

# AquaPro™ & AquaPro MAX™ INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**THIS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOR THE LAMINATE UNCLIC LOCKING SYSTEM ONLY**

## **ATTENTION!**

### **READ BEFORE INSTALLING! INSTALLER – HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITY**

**This product may have very high color/character variation. Work out of several cartons simultaneously during installation. When finished moldings are required for the project, pre-select the plank(s) that best coordinates with the color of the adjacent molding piece(s). A minimum 6 mill poly film moisture retarder is required over all substrates (concrete, wood, tile, vinyl, ply-wood and OSB) and underneath the laminate plank flooring.**

### **FOR BEST VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF YOUR FLOOR**

This flooring replicates the look of a natural product which has natural variations in color and texture. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons and do not install similar boards next to one another.

### **COLOR VARIATION**

Carton to Carton – inspect the carton labels of flooring you received and make sure it meets your expectations. Layout several cartons of material to confirm they can be mixed.

### **FINISH**

The person installing the floor is responsible for visual issues once the flooring is installed. Avoid excessive heat and light exposure which can cause degradation of the product.

### **SUBFLOOR PREPARATION**

All subfloor should be dry and level to 3/16" per 10 ft. radius for best installation. AquaPro™ & AquaPro MAX™ flooring should only be used indoors.

### **ENGAGING END JOINT**

When engaging end-joints a tap block is required.

### **FLOORING MATERIAL SHOULD BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**

Responsibility for the suitability of Manufacturer flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by Manufacturer, since Manufacturer has no control over the installer's proper application. Sample Boards may not always match the flooring due to light conditions therefore, the homeowner should always be present

when the installation takes place. Should an individual plank or tile be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. Once a plank is



installed it is deemed acceptable by a Homeowner/Installer. Always inspect material from different angles, any visual imperfection is part of the realistic wood look decor style.

**NOTE:** Manufacturer flooring with attached underlayment CANNOT be installed with a glue-down method. Keep a Permanent Job Record and provide a copy to the owner.

### **DO NOT INSTALL ANY DEFECTIVE PLANKS**

If you do or don't see any defects during the installation, it is the responsibility of installer/homeowner to pick them out. AquaPro™ & AquaPro MAX™ will not be responsible for any additional labor, additional floor or any other potential cost. Purchasing 10% extra for waste is needed. It is important and require the homeowner to stock 10% of additional stock for future repairs. If the homeowner does not, then the manufacturer/distributor will not be responsible if your floors are discontinued.

### **BEFORE YOU START!**

AquaPro™ & AquaPro MAX™ Flooring is not a moisture barrier. Concrete should always be cured and tested for moisture and a moisture barrier should always be installed in the crawl space and even under the floor over a concrete sub-floor. Please refer below for further guidance. Please check for defects, squeaky noises, sub-floor issue or finish issues by installing 100 sqft of flooring. Because houses and buildings, as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors, expand and contract, **Manufacturer recommends leaving a 1/4" expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor.** Do not install floors where it will be exposed to temperatures greater than 85° F. Use good common-sense installation practices, and you will have a successful installation that results in a beautiful floor. Check that all **ITEM NUMBERS** are the same and that you have purchased sufficient packs to complete the job. Floor exposed to moisture at any time during or after installation may cause the floors to cup, lift, peak or separate. During any inspection the inspector may not find moisture at the present time but because of the structure movement of the planks, moisture or a job site condition might change the floor.

### **ACCLIMATE& TEMPERATURE**

Before installation, let the planks acclimate for 48 hours in the unopened packaging at the normal room temperature in the middle of the room where the floor is to be installed. (\*Normal conditions means a difference of no more than 25°F and 20% relative humidity between the stocking/transportation environment of the flooring and the final installation environment of the flooring.)

The floor should preferably be installed parallel to how the light enters the room. The ideal conditions are 15-20°C (59-68°F) at a relative humidity of 50- 60%.

Room humidity can vary according to the season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. For this reason, make sure you leave an expansion joint of minimum 10 to 12 mm (3/8" to 1/2") on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds, under doors and around any fixed/stationary objects (floor vents, kitchen islands, etc.).



## **LOCKING INSTALLATION**

- Check all planks before and during installation;
- The inspection should be performed in daylight, or under good artificial lighting, in the room in which the products will be installed;
- If flooring is not acceptable, contact the distributor you purchased immediately and arrange for replacement. Manufacturer will not take responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects.
- Before installation, the installer must ensure that the job-site and sub-floor meet the requirements of these instructions.
- Manufacturer is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory job-site and/or sub-floor conditions;
- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project;
- It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure the engage the planks correctly without causing any fracture to the locking system.

## **CRAWL SPACES**

Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" (46 cm) from the ground to the underside of the joists. A ground cover of AquaPro™ approved Pad or 6–20 mil black Moisture Barrier is required as a vapor barrier with joints lapped 6" (15 cm) and sealed with moisture resistant tape. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Local regulations prevail where necessary.

## **STORAGE**

Flooring planks should not be exposed to sudden changes in temperature. Store, transport and handle the flooring planks with caution to prevent any distortions. Store cartons flat, never on edge. Insure the flooring planks are lying flat at time of installation.

