Care instructions, general information, and precautions for preventing damage to

laminate flooring

General information

Congratulations on your new laminate flooring. You have made the right choice for an easy-care, robust, and durable floor covering with a long service life and an easy-to-clean surface.

However, it is important to note that laminate flooring is also a type of wood flooring due to its wood content and that the customer must take certain measures to maintain the above-mentioned properties.

Wood-specific properties:

Laminate consists of up to 95% wood. Wood is a natural material. Wood has properties that must be taken into account. Wood is hygroscopic, which means it reacts to changes in the indoor climate. In humid air, the laminate absorbs moisture and expands. In dry air, on the other hand, moisture is extracted from the laminate and it begins to shrink.

Heating season:

During the heating season, small gaps may naturally appear in your laminate flooring. If desired, you can influence this natural appearance by humidifying the room air during the heating season using suitable humidifiers. Furthermore, the underfloor heating must be set correctly by qualified personnel. The laminate flooring is approved for a maximum short-term surface temperature of 27 degrees Celsius. However, for physiological reasons, it is strongly recommended not to exceed a surface temperature of 25 degrees Celsius.

This applies unless the manufacturer specifies other values. If the relative humidity falls below 45% for a certain period of time and/or the underfloor heating exceeds a surface temperature of 27 degrees, this can cause permanent damage to the laminate flooring (check with a hygrometer and thermometer).

Well-being – indoor climate – hygrometer

Maintaining a relative humidity of around 50–60% at a temperature of approx. 20 degrees is recommended as the ideal indoor climate for people and flooring. Please note: in summer, he laminate will swell slightly in line with the indoor climate and shrink slightly in winter. Small ovement joints may occur. Be sure to obtain a hygrometer, which can be used to monitor the desired indoor climate in conjunction with humidifiers. During the heating season, ensure additional humidification, which is not only beneficial for your laminate flooring, but also for the well-being and health of the occupants. The relative humidity during and AFTER nstallation should be approx. 50–60%, and the room temperature should be between 18 and 20°C.

If the humidity is less than 45%, the laminate flooring may suffer considerable permanent damage ! This provides your laminate flooring with optimal conditions, as higher humidity causes the wood-based panels in the flooring, like all wood-based materials, to swell. Low humidity—here, air conditioning, ventilation systems, and underfloor heating must be taken into account—can lead to shrinkage in the worst case, especially when combined with high temperatures. During the heating season, the use of humidifiers is recommended. Laminate floors with underfloor heating must not be covered with carpets or other materials, as this can lead to heat accumulation. It is better to prevent dirt than to remove it!

The best way to clean is to prevent dirt from accumulating. Place a sufficiently large dirt-trapping mat in front of your apartment door. Please remember: Dirt carried in can cause damage to all floor coverings.

Small stones and similar objects act like sandpaper and cause unsightly scratches. Chair, table, and All furniture legs must be fitted with felt glides so that they can be moved easily and scratches can be prevented.

Another tip: remember to equip office chairs, file cabinets, rolling containers, etc. with soft treads/casters

! These can be recognized by their two-tone design. If you already have furniture, you should replace old, hard, and/or sharp-edged casters. Sufficiently sized polycarbonate mats should be laid under chair casters and other high-traffic areas.

Initial cleaning after installation

Before using the floor for the first time, remove sawdust, dust, and dirt with a broom or vacuum cleaner with a suction nozzle for hard floors.

We then recommend cleaning the floor to remove any remaining dirt. To do this, wipe the surface with a wrung-out, drip-free cloth. This is referred to as “damp mopping.” Add a little laminate cleaning agent to the mopping water! When selecting a suitable cleaning agent, follow the recommendations of the member companies organized in the EPLF

Is it necessary to use care products?

Laminate flooring with a melamine resin surface (DPL laminate flooring according to EN 13329) does not require care treatment with film-forming cleaning and care products, polish, or floor wax. For other surface finishes, e.g., directly printed floors with a lacquered surface (PDL laminate flooring according to EN 15468), treatment with care products, such as those used for lacquered parquet floors, may be advisable. Be sure to follow the recommendations of the laminate flooring manufacturer! Manufacturers often recommend laminate cleaners from Dr. Schutz

Routine cleaning in living areas

All floor coverings are subject to natural wear and tear, which depends on the quality of the floor covering and the level of use. Regular maintenance cleaning helps to preserve the value of the floor.

- Loose dirt

Your new laminate floor has a hard and dense surface. This makes it difficult for dirt to stick to it and usually easy to remove. A vacuum cleaner suitable for hard floors, preferably with an effective dust filter and a suction nozzle for hard floors, is ideal for this. With a well-wrung, non-dripping cloth, you can easily and conveniently remove dust and loose dirt from the floor.

- Stubborn dirt

Stubborn dirt should be removed using the recommended cleaning agents. When selecting and using cleaning agents, please observe the instructions in this information sheet on initial cleaning after laying the laminate floor!

