

# evoke<sup>®</sup>

LAMINATE

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR WATERPROOF AND  
WATER-RESISTANT FLOORS

## PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING THE INSTALLATION

Evoke laminate flooring must be installed in accordance with the following instructions. Failure to do so may void the product warranty.

### PRODUCT USE

Evoke Laminate flooring is designed for easy, snap-together installation. Evoke 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

Evoke Waterproof laminate flooring meets the industry's 24 hour waterproof standards ANSI/NALFA LF-01. Evoke 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. Evoke Waterproof laminate 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, Evoke Waterproof laminate 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. Evoke Waterproof laminate should not be installed in locations where there is frequent exposure to spilled liquids (bars, public washrooms, etc.)

Evoke laminate flooring is not recommended for residential or light commercial applications that are exposed to rolling loads, moveable racks, wheeled displays, power or manual wheelchairs, etc. Please consider our Hardwood or Luxury Vinyl glue-down products for these applications, so as to comply with our warranty limitations.

In commercial applications, Evoke laminate 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. Evoke laminate should not be installed in locations where there is frequent exposure to spilled liquids (bars, public washrooms, etc)

For more information please contact the EVOKE Technical Services Team at [techserv@metrofloors.com](mailto:techserv@metrofloors.com)

### INSTALLER'S / OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY

Evoke 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 Evoke 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 Laminate 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.**

## **MOISTURE PROTECTION**

**Evoke Waterproof laminate** floors are guaranteed to withstand exposure to topical surface moisture and liquid for 24 hours 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. If installed in a wet room, a transition strip must be installed at the doorway and silicone used at this area, creating a separation from adjoining rooms.

**Evoke Water Resistant Laminate.** 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. The floor is not warranted in wet rooms (bathroom, laundry) The floor is not warranted against exposure to liquid such as flooding, mopping, burst pipes, etc. The floor is not warranted against any exposure to moisture originating in the substrate.

## **UNDERLAY**

For any Evoke Laminate floor with a pad attached, no additional pad is required. Adding additional underlay to a pad attached floor will void your warranty.

## **SITE PREPARATION:**

**Installation in new and existing construction.**

Installation of laminate flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing 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
- Basements and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water; crawlspaces must also have a vapor barrier and adequate ventilation in accordance with local building codes
- Gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building
- HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling temperature of 60-80°F (15-26°C) and relative humidity between 30-50% at all times. 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
- 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 laminate 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@metrofloors.com](mailto:techserv@metrofloors.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) per day 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) and relative humidity between 30-50% before, during and after the installation.

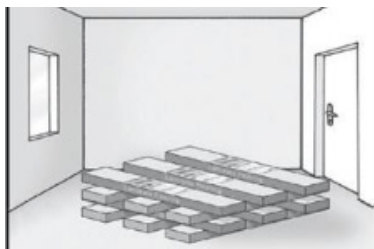
Flooring material should not be delivered to job site until these conditions have been met and maintained for one week prior to installation if installing over plywood, and for two weeks if installing over concrete.

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 and humidity. 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 flat, clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. The subfloor must be flat to in 3/16" over 10 feet, or 1/8" in 6 feet radius.

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.

**Wood/Plywood Subfloors** In addition to meeting or exceeding the minimum acceptable thickness requirement, the subfloor must be secure to the joists and free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%

Note: As per NALFA guidelines, when installing laminate 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.

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

**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 75%. 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 will be required.

Gypsum-based concrete (eg Gypcrete) subfloors must meet manufacturer's recommendations for dry, cured conditions.

Evoke Laminate flooring must be protected from Concrete Moisture Vapor Emissions (MVER). A Class 1 vapor barrier such as a roll-on type sealer, or a 6 mil Polyethylene plastic sheeting is required over all concrete substrates regardless of age.

## **CRAWL SPACES**

Our laminate flooring can be installed 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 laminate 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.

Additional expansion space may be needed if environmental conditions can be kept in tolerance as described in the climate control section. Adding additional transition moldings are recommended to provide the floor with space to move.

## TRANSITIONS

T-mold transition strips are recommended at all doorway 32" wide or less into connected spaces. Failure to use the recommended transitions may result in flooring separations at or near doorways.

For Evoke Water Resistant Laminate areas in excess of over 40' in any direction will require a T-mold transition strip to be incorporated into the floor.

For Evoke Waterproof Laminate areas in excess of over 60' in any direction will require a T-mold transition strip to be incorporated into the floor.

