



# *Expo Max Series*

## Water-resistant Laminate Installation Instruction

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### **Installation Instruction**

Do not install until you have finished reading the following instructions.  
Failure to follow the recommended maintenance procedure will nullify all warranties.



## I

- **Installer/Owner:** Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation, improper installation will void warranty.

## II

- **Important Notice:**

All wood based products, even those specially designed to have increased resistance to moisture, are hygroscopic (they will react to the moisture in the environment) and as a result will expand or contract accordingly. **All source of under floor moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor. Any construction dampness must be completely dry. It is important that you check each plank for any manufacturing defects.** Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate refund or replacement prior to the flooring being installed.

**Subfloors:** The installer should take care to ensure that the subfloor and substrate are properly prepared to receive the new flooring. Adequate and careful attention to this will help prevent issues related to expansion and contraction, discoloration, telegraphing of nails or other fastening devices, and damage associated with alkali deposits, mold and mildew.

**Wood Subfloors:**

- Must be structurally sound with minimal movement and deflection. Maximum deflection should be no more than 3/64" (1.1mm). Minimum allowable thickness is 3/4"(19mm).
- Moisture content should not exceed 13%.
- Wood Subfloors over a crawlspace must have a minimum of 18" of ventilated air space below. Crawlspace floors must be covered with a suitable vapor barrier.

**Concrete Subfloors:**

- New slab have to be cured minimum 60 days prior installation.





- Ensure the concrete subfloor is level and even.
- Make sure the subfloor is dry and clean before installation.

## Existing Resilient Floors

Installation over existing resilient flooring is approved provided existing flooring is adequately adhered to the subfloor and that it is solid and has no deflection. Do not install Exposition over cushion or carpeted flooring. Use embossing leveler or premium cementitious patch to fill depressions, cracks and voids to meet substrate levelness guidelines.

## Ceramic or Quarry Tile, Terrazzo and Marble

Approved providing that the tile is well bonded to a structurally sound subfloor. Use patching compound to fill depressions, cracks, voids and grout lines. Fill until all areas are smooth and flat to meet subfloor guidelines.

**In-Floor Radiant Heat:** Flooring can be installed over 1/2"(12mm) embedded radiant heat. Radiant heat systems must have a minimum of 1/2"(12mm) separation from the product. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 85°F (30°C). Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating. 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 should be 2.5% (CM method). Before starting the installation, turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation.

- Make sure that the temperature in the room is at between 65°F (18°C) and 78°F (25°C) during installation.
- Once the installation has been completed, the heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (5°C increments) until returning to normal operating conditions.
- Refer to the radiant heat system's Manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance. **Warning:** Electric



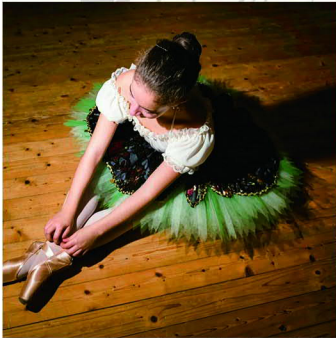
heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath the flooring. Using electric heating mats that are embedded and applied directly underneath the flooring will void the warranty.

- Calculate the room surface prior to installation and plan an extra 10% of flooring for wastage.
- Keep the boards flat in the room where they will be installed in the unopened package before you start installation to acclimate. The room temperature must be between 65-78°F (18-25°C) before and during the installation. If the relative humidity in the room is between 35% and 70%, the product should be acclimated for 24 hours or more. If the relative humidity is below 35% or above 70% the product should be acclimated for 48 hours or more.
- Inspect your subfloor before you begin. It must be clean, dry (maximum 2.5% moisture content - CM method) and level to 5mm (3/16") within a 3 meters (10 ft.) span.
- If this flooring is intended to be installed over the existing wood floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin installation.
- With a floating floor you must always ensure you leave 1 cm (1/2") gap between walls and fixture such as pipes and pillars, stairs, etc.

**Pro Tip:** When installing around pipes, drill the holes 20mm (3/4") larger than the diameter of the pipes.

- **Install a vapor barrier over concrete substrates.** In the case of the installation is done over a wood substrate on or below grade, a vapor barrier must be installed if there is no vapor barrier existing in a well-ventilated crawl space. Minimum 0.15mm (6 mil) plastic poly sheeting should be used as a moisture barrier. Underlayment thicker than 3mm (1/8") is not advised.
- Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the length direction of the planks parallel to the main light direction.





