



KRONOSWISS INSTALL INSTRUCTIONS

BY SWISS KRONO GROUP

FAQ'S (Frequently Asked Questions)

EXPANSION REQUIREMENTS

- Leave a min. 1/4" expansion/floating gap for all installations Under 50 ft lengthwise or widthwise.
- Leave a min. 3/8" expansion/floating gap for all installations Over 50 ft lengthwise or widthwise.
- Never install under cabinetry, islands, or other permanent fixtures. It is a floating floor that must be allowed movement. (*Does not apply to glue down applications*).

TRANSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Transition strips/breaks are required on installation exceeding 50 ft. lengthwise or widthwise (*i.e. suggested transitions at bedrooms doors*).
- Glue down installation does not require transitions.

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.

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.