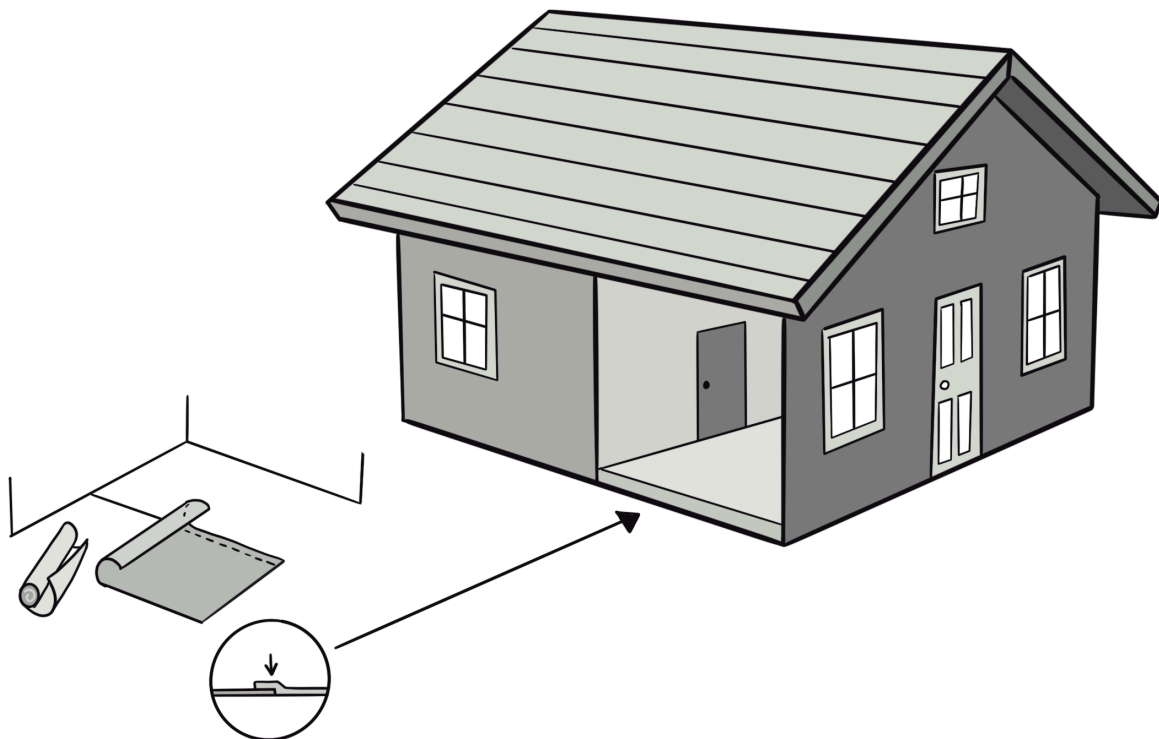


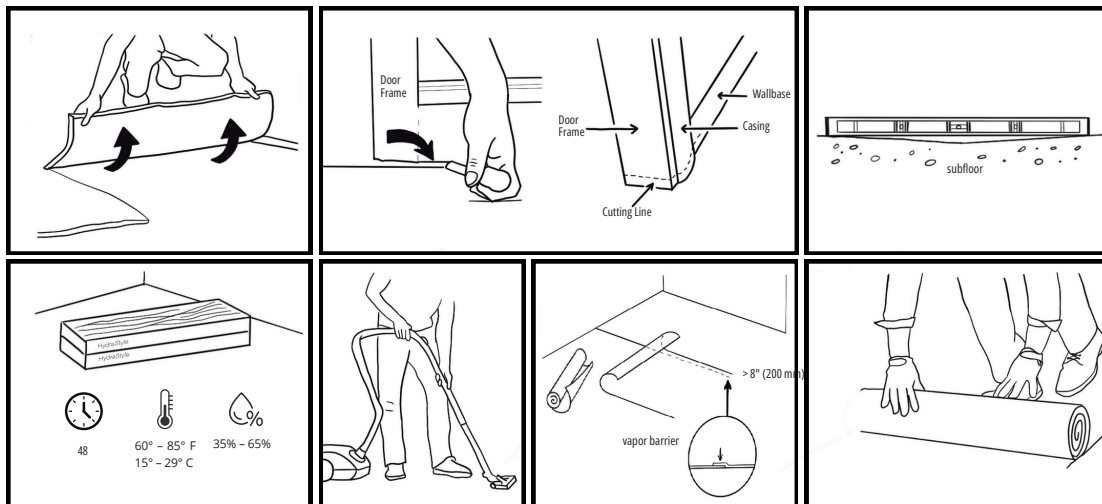
Jobsite Requirements

HydraStyle flooring is a durable surface material designed for interior use and is not intended to serve as a structural component. Proper installation requires a clean, dry, and secure subfloor that complies with all applicable building codes. While the following guidelines provide installation recommendations, they do not override federal, state, or local codes. In some cases, adjustments to existing structural elements may be necessary to achieve proper installation. The homeowner or installer is responsible for ensuring compliance with all building regulations. HydraStyle flooring is suitable for indoor installations only, in climate-controlled environments with a temperature range of 60–85°F and a relative humidity of 35–65%. It is not recommended for areas with floor drains, sump pumps, or other non-climate-controlled spaces. This flooring can be installed on, above, or below grade. To prevent issues caused by excessive moisture, moisture test is strongly recommended for subfloors. Concrete subfloors should meet either ASTM F1869 standards, with moisture emissions of ≤ 5 lbs/1000 sq. ft./24 hours, or ASTM F2170 standards, with a relative humidity below 80%. For wood subfloors, moisture levels must be $\leq 12\%$. The site must maintain acceptable conditions, including appropriate humidity levels and subfloor moisture readings, throughout the lifespan of the flooring. HydraStyle flooring uses a floating installation method and requires T-moldings in doorways narrower than 32 inches (0.81 m) or in spaces where the installation changes direction. T-moldings are also required in rooms exceeding 50 feet (15.24 m) in length or width. Ensure the flooring is not fixed in place with glue, nails, screws, or other materials that restrict movement. For best results, this product must be installed in accordance with the provided installation instructions.



Site and Material Preparation

- A.** Remove any carpet, padding, or wood flooring installed over concrete. Ensure that all materials being removed are free of asbestos before proceeding.
- B.** Undercut door frames and wall base moldings to allow the flooring to slide at least 1/4" beneath them. Maintain a concealed minimum expansion gap of 3/8" at these points.
- C.** Eliminate bumps or peaks in the subfloor, and fill any depressions with a leveling compound to achieve a flat surface with no more than 3/16" variation over a 10-foot span.