## 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 flooring 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 floorboards 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.

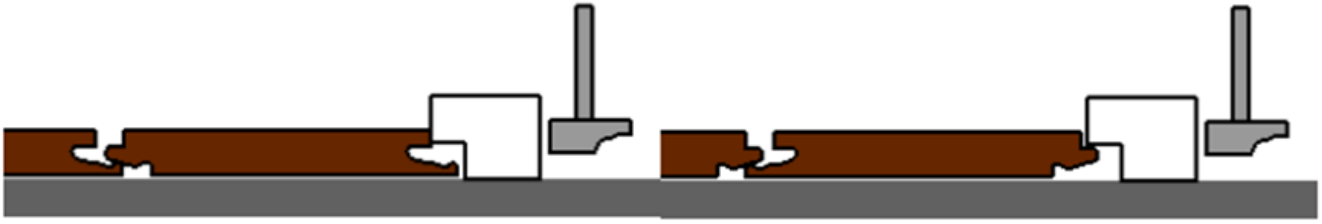
**Note: The patented Unilin locking joint system used in this flooring enables boards to be fitted together in two ways; Angle-In Installations & Flat Installation.**

### 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.

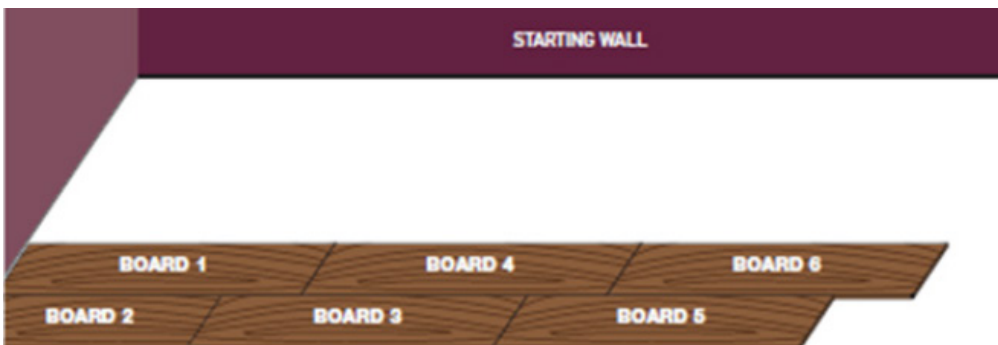
Begin at the left-hand end of the starting wall. Have a quantity of 3/8" (10mm) spacers handy.

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 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.

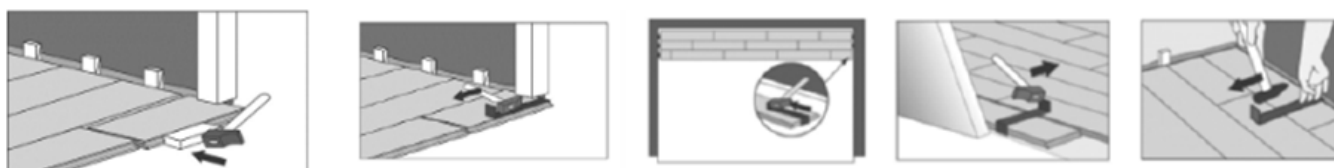
Take board 4 and saw off the tongue joint on the long side only. Hold it at angle and fit the butt-end joint into the end of board 1. Drop board 4 slightly to engage the butt joint with board 1, then lift board 1 & 4 together and move gently up and down while pressing forward until the long side joint 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" (10mm) expansion space against the far wall.

That's it! Your new evoke floor is installed! To finish the job, remove the expansion spacers. Install moldings, trim and transitions. Moldings and transitions must be affixed either to the subfloor or to the wall – never to the flooring itself.

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) and avoid dramatic temperature changes; always adjust the system gradually in 5° increments. It is recommended that a dedicated quick recovery thermostat be installed to allow the temperature of the radiant heating system to be accurately controlled.

## FOR WET ROOM INSTALLATIONS

When Evoke Waterproof Laminate is installed into wet rooms, 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.

Evoke Water Resistant Laminate is not approved for wet rooms



## PRODUCT CARE & WARRANTY

PLEASE REFER TO THE EVOKE LAMINATE WARRANTY & MAINTENANCE DOCUMENT AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.EVOKEFLOORING.COM](http://WWW.EVOKEFLOORING.COM)

For more info, visit: [www.evokeflooring.com](http://www.evokeflooring.com)



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