place 3/8" spacers at ends and edges where planks meet the wall.
- Orient planks with the tongue side toward the starting wall.
- Cut the last plank in each row, leaving the required expansion space.
- Confirm all joints are locked, secure, and aligned.



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Installation

Install First Plank

- Place the first plank against the $\frac{3}{8}$ " wall spacers along the starting wall, beginning in a corner.
- Ensure the tongue side faces the starting wall.



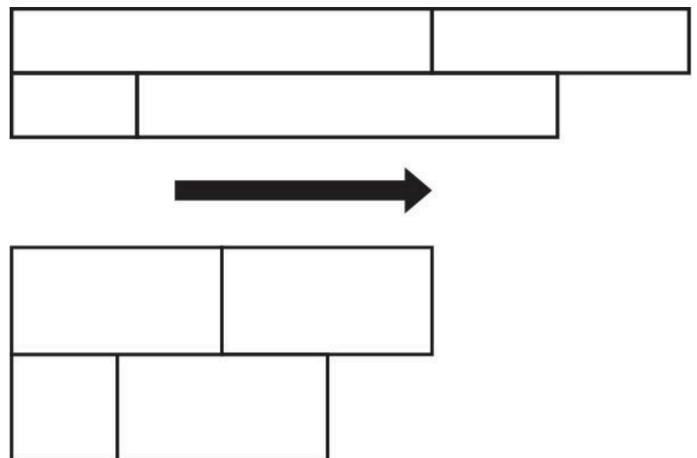
Lock End Joints

- Place the next plank in the first row.
- Insert the tongue into the groove at an angle, then drop into place.
- Continue until the row is complete.
- Cut the final plank as needed to fit.



Establish Plank without

- For random-length installations: maintain at least an **8" stagger** between rows.
- For fixed-length installations (brick pattern): offset planks by $\frac{1}{2}$ their length.



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Installation

First Plank, Second Row

- For random-length installation, cut the first plank to $\frac{1}{3}$ its length.
- Insert the long tongue edge into the groove of the first-row plank.
- Ensure there are no gaps between planks.
- Use a pull bar if needed to close tightly.



Second Plank, Second Row

- Insert the short tongue of the new plank into the short groove of the first plank in row two.
- Lock both planks by angling their long tongue edges into the groove of the first row together.
- Use a pull bar if needed for a tight fit.



Continue Second Row

- Lock the long edge by inserting the tongue into the groove at an angle, then drop in place.
- Slide the plank toward the previous plank until the short tongue meets the groove.
- Use a tapping block gently on both edges to ensure a tight fit.



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Locking Planks Into Place

- Use a rubber mallet and tapping block to gently tap plank ends together.
- Tap only on the short end groove sides to avoid damaging the locking profile.
- Use a pull bar on the long edge to ensure a tight fit.



Install Remaining Rows

- Insert the short tongue of the new plank into the short groove of the previous plank.
- Place the cut edge against a spacer.
- Angle the long tongue edge into the groove, locking both pieces together at once.
- Continue row by row until installation is complete.



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Finishing & Care

Finish the Job

- Remove all expansion spacers.
- Cover expansion gaps with baseboard, quarter round, or trim.
- Around bathtubs or showers, use flexible caulking where molding cannot be installed.
- Install transition pieces (reducers, T-moldings) as needed.
 - Commercial installations: T-moldings are required at all doorways.
- Do not pin down the floor beneath moldings or transitions.



Cleaning & Protection

- Clean the floor by dust mopping or vacuuming.
- If needed, cover with rosin paper to protect while other trades work.
 - Clean the floor first to avoid trapping debris.
 - Do not use plastic film or non-breathing covers.
 - Overlap and tape rosin paper edges; tape to trim, not flooring.

Moving Furniture

- Move heavy furniture with an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.