- D.** Acclimate unopened flooring materials before installation. If immediate installation is necessary, ensure the difference between the storage or transportation environment and the installation environment does not exceed 25°F in temperature or 20% relative humidity.
- E.** Thoroughly clean the subfloor, removing all debris prior to installation.
- F.** For concrete subfloors, install a vapor barrier with seams overlapped by at least 8 inches.
- G.** If the flooring planks lack attached underlayment, use a single layer of underlayment appropriate for HydraStyle flooring.



Flooring Installation

- A.** Inspect each plank carefully before installation. To ensure a consistent color and shade blend, work with planks from multiple cartons simultaneously.
- B.** For the first row along a straight wall, remove the tongue from all long side joints and from the short side of the first plank only.
- C.** If the wall is uneven, trace its contour onto the tongue side of the plank and cut accordingly.
- D.** Begin assembling the first row with the tongue side facing the wall. Insert the end tongue into the end groove of the adjacent plank and rotate it downward to secure. Ensure the planks remain aligned with closed joints.
- E.** Two spacers placed thick side to thick side will equal a 3/8" expansion gap.
- F.** Allow a 3/8" expansion space on all sides of the room. The first piece in each row must be at least 8" long. Begin new rows with cut pieces from the previous row, ensuring at least a 6" offset between end joints.
- G.** To join planks, angle plank 2 slightly and insert its tongue into the groove of plank 1 until the edges meet. Rotate downward to lock the joint. Begin by connecting the short ends first. A slight gap will remain on the long side joint when rotated down.
- H.** To close the long side joint, raise the outer edge of the plank approximately 1", maintain this angle, and push the plank inward until the edges meet. Rotate it downward to lock. Repeat these steps for the remaining planks.
- I.** Alternate Tap Method: Align the tongues into the grooves of both long and short sides. Start with the long side and lightly tap along its length using a tapping block until the joint is tight. Then, use the block to secure the short end into place. Note: Avoid uneven tapping or excessive force, as it may damage the joints