- Measure the area to be installed: The board width of the last row shall not be less than 50mm (2"). If so, adjust the width of the first row to be installed. When measuring, take the free gap requirement of about 10mm (1/2") of the floor perimeter into account. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the lengthways.

- Inspect your laminate flooring planks prior to installing. **Installation constitutes acceptance of flooring material.** No claims on manufacturing defects will be accepted after installation.

- The flooring must be used only indoors in a dry, climate-controlled area and cannot be used in bathroom and shower room.

- Installation area in length and width direction (span) should be 36 feet or less. Use moulding for transition if area is greater than 36 feet (every 36 feet).

### III

#### ■ Limited Warranty Exclusion and Conditions:

- Failure to fully engage the locking system around all sides of each plank during the installation could result in gaps that will void this limited warranty.

- The flooring must be maintained in accordance with care and maintenance instructions. And the limited warranty does not cover conditions caused by below damages:

1. Damage resulting from excessively wet maintenance or from using detergents, abrasive cleaners, soaps, and waxes or polishers is not covered by this limited warranty.

2. Damage must not have occurred as a result of improper or inadequate maintenance or accidents, such as damage caused by scratching, impact or cutting.

3. Damage resulting from the use of rotating beater bars, floor scrubbers, steamers, jet mops, buffers or similar products is not covered by this limited warranty.



4. Damage caused by events beyond everyday household spills, including but not limited to flooding, standing water, leaking pipes, mechanical failures or appliance leaks.

5. Moisture damage caused by water or moisture in the subfloor or underneath the flooring, including but not limited to damage from subfloor hydrostatic pressure (water or moisture under the floor that is transmitted to the surface through exerted pressure) or other conditions that result in water or moisture being below the floor.

6. Damage due to fluids of any source or type that are not removed within a reasonable period of time:

If it is less than 200ml, and it is not removed less than 80hours;

If it is more than 200ml, and it is not removed less than 24hours;

7. Construction-related damage is not covered by this limited warranty.

- The limited Warranty does not cover conditions or defects caused by improper installation and use of improper adhesives and maintenance, such as:

- scuffs, scratches, cuts, chipping, indenting or similar damage caused by gliders, castor wheels, vacuum cleaner beater bars, toys, or other objects.

- damage caused by chemicals, burns, fires and other accidents.

- damage caused by abuse (i.e. dragging heavy or sharp objects across the floor without proper protection).

- These limited warranties do not apply to mouldings area, and cut plank part.

- This product has a warranty which is pro-rated, please visit our website for more information: [www.opusfloors.ca](http://www.opusfloors.ca)

■ **Tools Needed:**

Spacers, hand-block, fine tooth saw, pencil, measuring tape, rubber mallet, glue, chisel and drill.



## IV

### ■ Installation of Floor Planks:

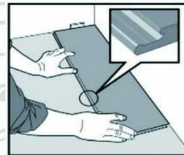


Fig 1. First plank, first row. Place a spacer of 12-15 mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances 12-15 mm.

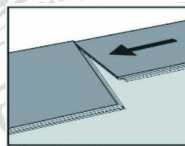


Fig 2. Second plank, first row place this plank gently and tight to the short end of the first one. Fold / angle down short end into place. Lengthways tap maybe required to secure tightly. Please make sure both long edges and short ends are tight with no visible gaps.

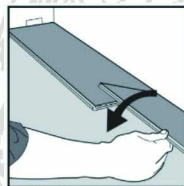


Fig 3. Click in long edge and fold / angle the plank down. During the angle / fold down, make sure the planks are tight against each other. Afterwards press down or slightly tap down at the short end or long edge of the installed plank till its flat. No major force is required.

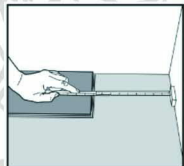


Fig 4. At the end of the first row, put a spacer 12 - 15 mm, to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit..

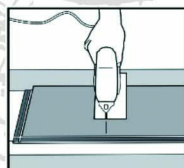


Fig 5. Cut with a jig saw – visual surface face turned down to eliminate/reduce damage to the face plank. Or if cutting using a hand saw, cut it with the visible face up. Then install it as previous plank.



