



# KRONOSWISS

BY SWISS KRONO GROUP

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## FAQ: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### PLANNING

#### IS LAMINATE FLOORING HYPO-ALLERGENIC?

Yes, the surface of laminate is hard so it does hold the allergens that typically accumulate in softer floor coverings. This makes laminate one of the best flooring options for rooms frequented by children or anyone with health concerns.

#### I HAVE A PROPERTY AT THE BEACH AND NOW THAT THE RENTAL SEASON IS OVER, I AM REFRESHING IT THIS WINTER. CAN I PUT KRONOSWISS LAMINATE FLOORING IN MY RENTAL PROPERTY? [HUMIDITY RANGE]

Yes, you can install laminate flooring in your beach home provided that you continue to operate the heating and air all year to keep a constant temperature between 64° F and 86° F and humidity not exceeding exceed 75%.

### INSTALLATION

#### CAN I INSTALL LAMINATE FLOORING OVER THIS?

We're listing alphabetically all of the flooring types available so that you can easily determine whether you can install laminate over that specific flooring type. Remember that laminate flooring, like KronoSwiss's Laminate Flooring, is a floating floor — it will expand and contract as temperature and other conditions change. This means that the choice of subfloor (i.e., what you install laminate over) needs to provide the right support.

- **Ceramic tiles:** Yes, provided the surface of the floor is flat and level (per our laminate subfloor specifications) and the condition of the floor is good. The tiles themselves must be smooth. You must use padding. Check for cracked or loose tiles and grout — these could be signs of a poor floor condition caused by settling that could cause problems for your laminate floor.
- **Porcelain tile:** Yes. The surface of the floor must be flat and level (per our subfloor specifications) and the condition of the floor good. The tiles themselves must be smooth. You must use padding. Check for cracked or loose tiles and grout — these

could be signs of a poor floor condition caused by settling which could cause problems for your laminate floor, too.

- **Saltillo tile:** No. Saltillo tile is beautiful, but it's a bit soft compared to ceramic and porcelain and porous because no glaze is fired onto it. True Saltillo tile also has animal footprints and an uneven surface. You don't want to install laminate over it.
- **LVT Floor (tiles or planks):** Yes. The surface must be flat and level (per our subfloor specifications) and the condition of the floor good. You must use padding. Some LVT products are floating systems or "loose-lay" and are easy to remove (preferable). If the floor is glued down, be sure you remove all of the adhesive before installing laminate flooring. **Bamboo:** Not recommended.
- **Natural stone (marble, travertine, etc.):** It depends. if completely smooth and above ground, then yes; if textured or rough, no. **Brick:** No. Even with a brick floor in excellent condition, there is the potential for too much surface deviance that could stress the laminate-flooring locking system. And if the floor is below grade, moisture migration will be too difficult to control.
- **Concrete slab (above grade):** Yes. An above-grade concrete floor will most likely be in a commercial building. If that's the case and you're not the building owner, you'd better check first. If the building is new construction, the concrete must be completely cured for a minimum of 90 days before installation. We would still recommend a 6-mil vapor barrier and, of course, underlayment padding before installing laminate flooring
- **Concrete-slab (below grade):** Yes, but be careful. These are usually found in residential basements, and you must be careful about moisture migration from the ground through the concrete. We recommend several ways to test this and steps you can take to control it. And, the concrete must be completely cured a minimum of 90 days. You must use a 6-mil vapor barrier and, of course, underlayment padding. Drains of any kind, French or otherwise, are clear indicators that this concrete floor is not acceptable for laminate installation.
- **Carpeting**, tufted: No. Carpet, its padding, and all its staples must be completely removed — down to the subfloor — before you install laminate flooring.
- Carpeting, commercial or needle-bond: No. Some types and styles of commercial or "indoor/outdoor" carpeting may look harmless, but it and any adhesive used to glue it down must be removed before installing a laminate floor.
- **Carpet tiles:** No. Everything has to go. Only the subfloor may remain when you install laminate.
- **Cork:** Yes. But just because it's a cork floor doesn't mean you can skip the underlayment. You'll still need that before installing your laminate floor.

