

Laminate Installation Guide – 5G Locking System FuzGuard, Nautiq Pro & Waterfront

Expansion:

All floors naturally expand and contract and therefore require expansion space around perimeter walls and any vertical obstructions. The expansion space should be equal to the thickness of the material being used or a minimum of 1/2".

Tools Required:

Marker/Pen, Tape measure, Chalk Line, Square, 6ft Level or straight edge, White Mallet, Hammer, Tapping Block, Last Board Puller, Miter Saw, Jamb saw, Table saw, Jig Saw, spacers/shims.

Note: If underlay is attached do not use additional layers of underlay as this will cause joints to flex and eventually break.

Job Preparation:

- Calculate the surface area required and add 5-10% and then round up to the nearest full carton.
- Acclimatize flooring for temperature by spreading out sealed packages in room/environment where the floor will be installed at a room temperature between 16°C (60°F) and 27°C (80°F), and relative humidity between 35-65% RH for 48 hours. Ensure packages remain sealed/ closed during acclimation and until ready to install.
- Ensure subfloor is clean, flat, sound, dry and free of any debris that might impact installation.
- Ensure any height differences in subfloor do not exceed 3mm (0.12") over a run of 1m (3.3ft). If height differences do exist, peaks in the subfloor will need to be ground down and valleys will need to be filled with patching compound.
- Remove any existing quarter round and undercut door jambs allowing the flooring to float under the jamb provide a preferred aesthetic.
- Check flooring planks for any visual defects in structure or aesthetics. Planks installed with visual defects are not covered under warranty.

Note: The installer is the final inspector of product and responsible for assessing subfloor and job site conditions to ensure compliance with referenced standards. If conditions or materials do not meet requirements, installation must not proceed until corrected. Installation instructions must be read thoroughly prior to starting. If the installer identifies any manufacturing, or visible concerns, they must not install the material and should contact the retailer. Once a plank is installed, it is deemed accepted by the installer and/or homeowner, even if the homeowner is not present. The installer is fully responsible for all installed flooring.

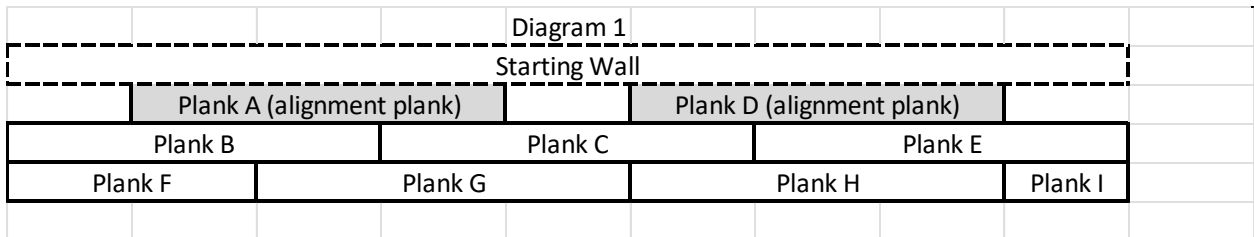
Subfloor Requirements:

Wood subfloors must be 3/4" thick, dry and well secured with moisture content < 12%. If installing over a crawl space install 6 mil. poly over the dirt in the crawlspace. Ensure the crawlspace is adequately ventilated. Wood subfloors must be nailed down or screwed down every 6" along the joist to avoid squeaking.

Concrete subfloors must be fully cured for at least 60 days. The subfloor must remain dry all year round. Test for moisture using a calcium chloride test. An underlayment with an attached moisture barrier is required prior to installation.

Installation Instructions:

1. Plank Direction should be parallel to the longest wall or in the direction of the room's lights source. If these are conflicting, you will need to choose the best aesthetic. If foam underlayment is not attached, install foam underlayment with an integrated moisture barrier and seams taped with a moisture resistant tape before proceeding with plank installation (maximum thickness 3mm).
2. Alignment - It is very important that the first two rows are aligned. Use a full plank (**Plank A** in Diagram 1) to ensure alignment of the end joints by placing **Plank A** against the starting wall with the tongue of the long side facing the wall.
3. Take another full plank, (**Plank B** in Diagram 1) and angle its tongue into the middle of the long side (groove) of **Plank A** and rotate/drop downward. Ensure there are no gaps.



