

## GRANDEUR Installation Guide: Water-Resistant Laminate

*Please read all information on this page thoroughly for information regarding storage, preparation for and installation of your new laminate floors.*

Grandeur as the exclusive distributor of FINSA 12 and XXL Collections of laminate flooring, entirely designed and manufactured in Spain; incorporates a harmonious proportion between the length and width of every plank, producing an aesthetically pleasing and realistic appearance.

### STORAGE & HANDLING

Do not transport flooring products exposed -- if under raining or damp conditions. Handle and unload flooring products with care, and store in a dry and well-ventilated place. Flooring shall not be delivered until the building has been enclosed with windows, doors are in place, and cement work, plastering, and all other wet work are completed and dry. HVAC systems must be in place and in operation at least 14 days prior to installation of the flooring and must remain operating during and after installation.

In addition, prior to installation of flooring, exterior grading must be completed with surface drainage offering a minimum drop of 3in over 10ft to direct the flow of water away from the building. All gutters and drainage spouts must be in place. The soil around the house must be treated or graded to provide sufficient drainage.

*The following considerations are vital for ensuring the functionality and longevity of our products, failure to adhere to them will void your warranty.*

### ACCLIMATION

This laminate flooring is extremely versatile and can be installed in all areas of your home, except for areas with higher levels of humidity in the environment, such as saunas, sinks, washing areas, etc. where its use is not recommended.

The product needs to be stabilized 48 hours prior to use with the boxes unopened and stored horizontally, well away from any walls.

The room temperature should be around 18°C - 25°C and the humidity between 50% - 70%

### SUBFLOOR

#### Subfloor Conditions

Ensure that your subfloor is *Structurally Sound*. The subfloor should be adequately nailed, screwed, or glued down prior to the installation of your floor. All nail heads must be driven down below the surface. Securely nail all loose boards. Scrape, plane or fill uneven boards, holes or cracks using floor-leveling compound.

Check that the subfloor is *Level and Flat* prior to installation. If there are any uneven areas of more than 2mm/linear meter, level them out in advance with a levelling paste.

The subfloor must also be *Clean* and cleared of any debris that may interfere with the floors or the installation. Lastly, the *Moisture* levels of the subfloor should be *DRY* and measured prior to installation using a moisture meter.

#### Subfloor Types

##### Parquet Wood

For installations on top of existing parquet, the flooring will be laid at 90° from the old flooring, never in the same direction as the old floorboards.

With existing wood base floors, it is recommended to remove a small perimeter from the old flooring to properly ventilate the strips.

##### Wooden Floorboards

Wooden floorboards or similar material. When laying flooring over wooden floorboards, you must leave enough space between the boards and the wall to allow for expansion. The flooring must be laid so that the gaps between the old floorboards are not in the same place as the joints between the laminate floor boards. Wood or wood-based materials must have a maximum residual humidity of 11%.

##### Concrete

The mortar should have a humidity level of less than 2% (using the oven drying or calcium carbide method). When using artificial drying methods, sometimes only the surface layers dry and the lower layers can retain moisture which will, in time, rise to the surface.

Allow a sufficient period of time before taking new measurements to avoid any errors in the measurements taken. The drying time of the base floor will depend on its thickness and the atmospheric conditions of the area. As a guide, you can estimate that in conditions of between 20°C and 50% relative humidity, drying time can be calculated using the following formula:  $t = 2s^2$  where "t" is the time in

days and “s” is the thickness of the base floor in centimeters.

## UNDERLAY

For soundproofing and insulation against moisture, ALWAYS USE AN UNDERLAY.

All subfloors (concrete, plywood etc.) over which the laminate flooring is to be laid require an underlay with an anti-moisture barrier made of plastic sheeting of a minimum thickness of 0.2 mm. Using an underlay that does not have this protection against moisture will invalidate the terms of the warranty.

Place the underlay in strips as required. If you were to lay the underlay as one big sheet, it may get damaged during the installation and therefore lose its insulating qualities. The sheets should be fitted overlapping each other by at least 20 cm, or by 10 cm when securing the sheets together with 50 mm thick adhesive tape; and it should be laid so that it covers the entire floor area and rides up the walls by 5-6 cm; this will be cut when fitting the baseboard.

## GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

### Important

- Grandeur Flooring requires that laminate flooring products must be installed by an authorized professional. Failure to do so will void the product warranty.
- It is the Installer/Homeowner's responsibility to ensure the jobsite, environment, sub-floor conditions and climatization meet all of Grandeur Flooring's requirements.
- Prior to installation, flooring should be inspected, if you feel in any way the product is not to standard STOP installation and immediately contact your retailer.
- The installer or homeowner is fully responsible for all installed laminate flooring. A 5%-10% waste allowance should be included with total square footage.
- Prior to installation, installer or homeowner must carefully check planks for any defects. Any plank that has been installed will be deemed acceptable.

*NOTE: When laying the flooring over a large surface area, you should also leave a 30 mm expansion gap every 12 meters lengthways and every 12 meters widthways (10 mm for the width of the clips and 10 mm for each length, note that the base of the profile is asymmetric, although this does not affect the spaces for expansion)*

## INSTALLATION

As laminate flooring is designed to mimic a natural appearance, it is normal to have slight variations from plank to plank.

*When installing, it is recommended to open several boxes at a time to mix and evenly distribute planks to balance out color variations.*

Before installing, determine the orientation of the planks - it is recommended to lay the flooring in the same direction as the main source of sunlight. For the best results, planks

should always be installed longitudinally - laid parallel to the longest walls.

