evoke®

flooring that can take it

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS
RIVERS & ARCHWAYS COLLECTION

Installation Method

Unilin Uniclic (angle-angle/
angle-tap) Joint System

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING THE INSTALLATION

Evoke Surge Waterproof Composite Core (WCC) flooring must be installed in accordance with the following instructions. Failure to do so may void the product warranty.

PRODUCT USE & INSTALLATION OPTIONS

PRODUCT USE

Evoke Surge Waterproof Composite Core (WCC) flooring meets the industry's 24 hour waterproof standards ANSI/NALFA LF-01. Evoke WCC flooring is for indoor use in residential applications, this product may be used in all areas including 'wet rooms' (bathroom, kitchen, laundry). When installing in wet rooms, follow the special instructions in the "Completing the Installation" section. Surge should not be installed in saunas, shower stalls or any area where it will be exposed to dampness or high humidity on a regular basis.
In commercial applications, Surge may be used in locations where moderate to heavy customer traffic is expected, including but not limited to offices, retail stores and restaurants, medical/dental clinics, salons, etc. Surge should not be installed in locations where there is frequent exposure to spilled liquids (bars, public washrooms, etc.), or heavy rolling loads (warehouses, hospitals, big box stores, etc.)

Surge flooring can be installed:

•In rooms on, above or below ground level
•Over plywood, OSB or concrete subfloors
•Directly over most existing hard surface flooring
•Over radiant heating systems

MOISTURE PROTECTION

Evoke Surge floors are guaranteed to withstand exposure to topical surface moisture and liquid for 24 hours or more without damage to the floor, however, it is recommended that any spilled food, drink or other liquid be cleaned up as quickly as possible. Place trays or mats under any standing containers like plant pots or water dishes. Installations in 'wet rooms' (bathroom, kitchen, laundry) must have waterproof silicone caulking applied wherever the floor meets a vertical object (molding, baseboard, cabinetry) or sits under a standing fixture (sink, toilet, doorframe) as described in the installation instructions. The floor is not warranted against excessive exposure to liquid such as flooding, excessive mopping, burst pipes, etc. The floor is not warranted against any exposure to moisture originating in the substrate.

INSTALLER'S / OWNERS RESPONIBILITY

Evoke Surge flooring is manufactured to highest standards of product quality, but occasional manufacturing defects may occur in the product. It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all pieces Surge flooring before installation. Any pieces of flooring that appear to contain a manufacturing defect should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and owner, even if the owner is not present at the time of installation. If defects are found, please contact your dealer. It is the sole responsibility of the flooring installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor, and installation, and materials meet or exceed all applicable industry standards. Evoke accepts no responsibility for problems arising from incorrect or improper site preparation or installation procedures.
Very important: Evoke Surge flooring is made from wood and wood-based products, and like any wood product it will react to changes in the environment. Please pay special attention to instructions regarding on site acclimatization, expansion space, and temperature and humidity levels.

SITE PREPARATION:

Installation in newly-constructed home

Installation of Surge flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing a Surge floor, ensure that:

•The building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to house interior
•All concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting and other wet work is complete and thoroughly cured and dry
•All floor mounted cabinetry (including kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, etc.) is installed and secured
•Assessments and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water; crawlspaces must also have a vapor barrier and adequate ventilation in accordance with localbuilding codes
•Gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building
•HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home
•Subfloor is properly prepared for installation
•If installing over radiant heat, ensure that the system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to install
•Do not install floor-mounted cabinetry directly on top of the flooring as this may
•Restrict seasonal movement and lead to gapping/buckling and squeaks

In addition:

•Remove all furniture, artwork and other valuables from installation area
•Remove baseboards and moldings
•Undercut door casings (use a piece of the flooring as a depth gauge)
•Remove existing flooring, if necessary
•Floor mounted cabinetry (including kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, etc.) is installed and secured

RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS

Evoke Surge floors are suitable for installation over compatible in-floor radiant heat systems. It is the homeowner's responsibility to determine if the radiant heat system being considered is compatible for use under the floor being installed. We recommend that the homeowner contact the system manufacturer and get written confirmation that the system is approved for use with laminate flooring and under what operating conditions. Please contact the Evoke Technical Services Team at techserv@metrofl oors.com for more information.

Prior to installation, ensure that the radiant heat system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone.