4. Take another full plank, (**Plank C** in Diagram 1), and angle its tongue into the available exposed groove of the long side of **Plank A**. Do not rotate or drop yet! While the tongue of **Plank C** is engaged with the groove of **Plank A**, slide **Plank C** until the short side makes contact with the short side of **Plank B**.
5. Engage the short sides of **Plank B** and **C** by rotating and dropping **Plank C** onto the short side of **Plank B**. Drop and lock by tapping down firmly on the short side where **Plank B** and **C** meet. If necessary use a white PVC mallet to tap the short side where **Plank B** and **Plank C** meet to secure locking mechanism. Ensure there are no gaps or height differences.
6. Take another full plank, (**Plank D** in Diagram 1), as an alignment guide by placing it against the wall. Angle and drop the groove of **Plank D** into the tongue of **Plank C**.
Note: If disassembly is required, do not rotate short ends apart as this will damage the locking system. Rotate the entire row up and slide the short ends apart.
7. Take another full plank, (**Plank E** in Diagram 1), and angle its tongue into the available exposed groove of the long side of **Plank D**. Do not rotate or drop yet! While the tongue of **Plank E** is

engaged with the groove of **Plank D**, slide **Plank E** until the short side makes contact with the short side of **Plank C**, then tap it in using the tapping block.

Note: If the room is greater than 27' (8m) in width or length, field expansion is required through the use of a T-Mold or other field expansion molding. For tidal core products the limit is 66' wide (20m), and 98' (30m) long. Transitions are required at all doorways.

8. Engage the short sides of **Plank E** and **C** by rotating and dropping **Plank E** onto the short side of **Plank C**. Drop and lock by pushing down firmly on the short side where **Plank E** and **C** meet. If necessary use a white PVC mallet to tap the short side where **Plank B** and **Plank C** meet to secure locking mechanism. Ensure there are no gaps or height differences. Continue this process to complete the first row.
9. If the cutoff piece from row one is 12" or greater in length, use it to start your second row. When installing Fuzion Laminate, start your second row with a plank that has been cut to 12", or a minimum stagger of 8". Insert the tongue of **Plank F** into the groove of **Plank B** and rotate and drop into place. Repeat steps above to complete the second row. Ensure there are no gaps or height differences.
10. Remove alignment **Planks A** and **D** by angling them out.
11. Place spacers/shims along walls to create an expansion space equal to the thickness of the flooring material. Proceed by gently sliding rows 1 and 2 toward the spacers.
Note: Expansion space equal to the thickness of the flooring material must be left around the perimeter and vertical obstructions such as posts or pipes. In room environments with high humidity fluctuations. Transition moldings are required at doorways. Before proceeding measure the length of the room and divide by the plank width. Ensure that your last row will be at least a 1/2 board width. You may need to use a circular saw to adjust your first row width and position to achieve this result.
12. Repeat **Step 9** to install subsequent rows. To finish the last row, ensure there is a space between the wall and the last row equal to the thickness of the flooring material for expansion. The last row may require cutting to achieve this expansion space.
13. Once flooring installation is complete, install baseboard or quarter round to cover the expansion space.
Note: A floating floor must be allowed to float and therefore moldings and/or cabinets must be affixed to the walls or subfloor directly allowing the floor to float. Furniture and appliances should be < 230kg (500lbs) per item. The total weight on the floor should not exceed 19kg/ 40lbs per square foot.

In-floor Radiant Heat:

This floor can be installed over radiant heat using the floating method.

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over radiant heated subfloors
- Floor temperature must not exceed 85°F (30°C).

Warning: Electric heating mats that are not embedded into the subfloor are not recommended for use underneath this floor. Using electric heating mats that are not embedded and applied directly underneath this floor could void the warranty for your floor in case of failure. It is best to install flooring over embedded hydronic radiant floor heating systems only and adhere to the guidelines listed above.

After Installation:

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup, use rosin paper and only use 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080 Tape to hold the rosin paper to the floor (other blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. **DO NOT USE** plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.

- Dust-mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- It is suggested that you clean the floor using a recommended laminate cleaner.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, etc.).

Protection and Maintenance of Your Floor:

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor cleaner (FuzClean laminate or equivalent) and providing proper on-going maintenance.

- Furniture should be moved onto the newly installed floor using an appliance hand truck over hardboard runways.
- Oil or petroleum-based products can result in surface staining. Do not track asphalt-driveway sealer or automobile oil drips onto the floor covering.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide, rubber casters. Protective mats are required under office chairs.
- Use non-staining mats. Rubber may discolor the floor.
- Use walk-off mats at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked on to the floor.
- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly to remove loose dirt. **DO NOT** use vacuums that use a beater bar or turn beater bar off.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- **DO NOT USE:**
 - Electric brooms with hard plastic bottoms with no padding.
 - Harsh cleaners or chemicals on the floor.
 - Abrasive scrubbing tools.
 - Detergents, abrasive cleaners, vinegar or “mop and shine” products.
 - Steam mops.