### Expansion Joints

Use separating wedges to make sure that a 10mm gap is left between walls and columns throughout the perimeter. This gap will be hidden at the end with the baseboard and profiles and will give the product the space necessary for expansion and contraction. In the case of holes for pipes, measure the diameter of the pipe and make a hole 20 mm bigger. Door frames require special care as 10 mm also needs to be left to allow for expansion. To fit the expansion profile, you should leave a 30 mm gap where the expansion profiles will be placed to separate the different rooms. (10 mm for the width of the clips and 10 mm for each length, note that the base of the profile is asymmetric)

### First row

1.A) Start the first row with whole boards. Start the second row with boards cut to 2/3 and the third row with boards cut to 1/3, thus giving the appropriate design flow. Never start with cuts of boards <30 cm long. Never line up joints between rows (stagger).

B) Start laying the flooring from left to right, with the 'tongue' facing the wall. Make sure you place the boards 10 mm away from both walls. If the wall is irregular, the boards will need to be adapted to the contour of the wall.

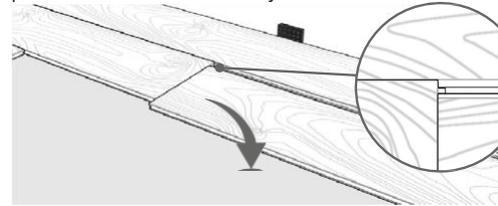
C) To lock in short end of the second plank, place the short ends of the two pieces together (trying to leave them lined up straight), lift the piece at an angle of 15°-20°, pushing lightly forwards and downwards so that the piece automatically hooks into the adjoining piece. Continue this process until the row is finished. Place the last board, turning it 180° and facing it on the short sides groove to groove.

### Second Row

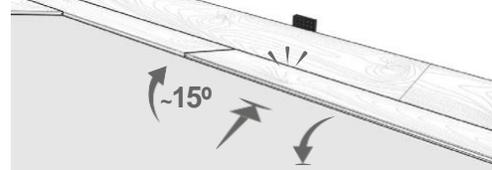
2. Use a section of the board cut in the previous row. This section must be at least 30 cm long. If it is too short, start the row with a new board cut to 1/3 the length of the piece. Ensuring to stagger planks for a more random finish.

### Next Rows

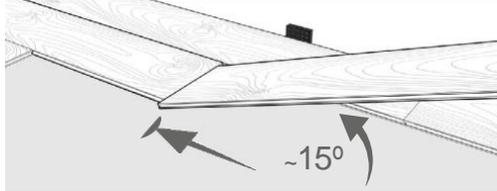
3. A) To continue laying, place the next piece flat, parallel to the board of the adjoining row, raise the board at an angle ( $\pm 15^\circ$ ), push forwards and down lightly and the pieces should automatically interlock.



B) Placing the short end of the board at an angle, opposite the board just installed, push forwards and down lightly. Make sure that the board lengthways along the piece is close to the adjoining board and lock it together with the previous piece.

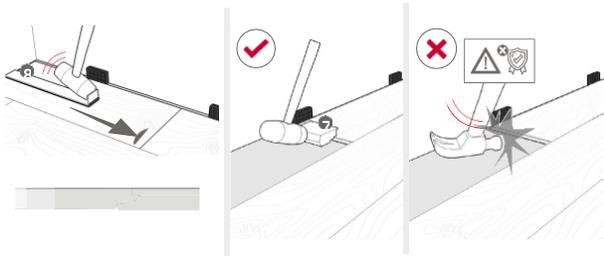


C) Lift the board  $\pm 15^\circ$  (along with the previous board laid in the same row), push lightly forwards and down, sliding the piece so it can lock into the length sides of the previous piece.



#### Last Row

Measure and cut the board. Leave 10 mm from the wall for the necessary expansion gap.



ATTENTION: In some circumstances, it is not possible to lift the boards at an angle, so they lock together (for example, underneath door frames or radiators etc.). In such cases, you can fit the pieces together with the boards flat, bearing in mind that you should *not directly strike the boards*.

Tap the pieces gently until they lock together, taking care not to damage the laminate, ensuring the *hitting block is in complete contact with the edge of the laminate flooring*. Do the same on the long side but starting progressively at an end to move forward the length of the piece.

#### After Installation

For 3 days after installation, it is advised to maintain floor surface temperatures at a minimum of  $15^\circ\text{C}$ , with a minimum room temperature of  $18^\circ\text{C}$  and relative humidity levels at a maximum of 75%.

The ideal conditions for avoiding problems with the boards' dimensions and static loads are 50-70% RH and  $\pm 20^\circ\text{C}$ . Use a humidifier if needed.

Do NOT varnish, sand, polish etc. the laminate flooring. Products with wax, soap or polish may leave behind residue.

Never fix the laminate flooring to the base floor or other construction elements (with glue, nails, fixed door stops etc).

Place felt pads or floor protectors on the bottom of furniture to prevent scratching when moving furniture -

careful not to drag any furniture across the surface of your vinyl floors.

Using large rugs can heat the area under them, which is detrimental to laminate flooring.

If water or any other liquid is spilled, promptly wipe, and dry the area - avoid wiping into the bevel between planks.

Placing area rugs and mats at doorways and high traffic areas is highly recommended to lessen wear and tear. Always clean area rugs and mats regularly as they are prone to trapping abrasive materials.

Regular cleaning of dirt, grit, dust, salt and any other abrasive materials will help to prevent scratches or blemishes.

During the winter months - when your central heaters are running; we recommend using a central humidifier to minimize shrinkage which occurs under low humidity conditions.

During non-heating seasons - summer, fall, spring. We recommend turning on the air conditioner, or dehumidifier, periodically heater as necessary.