After installation, Evoke recommends that the surface temperature of the floor never be allowed to exceed 82°F (28°C) and that changes in temperature be moderated in increments of 5°F (2°C) to avoid 'shocking' the floor.

Where possible, we recommend the use of a data logger to monitor and record temperature and humidity conditions; this provides a record of the environmental conditions and may also help take preventive measures where conditions are outside of recommended levels.

CLIMATE CONTROL

Conditions at the job site must be maintained with the temperature between and 60-80°F (15-26°C) humidity at 30-50% RH before, during and after the installation.

Flooring material should not be delivered to job site until these conditions have been met and maintained for one week prior to installation if installing over plywood, and for two weeks if installing over concrete.

When temperature and humidity have met the conditions detailed above, material may be delivered to the job site. Do not deliver flooring to jobsite if climate conditions have not been met and maintained as described above otherwise damage to product may result.

Following installation, these conditions should be maintained at all times to ensure proper performance of the floor. See Warranty for details.

ACCLIMATION

Once the site is under control as previously outlined, material brought to the site should have a minimum of 24-48 hours for the flooring to become balanced to the install sites interior temperature. If stacking the boxes, cross-stack to ensure good air flow between layers. Do not open the boxes; leave closed until ready to commence the installation, and then open only as needed.

SUB FLOOR PREPERATION

The installer and customer are jointly and solely responsible for ensuring that the subfloor is suitable for the flooring application and properly prepared for installation.

All subfloors must be clean, dry, structurally sound and flat to within 3/16" in 10'. When floating over pre-existing floors such as ceramic tile, all grout-lines must be levelled with a suitable bonding-filler and inspected for proper adhesion. All other types of flooring should

be securely fastened and have no movement. Do not install Surge flooring over an existing floating floor.

Wood/Plywood Subfloors must be tested for moisture content and the subfloor moisture content should not exceed 12%. Subfloors must meet local building code requirements. Fix any loose subfloor panels or planks and address subfloor noise issues as needed.

Truss/joist spacing. (Measured on center)	Minimum acceptable thickness, 4' x 8' sheets
16" (406mm) or less	5/8" (19/32", 15.1mm) CD Exposure 1 Plywood – or – 3/4" (23/32") Exposure 1 OSB
More than 16", up to 19.2" (488mm)	3/4" (23/32", 18.3mm) T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood, glued and mechanically fastened, – or – 3/4" (23/32", 18.3mm) Exposure 1 OSB, glued and mechanically fastened
More than 19.2" (488mm) to a max. of 24" (610mm)	7/8" T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood, glued and mechanically fastened – or – 7/8" Exposure 1 OSB, glued and mechanically fastened – or – two layers of subflooring

While every effort has been made to produce accurate and generally accepted guidelines, the principles and practices described in this publication are not universal requirements. The recommendations in this publication are directed at the North American market in general, and therefore may not necessarily reflect the most accepted industry practices in your geographic area. All flooring installations must conform to local building codes, ordinances, trade practices and climatic conditions.

Concrete subfloors must be visibly dry and clean. They should be fully cured (minimum 30 days) and have been tested for moisture content using the ASTM F2170 – RH Probe Test standard; the maximum allowable limit of relative humidity within the slab is 85%.Or if using the test method; ASTM F1869 – Calcium Chloride Test: the moisture vapor emissions rate (MVER) should not exceed 3lbs. / 1000 Sq. Ft. per 24 hours.

If these conditions cannot be met, further curing may be required, or a moisture barrier should be used to mitigate any moisture coming from below. This will help prevent the flooring material from being damaged by moisture [vapor]. Either a roll on type sealer, or 6 mil poly film sheeting, or an underlayment that achieves a class I perm rating can be used on top of the concrete for this additional layer of protection.

Gypsum-based concrete (i.e. Gypcrete) subfloors must meet concrete manufacturer's recommendations for dry, cured conditions. Vapor Barrier & Underlay When installing Evoke Surge over a concrete subfloor that is either on, above, or below-grade, a Class I perm rated vapor barrier must be placed between the laminate and the concrete subfloor.

As listed by the North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA), some acceptable vapor barriers/retarders over concrete include:

1. A minimum 6 mil construction grade polyethylene film or other impermeable similar material.

The above listed vapor barrier should be installed in the following manner:

o Lay a single layer of poly over the entire subfloor.
o Allow a 12 inch overlap between seams, and seal the seams with duct tape along their entire length.
o Leave an excess of 4 inches of material extending up the wall at all outer edges and hold in place with blue or painter's masking tape. (This excess will be trimmed away later.)
o Next install an approved 3-in-1pad type underlay over the entire subfloor surface. The seams should butt, not overlap.