Fig 6. Starting the Second row First plank should be a min length of 300-500 mm. Put a 12- 15mm spacer against the wall and wall and measure the last piece. If it is shorter than 500mm a new starter piece should be used. Insert the plank at an angle into the previous row and tap (the long side) in using a tapping block till flat.

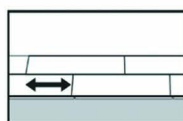
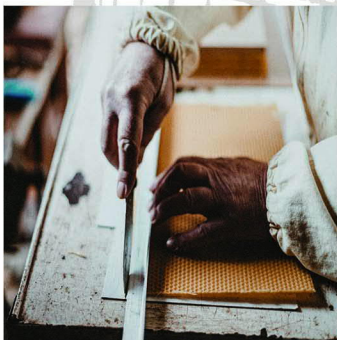


Fig 7. General distances between short ends. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 300-500 mm. This improves the stability of the floor.



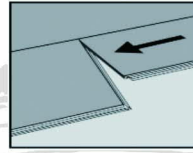
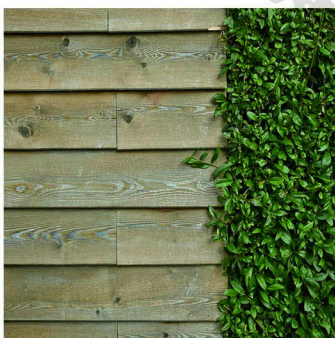
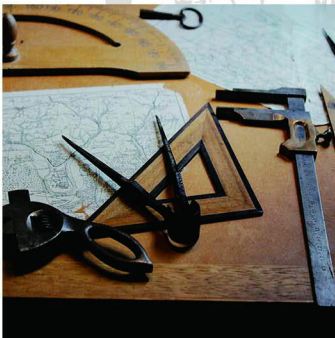


Fig 8a Second plank, second row place the panel at an angle into the groove of the previous row making sure that the end of the plank is tight/flush to the short end of the previous plank. Lengthways tap is required to flush and secure short end join.

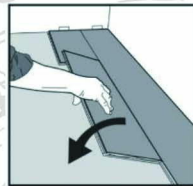
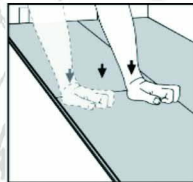


Fig 8b Fold or angle the plank down with a slight press to the left to the short end of the previous plank. Again using the tapping block tap it against the long end into the previous row. During the fold /angle down, make sure the plank is tight against each other.



Figs 8c As it flattens itself to the floor press or gently tap the top of the short end of the installed panel until its flat. Finish installing this plank by tapping it with a tapping block on the long side to ensure secure installation.

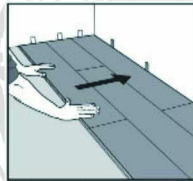


Fig 9. After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacer's 12- 15 mm. Once the adjustment is done against the main wall, continue to install till the last row.

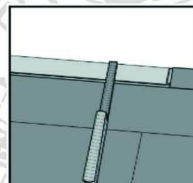


Fig 10. Last row (and perhaps also first row). The Minimum width of the last plank should be NOT LESS than 50 mm. Remember distance to wall is 12-15 mm. Tip! Put a spacer before measuring Cut the planks lengthwise and glue the short ends. See instructions below.



Diagram 1

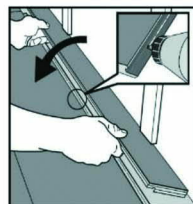


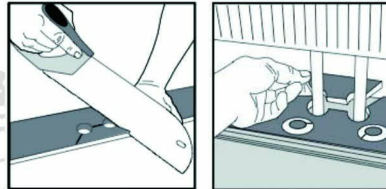
Diagram 2

## Special installations - Small panel widths.

### Diagram 1 & 2

For tight spaces under door thresholds or wall ends etc. Joining at short ends length cut planks. Cut the tongue at the same time you cut the length of the plank and install as shown above. Please note that the smallest width of a plank is 50 mm at the last row. If it is not, the first row width must be adjusted. This can easily be calculated when measuring the room with before installation. Cut off the locking element with a chisel, push the planks horizontally together. If necessary, place some spacers between the last plank and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the glue.