## **WASTE**

Most of the time, you need to order approximately a 10% cutting and waste allowance added to the square footage.

## **TRANSITIONS**

When installing next to other types of flooring use a transitions strip/molding. Installations of carpet, tiles, metal strips and other transition moldings should not push fully into the flooring and should allow for some slight movement wherever practical.

## **LONGER ROOM OVER 40'**

For rooms, wider or longer than 40', it is required to use T-moldings.



## PREPARE SUBSTRATES

All substrates listed below must be properly prepared and meet requirements.

- Concrete – dry and smooth on all grade levels and must remain dry year-round
- Suspended wood sub-floors with approved wood underlayments – must have minimum of 18" well-ventilated crawl space underneath
- Suspended hardwood flooring that is fully adhered, smooth and square edge without texture
- Single-layer, fully-adhered, existing resilient floors – must not be foam-backed or cushion backed
- Ceramic tile, Terrazzo, Marble
- Polymeric Poured (seamless) Floors
- Use Ply-Wood/OSB - 3/4"
- Particleboard 40lb density or wafer board

## DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Do not install over existing resilient tile floors that are below grade
- Do not install over existing cushion-backed flooring
- Do not install over carpet
- Do not install over hardwood flooring that has been installed directly over concrete
- Do not install over stairs with sloping steps
- Do not install over rooms with sloping floors or floor drains
- Do not install over any other underlayment since the planks already have attached padding

## AVOID MOVEMENT OR NOISE

- **All planks from AquaPro™ & AquaPro MAX™ are edges-coated by organic wax to assure less noise.**
- Locking system not engaged completely on both short and long joints. To avoid this make sure to use a rubber mallet with a tapping block to engage each plank together and test each row. Please note not to use excessive force or the profile will break.
- Do NOT use improper underlayment.
- If flooring product comes with attached underlayment, you are not allowed to install over foam, rubber underlayment or any other type of padding besides it is approved by manufacturer.
- Squeaking noise will not be covered by the warranty and it is the responsibility of installer before they left the job site that they are no noises coming from the entire floor system. The installer should install 100 SF and test the entire floor system integrity and continue to test the floor integrity ever 250SF.
- Joist/sub-floors moving which cause squeaky noises.
- Do NOT use any end joint that are broken (during transit or installation).
- Provide a minimum 0.25" on each wall space for expansion. (Lack of proper expansion space can cause peaking/tenting on the end joints).



- Squeaking noises are not covered by the warranty and note this is a floating floor so noise is allowed. Installers need to check the entire integrity of the floor system before they complete the entire project.
- Confirming that floor is flat before installation. (Sub-floor deflection is not within manufacturer tolerance and the floor is not flat).
- Do NOT install floors in an extreme environment.

## **SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS**

- The subfloor must be FLAT, SECURE, and DRY. When installing over any substrate, the use of a moisture barrier vapor is required for protection against future moisture and water from floods and ground swell. Sounds produced between the subfloor and moisture barrier are considered a subfloor issue and are not covered under the product warranty. Subfloors with high moisture trapped underneath the flooring can create pressure at the seams resulting in lift, flare, cupping, peaking and separation.
- It can take several months for the lift, flare, cupping, peaking and separation to become apparent after high moisture in the subfloor exists or flooding occurs, and such conditions are NOT covered under this products warranty.
- Structurally sound.
- Clean: Thoroughly swept and free of all debris.
- Level: Flat to 4.7mm (3/16") per 3.3 meters (10-foot) radius.
- Dry and remain dry: Subfloor must remain dry year-round. Moisture content of wood sub floors must not exceed 11%, concrete must not exceed 80% RH (in-situ). For concrete substrates, conduct moisture testing ASTM F1869 (moisture vapor emission rate {MVER}) not to exceed 5lbs. Alternatively, a Tramex test can be performed in accordance with ASTM F2659. However, recorded values higher than 4.5% require a Calcium Chloride test to verify that the subfloor moisture is appropriate.
- For installation on top of concrete subfloors, use a 6 mil moisture barrier to protect the plank from future moisture and vapor pressure under the flooring.

## **WOOD SUB-FLOOR**

Wood sub-floors must be dry and well secured. Nail or screw every 6" along joists to avoid squeaking. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low spots with a Portland Based leveling patch.

## **CONCRETE SUB-FLOOR**

Concrete sub-floors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and should have minimum 6-mil poly-film between concrete and ground. Sub-floor should be flat and level within 3/16" per 10' radius. If necessary grind high spots down and level low spots with a Portland leveling compound.

Dry and remain dry: Subfloor must remain dry year-round. Moisture content of wood sub floors must not exceed 11%, concrete must not exceed 80% RH (in-situ). For concrete substrates, conduct moisture testing ASTM F1869 (moisture vapor emission rate {MVER}) not to exceed 5lbs. Alternatively, a Tramex test can be performed in accordance with ASTM F2659. However, recorded values higher than 4.5% require a Calcium Chloride test to verify that the subfloor moisture is appropriate.