2. An underlayment providing a class I perm rated moisture protection (rated at 0.1 perms or less); Evoke recommends PRO SERIES KOMFORT+ series 30 and 50 of type underlays for this purpose.

3. For Evoke Surge products with a pad already attached. No additional pad type underlay is required. Additional pad type underlay used in conjunction with pad attached products may cause excessive deflection potentially resulting in flooring failures. When installing a pad attached Evoke Surge product over a concrete subfloor, a class I vapor barrier such as 6 mil construction grade polyethylene film or roll-on type sealer is required.

4. For plywood subfloors where 6 mil poly is not required, the use of an underlayment is required (for products that do not have a pad-attached.) Our Komfort + collection are ALL approved for this purpose, however any other underlayment must be approved for use, with laminate flooring, from the supplier of the underlayment.

Note: When installing Evoke Surge flooring over wood or OSB subfloors, do not use a Class I perm rated vapor barrier, such as 6 mil polyethylene film or other polymer materials, as it may trap moisture on or in the wood subfloor. Pro Series Komfort + series 30 and 50 pads are a class I moisture barrier and can be used over a wood type subfloor due to this product's design.

CRAWL SPACES

Our PRO SERIES KOMFORT+ underlays or a comparable 3-in1underlayment may be used when installing laminate flooring over a plywood or OSB subfloor which is above a crawlspace, provided the crawlspace meets the following NALFA criteria:

• Crawl space should be a minimum of 18" (457mm) from ground to underside of joists.
• Crawl space earth (or thin concrete slab) should be covered 100 percent by a vapor retarder of black polyethylene (minimum 6 mil) or any recommended puncture resistant membrane, such as Class C, meeting ASTM D1745.
• Where a proper ground covering is in place and when venting is required by local building codes, the crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5 square feet per 100 square feet of crawl space square footage.

• For crawl spaces without ventilation openings, vapor retarder joints must overlap a minimum of 6 inches and be sealed or taped. The vapor retarder should also extend at least 6 inches up the stem wall and be attached and sealed to the stem wall. Continuously operated mechanical exhaust and perimeter wall insulation or conditioned air supply and insulation must be provided.

Evoke assumes no responsibility for any floor installation failures associated with unaddressed site conditions including but not limited to: vapor transmission, moisture permeation, improper Ph levels, contaminated concrete, or damaged subfloors. Moisture levels recorded at time of installation will not necessarily remain constant and steps should be taken to protect substrate from ongoing exposure to moisture by installing proper vapor retarder and channelling water away from the building.

EXPANSION SPACE

As a wood-based product, Evoke Surge flooring will expand and contract with changes in-temperature. To allow for this, leave a minimum of 3/8" (10mm) expansion space around the entire perimeter of the floor between the flooring and the walls. Also leave expansion space where the flooring will meet any vertical obstacle, such as stairs, pipes, tiles, and cabinets etc. Pay particular attention that the proper expansion space is provided in and around doorways. Undercutting the door jambs may be necessary to achieve the required spacing.

Have a supply of 3/8" (10mm) spacers on hand during installation.

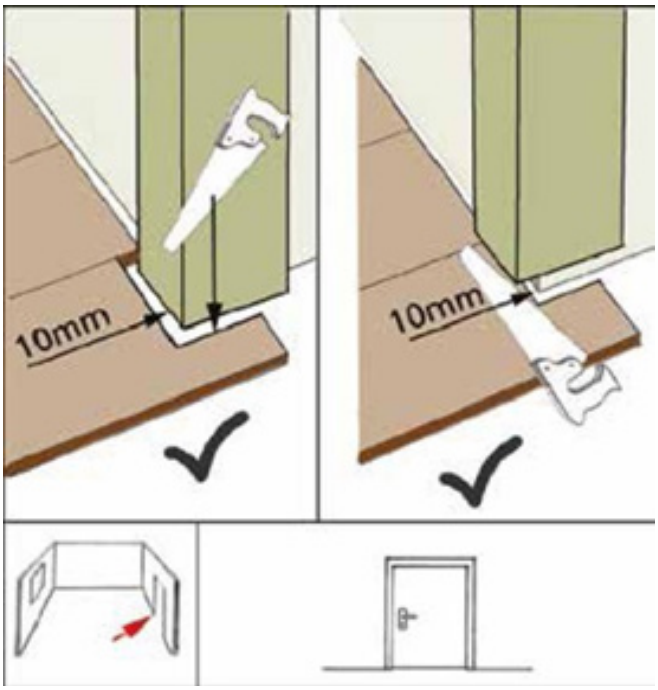
When using base trims thinner than 3/8" the sheet rock could be cut just above the height of the finished floor which would allow an additional 1/2" to 5/8" expansion depending on the sheet rock thickness.