## Radiator pipes, installation at radiators.

Drill the holes 20 mm larger than the diameter of the pipes. Cut out the panel (with the thinnest blade possible) as per diagram. Install the plank as per normal. Glue the cut out piece back again.



## Disassembling

Your floor can be disassembled, which enables replacement during installation and also during use. Separate the whole row by carefully lifting up and slightly knocking just above the joint. Fold up or angle and release the whole long side. Disassemble the planks by sliding horizontally where possible or fold up and angle to release.



- **Special Installations:** Horizontal installation: Cut off the locking element with a chisel, put white glue (PVAc) on the adjusted strip and push the planks horizontally together. If necessary place some spacers between last board and the wall during the hardening time of the glue.
- **After Installation:** Remove all spacer skirting. Quarter-Rounds must be fixed to the walls (never to the floor). You can use the floor immediately after installation. Your floor can be very easy disassembled (angle up at short ends, opposite of the installation instructions, as shown in fig8) which enables simple replacement during installation and also during use.
- **Room climate:** If the climate is not kept correct or the floor is not installed with expansion gap, by natural properties the floor can show fine gaps, and at dry climate also concave (cupping boards) or at high RH%: convex boards.

V

- **Newly Installed Floor Care:**



- Always use plywood or other boards when moving heavy objects across the floor.
- Sweep or Vacuum the floor with a soft bristle broom or suitable attachment to remove loose dirt. (No beater bars on vacuums)
- Wash the floor with a non-abrasive, "No-Rinse" vinyl floor cleaner.
- For sticky messes, a damp mop with warm water. Do not flood the floor.
- Do not use soap-based detergents, abrasive, or "mop and shine" products.
- Floor does not require wax.
- Do not use full-strength bleaches (15% to sanitize septic).
- Protect all products from direct sunlight and the direct flow of heat from hot air registers, radiators and other appliances, as these conditions can discolour and/or damage your floor.
- Do not permit standing water.
- Always use floor protectors on furniture to reduce indentations, and try and avoid using rolling castors. If rolling castors are to be used please utilize the double-wheel type that is suitable for the weight load, or roller chairs that have gels or an approved chair mat underneath. If in doubt, ask about testing them before use.
- Ensure furniture legs have large surface, non-staining floor protectors. Replace small, narrow, metal or dome-shaped glides with smooth, flat glides that are in flat contact with the floor.
- Heavy furniture or appliances that are not moved often should be equipped with flat, non-staining composition furniture casters or cups of appropriate size.
- Always read the cautionary information on all cleaners.

## VI

- **Warning:** The use of latex or rubber mats may cause yellowing or discolouration.
- **Warning:** Some packing tapes use plastic migrators that can





permanently alter the surface.

- **Important:** NEVER push, pull, or drag heavy furniture or other items across the floor. When moving furniture or heavy items, always lift and carry the items, if possible. Otherwise, use furniture sliders available at most hardware, home improvement, and discount stores, or place the item on a piece of carpet turned upside down (only move this way if the carpet slides easily).

#### ■ **Prevention:**

The single greatest cause of damage to any flooring or floor finish is abrasion from dirt and grit. Wherever possible, use walk off mats at entrances and doorways. Always use non-staining floor protectors under heavy furniture, chairs, and tables. Felt pad protectors are best. Always add floor mats on area where rolling chairs are being used.

If you are not sure about care or maintenance of your new floor, please call your Opus Floors Representative.

#### ■ **Maintenance:**

Clean the floor regularly with a vacuum cleaner or dry mop. If necessary, the floor may be cleaned with a wet mop and a laminate cleaner. Avoid using too much water. To protect the floor from sand we recommend you to use the doormats at entries (but do not use mats with a rubber backing). Place felt floor protectors under the legs of moveable furniture. Chair casters should be rubber - not plastic or metal.

- **DO NOT** pour liquid directly on floor or use an excessively wet mop that will puddle or leave moisture standing on the floor.
- **DO NOT** use detergents, abrasive cleaners, soaps, waxes or polishes.
- **DO NOT** use rotating beater bars, floor scrubbers, steamers, jet mops, buffers or similar products.

**Wipe up spills immediately.**