Flooring Installation (cont'd)

- J.** Ensure a 3/8" expansion gap remains between the flooring and the wall once the joint is closed. For the final row, align a plank over the second-to-last row and use a full-width plank as a spacer to trace and cut the contour of the wall.
- K.** Install the final row by inserting the tongue of the long side into the groove of the adjacent row. Align the end joint and use a pull bar and hammer to gently tap the joint closed along the length of the plank.
- L.** After closing the long side joint, tap the short side closed using a tapping block or pull bar.
- M.** Slide the plank under the pre-cut door frame.
- N.** Secure the long side joint first, followed by the end joint, tapping gently to close both.

Installation Around Fixed Objects (Such as Pipes)

Maintain a 3/8" expansion space around pipes and other fixed objects.

Finishing the Installation

1. Remove all spacers.
2. Apply a watertight seal using flexible 100% silicone sealant around the entire perimeter.

Do not use acrylic sealant.

- Fill all expansion gaps with a 3/8" compressible PE foam backer rod before applying the sealant.
- Apply silicone sealant to any part of the molding or transition that will contact the flooring surface.
- Install moldings and immediately remove any excess sealant.
- Seal connections at doorframes or fixed objects with silicone sealant.

Care and Cleaning

- Place felt protectors under the legs of movable furniture to prevent damage. Use rubber chair casters instead of plastic or metal ones.
- Use walk-off mats at entrances to reduce dirt and debris.
- Dust mopping should be your primary cleaning method. Damp mop only with a well-wrung-out mop. Avoid pouring liquid directly on the floor or leaving excessive moisture.
- If needed, clean with a solution of 1 cup of vinegar per gallon of water or 1/3 cup of non-sudsing ammonia per gallon of water.
- Avoid using detergents, abrasive cleaners, soaps, waxes, or polishes.
- Use appropriate vacuum tools for hard surfaces. Do not use rotating beater bars, steamers, jet mops, buffers, or similar products.
- Wipe up spills immediately. Do not allow standing water or topical moisture to remain on the surface longer than specified in the product warranty.

ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR A SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION:

Our laminate flooring is compatible with radiant heating systems, but for the best results, proper installation is essential. Before you begin, review these important guidelines to ensure a successful and long-lasting installation.

If you're installing laminate flooring in a home with radiant heat, it's critical to follow all installation instructions carefully and use only approved underlayments. The heating system must be specifically designed for laminate flooring and should include a surface temperature probe and thermostat controls.

Key Guidelines for Installation:

- For newly installed water-based radiant heating systems, the temperature should be maintained between 64-72°F for at least four weeks before installation to allow the subfloor to dry properly.
- Existing water-based radiant heating systems must be fully pressure tested, well-maintained, and set to a minimum of 64°F for at least four days before flooring delivery, acclimation, or installation.
- Electric mat or mesh radiant heating systems must be explicitly approved for use with laminate flooring by the manufacturer.
- Before installation, check wood subfloors to ensure moisture content is below 12% using a reliable wood moisture meter. Concrete subfloors should register as "dry" using a dependable concrete moisture meter.
- Concrete subfloor pH levels should be between 6 and 9.
- All subfloor moisture and pH requirements must be met before delivery, acclimation, installation, and any necessary curing steps.
- Maintain job site conditions with relative humidity between 35-65% and temperatures between 60-80°F during delivery, acclimation, and installation.
- After installation, allow at least 48 hours before making any adjustments to the radiant heating settings. Once this period has passed, temperature changes should be made gradually—no more than 4-5°F per day—to allow the laminate to adjust properly.
- The surface temperature of the flooring should never exceed 85°F.

Additional Considerations:

When using laminate over a radiant heating system, minor gaps may develop due to temperature fluctuations. Keeping humidity levels stable can help minimize these effects. Seasonal changes can also impact laminate flooring, so consistent temperature and humidity regulation is recommended for optimal performance.