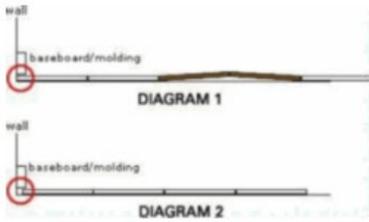
- **Dirt:** No.
- **Engineered wood:** Not recommended under floating floors.
- **Hardwood:** Yes. Keep in mind that in many older homes (40 to 50 or more years old) the planks may be in poor condition, warped, etc. Examine carefully. Inconsistencies in levelness and flatness of the floor surface could create stress points for locking joints and that will cause problems later on.
- **OSB floor:** Yes. Oriented Strand Board is sometimes used as a subfloor in construction. As with all subfloors, it must meet laminate flooring specifications
- **Plywood:** Yes. Plywood is most-often used as a subfloor in construction. As with all subfloors, it must meet laminate installation specifications.
- **Laminate:** Not recommended under floating floors. Instead, take up all of the old laminate flooring. You may reuse the underlayment for your new floor, provided it's in good shape.
- **Linoleum:** Yes, provided the surface is flat and level (per our subfloor specifications) and the condition of the floor is good. You must use padding.
- **Outdoor floors, porches, patios or decking of any kind:** Never. Laminate flooring is indoor flooring for controlled environments.
- **Sheet-vinyl:** Yes, provided the surface is flat and level (per our subfloor specifications) and the condition of the floor is good. You must use padding when installing laminate flooring over sheet vinyl.

## CAN I INSTALL LAMINATE IN A MOBILE HOME/TRAILER?

Conditional yes; the subfloor must be clean, smooth and level within our stated tolerance. Older mobile homes may not have a vapor barrier, you may have to pull the skirt to access under the structure to check and install a vapor barrier. If there's a dirt crawl space underneath your mobile home you should cover it with plastic to keep moisture from rising up.

A double-wide can be wider than 25 feet. Please remember to use a transition molding, or T-molding, at every 40 feet in length and 25 feet in width.

# WHY EXPANSION GAPS MATTER IN FLOATING FLOORS



When it comes to properly installing Swiss Krono Laminate Flooring or any brand of laminate flooring for that matter, maintaining proper expansion gaps around the periphery of the floor is critical to its success.

## Why are expansion gaps necessary?

The core of Swiss Krono laminate flooring is made from high-density fiberboard (HDF). While HDF is extremely strong and durable, like any wood it's also porous — which means that environmental factors like subtle changes in heat and humidity will cause the planks to expand and contract. Because laminate flooring is a floating floor and should never be nailed or glued down to the subfloor, it must have the ability to expand and contract, unencumbered by such vertical obstructions as walls, doorways or cabinets that can become “pinch points” for the flooring. Without expansion gaps, you risk performance issues like buckling and squeaking of your laminate floor.

## Advice about expansion gaps from [Flooring-Professionals.com](http://Flooring-Professionals.com)

An informative article about the importance of floating floors, [Why Floating Floors Fail](#), on the [Flooring-Professionals.com](http://Flooring-Professionals.com) website features an excellent diagram (reproduced above) explaining an idea of what an expansion gap is. The article is written by Tim McAdoo, a certified installer, who shares his do's and don'ts when it comes to installing floating floors.

## Using spacers to create a uniform expansion gap

Spacers play an important role in the installation process and should be part of your installation toolkit. Check out the [“How to Install a Laminate Floor”](#) guide from Lowe's Home Improvement and note the placement of spacers around the periphery of the floor next to the wall. These spacers maintain a uniform expansion gap space that later will be hidden underneath the quarter-round molding when the laminate flooring planks are installed.

Spacers actually are plastic wedges designed specifically for laminate-flooring installation and often come in bags of 30 or more. You can see what spacers look like on the [Zoro Tools](#) website and a place to buy them as well. You also can buy spacers at Lowe's, Home Depot or almost anywhere laminate flooring is sold.

## A few final words of advice on expansion gaps

At just 3/8th of an inch, an expansion gap may seem like a little thing, but don't neglect it. Expansion gaps are part of any successful, beautiful Swiss Krono laminate flooring installation. Make sure you have them where your floor meets any vertical obstruction or where two expanses of flooring join and avoid possible buckling or squeaking of planks down the road.

## **WHAT IS THE NARROWEST PIECE OF LAMINATE FLOORING I CAN USE TO FILL THE LAST ROW?**

The narrowest piece must be 2.5 inches wide, or about as wide as one strip on a three-strip décor plank.

Please measure the net width of the room, deduct the space needed for expansion gaps on both sides, and divide it by the width of the planks. This will give you the total number of rows of planks for your project. If you come up with an uneven number of rows, remember that planks you cut lengthwise must be at least one-third of a plank or 2.5 inches wide.

Example: The net width of room is 96 inches, minus 2 x 3/8 inches (for the expansion gap), divided by 7.6 inches (plank width), which equals 12.53 planks. If you do not have at least .33 as a remainder, you must also rip the first row along the starting wall so the width of the last row against the finishing wall is at least 2.5 inches.