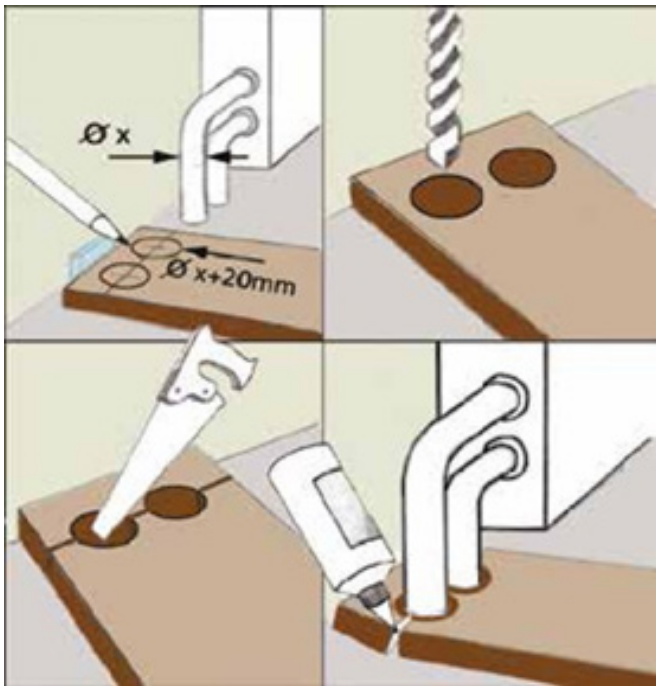
Unlike traditional laminate flooring, Evoke Surge Flooring requires no additional expansion space or T-molding in rooms up to 60 ft. (18m) in length or width. In addition, no expansion space or T-molding is required in doorways and openings 32" (800mm) or wider provided the following conditions are met:

•Climate can be maintained with the temperature between 60-80°F (15 - 26°C) and humidity at 30-50% RH before, during, and after the installation

•The 3/8" (10mm) expansion space as outlined above is provided around all vertical obstructions.

In the event the above conditions cannot be met, additional expansion space and/or T molding are recommended to provide the floor with space to move.





INSTALLATION

Open a few boxes to confirm this is the chosen material and that there are no manufacturing defects. Remember, boards that have been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the customer. Select your starting wall and check for straightness as described below. Decide in which direction you want to install (Evoke Surge can be installed left to right, or right to left). This manual will describe a left-to-right installation.

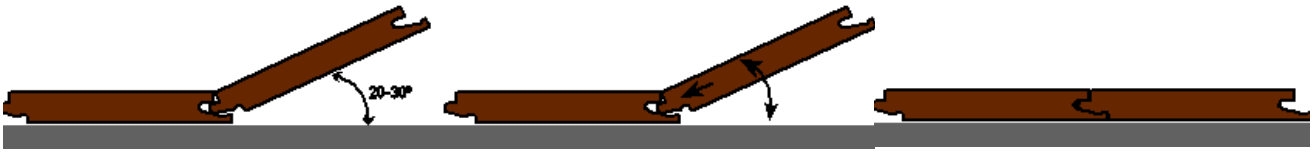
STARTING WALL

Orient the installation so the boards are parallel to incoming sunlight, and select your starting wall. Check it for straightness. If it is not straight, you may need to trim the edge of the first row of floor boards to match the shape of the wall.

Calculate how many rows of flooring will be required for the job. You will probably have to rip down (cut lengthwise) the final row of boards to fit. The final row must be at least half a board width wide to ensure the integrity of the joint. If it will not be half a board width, then rip down your starting row enough to make up the difference.

