



## HYDRO MAX INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### BEFORE INSTALLATION:

#### 1. READ THESE DETAILED INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE STARTING.

#### 2. Material and tool requirements:

- Estimate square footage and add 10%.
- Select underlayment (over concrete or in moisture prone areas, the underlayment selected must act as a vapor barrier). Cascade recommends the use of Dream Walk Premium Underlayment or EasyStep™ Premium Underlayment. If the product you have selected already has a pre-attached underlayment, then a 6-mil poly vapor barrier must be used over concrete or in moisture prone areas.
- Rubber mallet, wood glue, tapping block, spacers, pull bar, and circular saw with a fine-toothed blade, pencil, and straight edge.

3. Acclimation: Store unopened boxes flat in the room where the flooring is to be installed for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Once boxes are opened, they should be installed immediately.

4. Inspect the flooring planks carefully for any possible damage or defects before installation. No claims regarding visual defects will be accepted after the flooring has been installed. If you discover apparent defects in the flooring planks, you should stop the installation immediately. Labor will not be paid on apparent visible defects after installation.

**Installing in Wet Areas** – Any planks that have been cut, leaving the core exposed must be sealed with a silicone-based sealant to ensure proper performance when exposed to moisture. Any damage that occurs to cut planks that have not been sealed will not be covered under warranty. When installing in areas that are prone to moisture, such as bathrooms and laundry rooms, the perimeter of the room must be sealed with an appropriate silicone-based sealant to ensure moisture cannot get under the floor. Although this flooring is moisture resistant, any spills should not be left unattended.

### Installation Instructions:

1. NEVER USE A TAPPING BLOCK OR INSTALLATION KIT THAT IS NOT MEANT TO BE USED WITH 12 MM LAMINATE FLOORING. USING THESE TOOLS WILL DAMAGE YOUR FLOOR AND VOID YOUR WARRANTY.

2. This Laminate flooring is designed to be installed as a floating floor. Under no circumstances should flooring planks be glued, nailed, screwed, or otherwise adhered ex. door stopper, closet track, to the subfloor in any way. This statement does not apply to stairs which must be fully adhered.

3. Laminate flooring needs room to expand. An expansion gap of 10–15 mm (3/8" to 5/8") should always be left around the perimeter of the room (e.g.: between the flooring planks and the walls or any other fixed elements, such as heating pipes or door jambs). This expansion gap can be covered up with baseboards, quarter rounds or the appropriate floor trim. T Moldings must be using in runs over 13m (42.65') in the same direction.

Installation should be carried out at a room temperature between 18°C (65°F) to 29° C (85°F) and a floor temperature of at least 15°C (59°F). The room must be maintained in this range of temperature throughout the life of the floor. The relative humidity in the room should be 30-65 % RH. The

temperature difference between the flooring planks and the subfloor should not exceed  $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

4. The subfloor must be absolutely level, dry, clean, and secured. Carpet is not a suitable underlayment. Differences in subfloor level of more than 3 mm per 1 metre span (1/8" over 3') must either be sanded down or filled in with suitable floor filling compound.
5. The 72-hour moisture warranty applies to topical moisture only. Moisture below the flooring may cause damage to the flooring and is a health concern due to the risk of mold growth. For installation below grade, or on a concrete subfloor, an underlayment with vapor barrier must be used. If the product you have selected already has a pre attached underlayment, then a 6 mil poly vapor barrier must be used over concrete, and in moisture prone areas. The seams of the poly vapor barrier must overlap by at least 20 cm (8") and must be taped with moisture resistant tape along the length of the overlap. (Cascade Laminate recommends the use of Dream Walk Premium Underlayment or EasyStep™ Premium Underlayment). Wood subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%.
6. For acoustic insulation, an appropriate underlayment should be used. Underlayment maximum thickness under this flooring is 4mm and a minimum density of 53 kg/m<sup>3</sup> (3.5 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>). If the product you have selected already has a pre attached underlayment, this step is not needed.
7. Flooring planks should preferably be installed longitudinally (lengthwise) of the main light source.
8. Avoid narrow pieces at the finish wall. Measure the distance between the starting wall and the finishing wall. Divide this number by the width of the laminate flooring plank. The remainder must be greater than 6.35 cm (2.5").
9. Cascade Laminate warrants the use of its products over hydronic radiant heat systems only. The temperature must be increased gradually and must never exceed 26 °C (79 °F). Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system. The maximum moisture content of the subfloor is 1.5% (CM method) or less than 5lbs/24 hour per 1000 sqft (Calcium chloride method).
10. Your laminate flooring can be walked on immediately following installation. As soon as part of the flooring has been installed, the furniture can be moved onto the finished installation. Always use felt pads under heavy furniture to avoid damage to the floor.

#### **Assembling flooring panels:**

1. Install appropriate underlayment as per the underlayment manufacturer's guidelines.
2. For best results, make sure to work from 2-3 cartons at a time to ensure a random look. For the first row of planks, cut off the tongue of the plank. Lay the first plank with the trimmed tongue edge on the long side of the plank facing the wall while taking special care to maintain proper expansion as explained in point #3 above.
3. Assemble the planks end joints by lowering the tongue of the plank into the groove from top to bottom. Once the end joint channels are in proper alignment, use a rubber mallet to engage the locking system.
4. To start the second row, use the remainder of the last plank of the first row if it is longer than 30cm (12") otherwise, cut a new plank in half and proceed. To ensure structural integrity of your floor, it is mandatory to **ALWAYS STAGGER THE END JOINTS FROM ROW TO ROW BY AT LEAST 15.25cm (6"). SHORT AND LONG SIDE LOCKS MUST BE SECURLY TAPPED IN WITH THE APPROPRAITE AMOUNT OF FORCE AND WITH A COMPATIBLE TAPPING BLOCK TO QUALIFY FOR THE 72 HOUR TOPICAL MOISTURE WARRANTY.**

In the case where you are unable to angle planks (e.g. Under a doorframe or radiator), you must cut away the locking edge of the lip of the bottom groove by using a wood chisel. Run a bead of glue on the now modified tongue and groove. Tighten the panels gently with the use of a pull bar and a hammer.

If a doorframe must be undercut, lay a plank of flooring next to the doorframe with the patterned side facing down. Undercut the doorjamb with a saw, then slide the flooring plank under the doorjamb with the decorative pattern facing upwards. Please note that the floor must be allowed to expand under the doorjamb and recommended expansion gap must be respected.

5. Continue the installation as instructed above until you get to the last row. For the last row, measure the exact width required. To do this, lay a plank of flooring on the second to last row. Then lay a second plank of flooring on top of this plank with the tongue side of the plank touching the wall. This will allow you to determine the width needed for the final row. Make a mark with a pencil and cut with a saw along this mark. Expansion gap must be respected!

**See Separate Document for the "Cascade Laminate Maintenance & Warranty" Detail.**

**Cascade Laminate recommends the use of Dream Walk Premium Underlayment or EasyStep™ Premium Underlayment's:**

Available from your local flooring retailer distributed by Buckwold Western Ltd.