The 2.5-inch minimum-width for the plank accommodates the weight of heavy furniture that generally sits along the walls.

## **CAN I INSTALL UNDER THE REFRIGERATOR?**

Laminate flooring can be installed under your refrigerator but should not be installed under any stationary or extremely heavy furniture as this would prevent the flooring from expanding and contracting.

## **IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO BE AWARE OF WHEN INSTALLING LAMINATE FLOORING IN FRONT OF AN EXTERIOR DOOR?**

Before you install planks in front of an exterior doorway, be sure to shave away the locking system from the side that will face the exterior door. That piece will be on the edge of the floor exposed to extreme conditions. The gap between the exterior entrance and your first piece of laminate flooring should be filled with 100% silicone sealant to protect the flooring from moisture. We do not recommend having an end joint directly in the traffic path, however sometimes it may unavoidable.

For aesthetic reasons, we suggest cutting the laminate planks using a saw specially designed for door jams available at any hardware or home-improvement store. Once cut, install the laminate underneath the door jams.

You also may want to use a small bead of glue on the tongue of the locking system of those planks in the entrance area. Also consider using a door mat to help protect heavy-traffic entrances against snow, water and other debris that may be dragged in on shoes.

## **HOW MUCH EXPANSION GAP DO I HAVE TO LEAVE?**

Leave a minimum of 3/8-inch clearance around all sides of the room.

## **HOW CAN I LIFT THE CENTER ISLAND OUT OF THE ROOM, RUN THE LAMINATE ACROSS THE WIDTH OF THE KITCHEN, THEN FASTEN DOWN THE CENTER ISLAND BACK IN THE MIDDLE ON TOP OF THE LAMINATE?**

Lay planks **around** the island, leaving an expansion gap of 3/8-inch between it and the flooring. We also recommend **adding glue to all four sides of each plank before installing the flooring around your sink, refrigerator and any other wet areas** where water may occasionally be present. All expansion spaces in these areas must be filled with a 100% mildew-resistant silicone sealant. This will help you prevent damage from the presence of occasional moisture.

## **CAN I USED CHIPPED BOARDS?**

Do not install any planks with visual defects. Instead, **use chipped boards for cut planks along the left and right walls. Use planks with damage to the grooved end along the right wall and planks with damage to the tongued end along the left wall**, making sure the chipped parts will be hidden underneath the quarter-round or base molding.

## **HOW WHICH WALL SHOULD I START INSTALLING KRONOSWISS ALONG? SHOULD THE TONGUE OR THE GROOVE BE AGAINST THE WALL?**

You can start installing your floor against any wall, but some are better than others. Typically you want to run your laminate **parallel to the main light source** to decrease the visibility of the seam across the length of the product. In order to accomplish this, you would need to start on the wall either to the left or the right of your main light source. If there is not a large window or main light source, we recommend **starting against the longest wall**. If all your doors are located on one wall, it may be easier to start on that wall so that you can slide your laminate underneath the door jams. You will want to start on the left side of the wall you pick with the tongue on the long side of a plank facing the wall, removing the tongue before installing the plank. (You can use a sharp utility knife for the

7mm or 8mm product, but our 10mm or 14mm planks will require a saw.) It's important to **work from left to right** to avoid damaging the tongues on the short side of the boards. We recommend installing the first and second row at the same time to ensure that everything is square. Basically, you'll be using the second row to line up the first row before tapping the end joints together.

## **I HAVE A CONCRETE FLOOR AND CONCRETE WALLS IN MY BASEMENT AND I KNOW THAT A 6mm VAPOR BARRIER IS REQUIRED. ARE THERE ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS I NEED TO BE AWARE OF?**

The vapor barrier should extend 2 to 4 inches up each wall and folded or cut back after the planks are installed to fit behind the wall's base molding. This creates a tub effect and prevents moisture from wicking from the concrete wall into the side of the floor planks.

Please avoid extreme variations in temperature and humidity. The ideal room temperature is between 64°F and 94°F, and the humidity should not exceed 75%.

## **I HAVE A FIREPLACE. HOW CLOSE TO IT CAN LAMINATE FLOORING BE INSTALLED?**

Check your local building code for the recommended distance. If no building code exists, leave at least 2 feet between the fireplace (or wood stove) and your laminate floor.

## **I'M A CONTRACT WORKER WHO MOVES RESIDENCES FREQUENTLY. CAN I MOVE MY SWISS LAMINATE FLOOR?**

Planks that are from 10mm to 14mm thick can be moved up to three times. The flooring should be removed carefully by taking each complete row apart along the long edge of the plank first and then separating the individual planks from each other on the short edge. It makes it easier to slightly raise the planks from the underside and place a hand under the short end connections. Lift the short edge until the two planks separate.