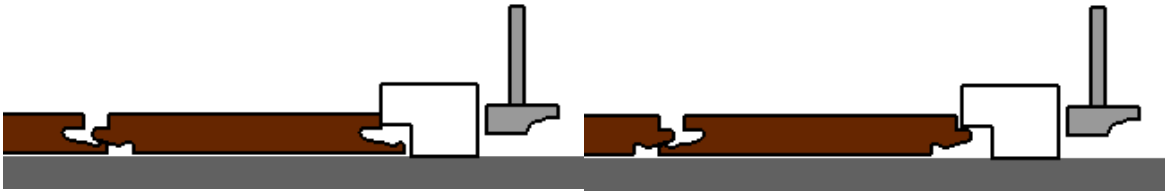
Note: The patented Unilin locking joint system used in this flooring enables boards to be fitted together in two ways; Angle-In Installations & Flat Installation.

ANGLE-IN INSTALLTION:



Hold the new board at an angle of 20 to 30° to the previously installed board, and engage the tongue and groove joint at the butt-end of the boards. Move the new board gently up and down while exerting gentle pressure along the long side of the board. The long side joint will click into place, locking the joint. Should the leading edge of the installed plank remain slightly above the subfloor's surface use a tapping block on the long side to fully seat the locking joint allowing the plank to lay flat to the subfloor. This is the easiest method for installation and should be used for most boards.

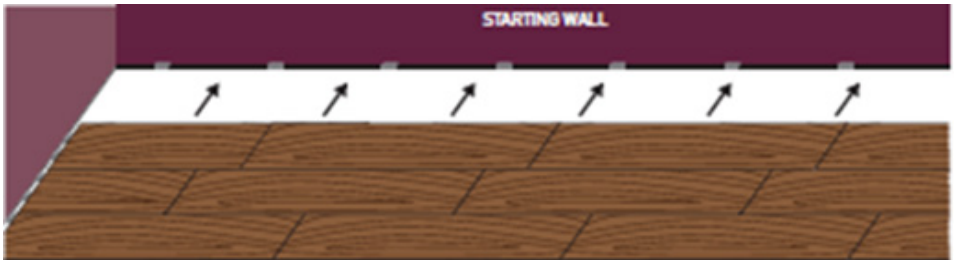
FLAT INSTALLTION:



The new board is laid flat on the floor aligned to the previously installed board and, using a specially designed Unilin tapping block (available from your dealer) the boards are tapped together gently until the joint locks. Do not try to close the joint with a single hit on the block; use a series of light taps until the joint closes completely. It is important to avoid damaging the locking system. Broken locking systems are not covered under warranty. This method should only be used in situations where the Angle-In method is not feasible, or for tapping closed joints that have not locked completely.

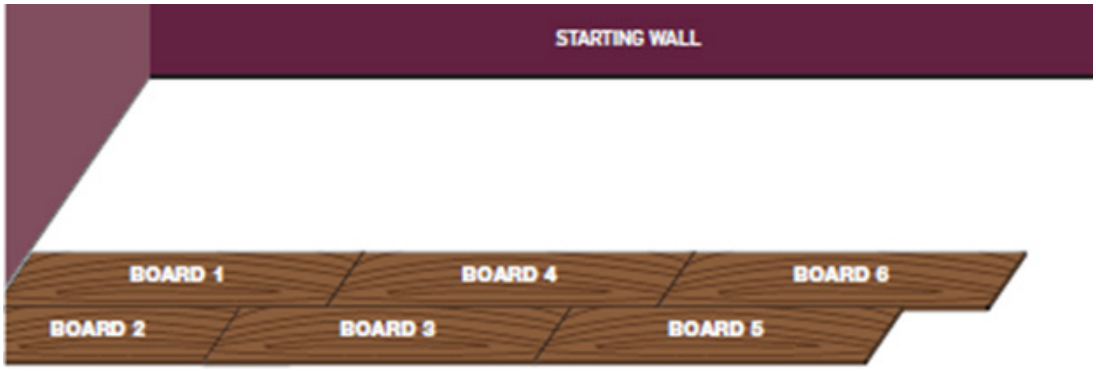
Begin at the left hand end of the starting wall. Have a quantity of 3/8" (10mm) spacers handy.

Begin with a full board. Saw off the tongue on both the long and short sides of the board, and place the board with the sawn butt end against the wall on the left, and the sawn long side facing the starting wall, but set out about two feet from the starting wall. Insert a spacer at the left end of the board and nudge the board against the wall.