## **A 6 mil moisture barrier is required over the concrete substrate and below the planks.**

Ceramic Tile, resilient tile and sheet laminate must be well-bonded to sub-floor, in good condition, clean and level. Do not sand existing laminate floors, as they may contain asbestos. Resilient flooring should only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature before, during and after the installation. Therefore, the permanent or temporary HVAC system must be in operation before the installation of resilient flooring. Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and sub-floor sufficiently.

Kerosene heaters should never be used. All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, clean, flat, and smooth with minimal deflection. Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, other foreign matter and contaminants. High spots on the substrate should be leveled and low areas filled with appropriate underlayments.

Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring

## **IN REMODEL HOUSE**

For renovation or remodel work, remove any existing adhesive residue ensure the original substrate is 100% exposed. All existing resilient floors, ceramic tiles, marble grout joints, and irregularities in concrete should be filled.

For concrete substrates, conduct moisture testing ASTM F1869 (moisture vapor emission rate {MVER}) not to exceed 5lbs and/or percent relative humidity 80% (in-situ probe).

Bond tests must also be conducted for compatibility with the substrate.

## **Radiant heat System**

Radiant heated substrates must not exceed a maximum surface temperature of 81°F (27 °C).

## **Floating Installation-RECOMMENDED**

For floating installation, the planks are not to be secured to the sub-floor. Always undercut wood door jambs. Avoid "pinch points"

on any fixed home materials with a ¼" **expansion space**.

### Start to Install

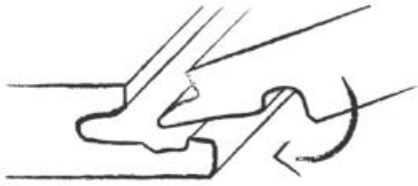
Cleaning: The subfloor need to be cleaned thoroughly. If you purchased the foam approved by Lago Flooring, run the foam in the same direction as the flooring planks.

The foam should be butted side-by-side with no overlap. If you are installing over a concrete subfloor, a form or 6-mil moisture barrier approved by Lago Flooring is recommended(AquaPro™ & AquaPro MAX™ floors have pad attached).



## Method 1

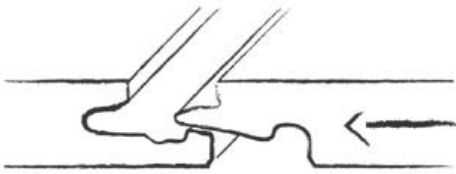
### Angle-Angle Installation



Lift the plank to install at an angle of 25°-35° to the plank already installed. Move the plank gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The planks will automatically click into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove, or the groove onto the tongue. The tongue in groove method is the most common and the easiest way

## Method 2

### Snap In (Horizontal)



Another way to install is snapping the planks into each other without lifting. For this method you must use a tapping block. The planks should not be joined with a single tap and the tapping block should set flat on the floor. You must tap planks together gradually to avoid damaging the planks. Use this method only in cases where you are unable to use the Angle-Angle method.

## Notes:

### Color Variation

During installation, please mix the floor planks and floor boxes sufficiently which ensure lighter or darker planks next to each other.

### Installation Direction

It is preferred to install the planks in the direction of the longest wall and/or parallel to the incidence of light. Ensure the end joints of the planks in 2 successive rows are never in line, they should be staggered by at least 12 inches. In order to have a natural look and better mechanical strength, we DO NOT recommend install the planks in a pattern but rather at random formation.

## TRANSITIONS

Make sure to use a transitions molding when you install the planks next to other types of flooring, other transition moldings(carpet, tiles, metal strips, etc ) should not push fully into the flooring and should allow for some slight movement wherever practical.

Expansion joints are must have every 40 feet width-wise to the planks and every 40-feet length-wise. Also, an expansion joint is recommended between different rooms (e.g. under the door).



## **EXTREME MOISTURE AREAS INSTALLATION (Bathroom, Kitchen, Laundry Rooms, etc)**

Since continuous water exposure would damage laminate planks, the following installation recommendations should be closely followed to validate your residential water warranty.

Extreme moisture areas include, but are not limited to: bathrooms, powder rooms, kitchens, mud rooms, foyers, and laundry rooms. Neither flooring planks nor accessories are recommended for applications with extreme humidity.

An expansion of 1/2" must be left all around walls, pipes, permanent cabinets, etc. All expansion areas must be completely filled in with a water-repellent flexible silicone sealant.

### **IMPORTANT!**

- All planks of AquaPro™ & AquaPro MAX™ are not moisture barrier nor the protection of any kinds of subfloors.
- A 6 mil moisture barrier is required and an 8mil vapor barrier prior to installation is recommended.
- Overlap moisture barrier or vapor barrier edges by 8" (20cm) and seal with moisture resistant adhesive tape.
- Run moisture barrier or vapor barrier 3/4" (2cm) up wall and trim after wall base is installed.
- Fill all expansion areas with 100% silicone caulking.
- A 1/2" expansion must be left.
- The toilet must be removed when installing.
- In the extreme moisture areas, it is strongly recommended that wipe up spills immediately.
- Never attach the molding to the floor.