## **I HAVE A LOT OF SPEAKER WIRES, VIDEO COAXIAL CABLE, ELECTRIC CORDS AND PLUS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY CONCEALED BY CARPETING. CAN I RUN THE CABLES UNDER SWISS KRONO PLANKS?**

It is not recommended to run wires or cables underneath your laminate for a couple of reasons: First, it may violate your local fire code; and second, it may cause unevenness in your subfloor that in turn will cause your laminate floor to buckle.

There are wire tracks available that enable you to install low-voltage wiring (for example: speaker wire, stereo cables, telephone wiring, network wiring or alarm wiring) behind standard wall-base molding. Some base moldings offer a channel for wiring as well.

## **WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC CLIMATIC-CONTROLLED CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO INSTALL KRONOSWISS?**

Installation should take place at room temperature of at least 64°F. The following climatic conditions in the room must be ensured before, during and for at least three days after installation:

- Floor surface should be a minimum of 59°F.
- Room temperature should be a minimum of 64°F.
- Room humidity should be a minimum of 35 % and a maximum of 75%.

Before opening the packaging, acclimatize planks for 48 hours by laying each box flat, side-by-side, in the center of the room in which they are to be installed.

# MAINTENANCE

## HOW SHOULD I CLEAN LAMINATE FLOORING?

We recommend buying a laminate-flooring cleaning kit (i.e. Bona). You can also clean your laminate floor using a damp mop and a Neutral Cleaner (i.e. Zep Neutral Cleaner) found on the cleaning or janitorial aisle at your local hardware store.



## HOW CAN I PROTECT MY LAMINATE FLOOR FROM DOG URINE, DOG SALIVA, DOG SWEAT AND TRACKING WATER FROM THE DOG'S BOW?

Fluids are the enemy of laminate floors because they can seep into the seams between the laminate planks. For that reason, it's critical to immediately wipe up wet areas. Some preventative steps you can take:

- Placing a tray with an absorbent mat under your dog's water bowl.
- Encouraging your sweating dog to cool down on a mat rather than on the laminate.
- Adding a continuous bead of glue to the edges of any laminate planks likely to be exposed to moisture. Glue will keep any fluids from getting in between the planks. *(see picture attached)*



**COVERS: 100sf to 160sf**  
Calculated based on a 9 1/2" Width Flooring

**PURPOSE:** Apply in Wet Areas such as BATHROOMS & KITCHENS on the Laminate Seams

Cal-Flor GL82114CF Eurobond D3 Floating Floor Glue

Brand: CalFlor

★★★★☆ 328 ratings

Amazon's Choice for "laminate floor glue"

List Price: \$11.99

Price: \$9.61 (\$0.40 / oz) **prime**

You Save: \$2.38 (20%)

- More effective barrier to water damage than other glues
- Perfect for wet areas such as bathrooms, kitchens
- Flexible when dry, resulting in stronger bond
- The only US product with D3 certification
- Designed for Click or Tongue & Groove flooring

## MY CANDLE DRIPPED WAX ON OUR LAMINATE FLOOR. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Allow to the wax to harden and gently scrape with a plastic scraper. Remove any residue with rubbing alcohol or 100% pure acetone.

## HOW DO I REMOVE CHEWING GUM?

Allow it to harden and gently scrape with a plastic scraper.

## IS IT OKAY TO PUT A CHRISTMAS TREE ON MY LAMINATE FLOOR?

Yes, as long as the tree stand has felt protectors and any water spills are wiped up immediately. It also will help if you place a liner – newspapers work — between the stand

and the floor extending out to the drip line of the branches. That will keep needles and any sap from touching the laminate, making post-holiday clean-up that much easier.

## **HOW DO I REMOVE JUICE, WINE, GREASE AND CHOCOLATE?**

Dampen a rag with water and laminate floor cleaner and spot clean.

## **MY LAMINATE FLOORING WAS FLOODED. CAN I KEEP IT?**

Water is the worst enemy of laminate flooring. Dry the flooded area completely and as soon as possible. Your floors may start to warp because water entered into the seams, making them swell. If so, you will need to uninstall your flooring and let the room dry completely before reinstalling **new flooring**. **Planks involved with floods caused by exterior water or wastewater are not recommended for re-installation.**

Please note that **floods are not covered by warranty**. [We recommend contacting your homeowner's insurance agent.](#)