Take a shorter board to begin the second row, and angle in to position against board 1, fitting together the long side joint. Place a spacer at the left hand end of the second board.

Note: Lay a heavy object like a full box of Surge flooring on the end of the first two boards to help keep them in position while you continue the installation.



Install board 3. Hold it at angle and fit the butt-end joint into the end of board 2. Drop board 3 slightly to engage the butt joint, then lift board 2 & 3 together and move gently up and down while pressing forward until the long side joint of board 3 locks into board 1.

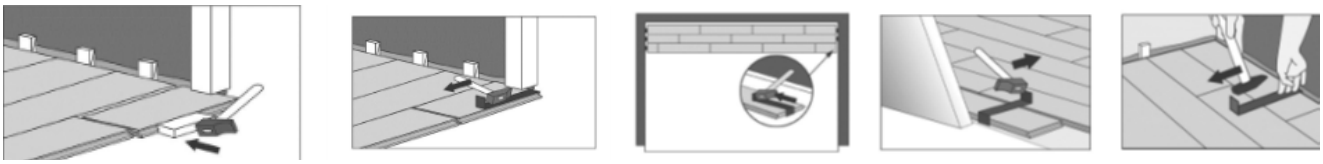
Take board 4 and saw off the tongue joint on the long side only. Hold it at angle and fit the butt-end joint into the end of board 1. Drop board 4 slightly to engage the butt joint with board 1, then lift board 1 & 4 together and move gently up and down while pressing forward until the long side joint of board 4 locks into board 3. (Kneeling on board 3 while you do this will help hold everything in place.)

Install board 5 in the same fashion as board 3. Install board 6 in the same fashion as board 4. Continue until you have completed two full rows. At the end of the row, cut boards to fit, but remember to leave expansion space at the end of the row as well.

Note: Start rows with a variety of different lengths of boards. You can also use off cuts from previous row ends to begin new rows, as long as they are minimum 8" (20 centimeters) or 1 board width. Remember to stagger butt joints by a minimum two board width.

To begin the third row, hold the first board at a 30° angle and insert the long side tongue into the long side groove of the previous row, then lower into place. Ensure the left hand edge is aligned with the previous row and put an expansion spacer between the left hand end of the board and the wall. Use the Angle-In installation method described above to install the rest of the boards to complete the row. Continue installing in this manner until you have completed three or four full rows. Insert a series of expansion spacers along the starting wall and slide the assembled flooring against the starting wall.

If a board cannot be angled into place – if it is under a door jamb or other obstacle, for example – use the flat installation method. Lay the board flat on the floor and, using a special Unilin tapping block and hammer, gently tap along the edge until the joint is closed. Tap gently and repeatedly; do not use excessive force. To close a butt joint, use a series of light taps. To close a long side joint, tap gently and repeatedly along the entire length of the joint.



Note: if modifying the locking joint is necessary to fit the planks together around obstacles use tongue and groove adhesive at the locking joint to hold these planks together.

Continue with the installation throughout the rest of the room. When you get to the final row, measure the distance to the far wall and 'rip' a row of boards to fit the gap – remember to leave 3/8" (8mm) expansion space against the far wall.

COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION

To complete the installation, install moldings, trim and transitions as needed. Remember, all moldings must be affixed either to the subfloor or to the wall – never to the flooring itself.

FOR WET ROOM INSTALLATIONS

After installing the moldings, apply a thin bead of 100% waterproof silicone caulking wherever the flooring surface meets a vertical fixture or object (i.e. cabinets, moldings, baseboards etc.). Likewise, where the flooring has been installed under a standing fixture like a toilet, pedestal sink or doorframe, seal the base with a bead of silicone. This measure will help prevent any spilled liquid making its way to the underside of the laminate planks. If T-molds were installed to provide additional expansion points in the floor, these too must be sealed with a bead of silicone.

Before you move furniture onto the floor, take a moment to protect your new floor by putting felt pads on all furniture and accessories. To learn more about care and maintenance of your evoke floor, please see the Product Warranty.

If the flooring was installed over a radiant heating system, when you turn the system back on bring the temperature of the system up gradually, in 5° increments. Never allow the surface temperature of the floor to exceed 82°F (28°C). Where possible, we recommend the use of a data logger to monitor and record temperature and humidity conditions.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Please refer to the Evoke Surge Warranty & Maintenance document available online at www.evokeflooring.com for important information on how to properly maintain your floor, and the approved method for cleaning.