Caution: Do not use abrasive sponges, microfiber cloths, pads, scouring agents, etc.! Only wipe the laminate floor with a damp cloth. Too much water can permanently damage the laminate floor or cause unnecessary tension. Do not sand, varnish, or wax laminate floors! For laminate floors with a melamine resin surface, do not use film-forming cleaning and care

products and under no circumstances use floor wax or polish. For laminate flooring with other surface finishes, e.g., directly printed flooring with a varnished surface, additional or different measures may be advisable to maintain its value. These include, for example, the use of care products.

Further information on this can be obtained from the manufacturer of the respective flooring.

Steam cleaners are not suitable for use on all laminate floors.

- Stubborn dirt/stains

In everyday life, stubborn dirt/stains can occur when using floors. stains may occur during daily use of the floors. These include, for example, rubber abrasion, heel marks, nail polish and other varnishes, shoe polish Not all stubborn dirt/stains can be removed with the recommended laminate floor cleaning agents. In this case, please use a stain remover recommended for laminate floors !

It is recommended to use only Dr. Schutz laminate cleaner for daily care. The dosage of the product must be strictly adhered to. The combination of incorrectly adjusted underfloor heating and/or too high or too low humidity can lead to permanent damage or even total damage to the laminate flooring.In the case of floating installation, the floor must be allowed to “float.” Doors must not be pressed against the floor, but must be placed with air between them and the floor so that the floor can float. Heavy furniture such as kitchens, pianos, built-in cupboards, etc. must not prevent the floor from floating and must therefore be placed directly on the screed at a distance of 10 mm from the floor. Failure to observe this may lead to creaking noises, joint formation, or harmful tension, and even total damage.

Precautions to avoid damage

– Room doors must always be installed with a gap to the floor so that the floor is not prevented from “floating.”

If the room doors are pressed against the floating floor, damage may occur. There is tension here that can cause creaking, bulging, Typical damage includes tension that can cause creaking, bulging, compression, or joint formation, and even total damage. It is recommended to place spacers underneath during installation, which should be removed once installation is complete.

– According to the enclosed original installation instructions, the kitchen should not weigh down the floor when installing floating floor coverings kitchens should not weigh down the floor, but must be placed directly on the screed to avoid tension. If the floor is laid under the kitchen, the kitchen builder must be informed so that they can place the feet on the screed by drilling through the floor covering or cut an expansion joint under the skirting board through the entire thickness of the floor covering and length of the kitchen area and decouple the kitchen from the rest of the room. Other heavy pieces of furniture such as pianos, built-in cupboards, etc. require urgent clarification in consultation with the manufacturer. Typical damage patterns here include tension that can cause creaking, bulging, compression, or joint formation, up to and including total damage. A constant humidity level of 50 to 60% must be maintained to prevent excessive shrinkage or expansion of the flooring. If the humidity falls below 50%, appropriate humidifiers must be used. If the humidity exceeds 60%, appropriate dehumidifiers must be used. If this is not observed, tension can cause creaking, bulging, compression, or joint formation, covering lamella detachment, and even total damage.

– With underfloor heating, care must be taken to ensure that the surface temperature of the floor covering does not exceed 25 degrees Celsius. The heating engineer must be instructed to adjust the heating in accordance with the heating system they have installed so that this

value is not exceeded. If this is not observed, typical damage includes tension that can cause creaking, bulging, compression or joint formation due to drying out, detachment of cover slats and even total damage. Depending on the type of screed, it should be noted that lowering the screed can cause a gap to form between the floor covering and the baseboard.

– Depending on the type of screed, it should be noted that screed subsidence can cause gaps to form between the floor covering and the baseboard. Never leave laminate flooring damp or wet for long periods of time, as it can absorb moisture around the edges and change shape (swell). When cleaning, always make sure that you either wipe dry (with a mop or suitable vacuum cleaner) or only wipe with a damp cloth (using a well-wrung mop) and that no puddles form on the floor

– If you have underfloor heating, laminate flooring must not be covered with carpets, painter's fleece, etc., as heat can build up under the materials and cause permanent damage or even total loss.

– Flower pots must not be placed directly on the laminate. Christmas trees are also a frequent cause of damage. In both cases, moisture damage to the flooring often occurs due to spillage or leaky coasters.

Comments

The recommendations in these care instructions serve as additional information to the cleaning and care recommendations provided by the laminate flooring and cleaning product manufacturers organized in the EPLF. They represent non-binding guidelines and do not claim to be exhaustive. They correspond to the best knowledge and the current state of the art. No warranty claims can be derived from them ! In case of doubt, the anufacturer/supplier of the laminate flooring should be consulted on a project-specific basis. The content of the care instructions and precautions for damage prevention has already been explained in detail during the sales discussion and was enclosed with the cost estimate in advance, as confirmed by the signature below.

The additional information was provided before the installation work began. In principle, the care instructions/care guidelines issued by the manufacturer apply.

– Created by the members of the EPLF in collaboration with the IFR Cologne INSTITUTE FOR FLOORING AND

INTERIOR DESIGN | July 2008 edition

If anything in this document is unclear, please consult the company carrying out the work immediately. If you are not the end customer, this document must be passed on to the end customer, tenant, building cleaner, etc. The document consists of 4 pages and receipt is confirmed again by signature. By document consists of 4 pages and receipt is confirmed again by signature. By passing on these instructions to their client, the floor layer complies with the requirements of DIN 18365 when laying new flooring.