TRENDS in LAMINATE VISTA water resistant laminate

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Owner/Installer Responsibility

1. Inspect all materials carefully prior to installation. Warranties do not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed. Installation constitutes acceptance.
2. Inspect the flooring in well-lit conditions to ensure proper identification of any potential problems. Carefully inspect the flooring for damage, color, finish, and quality. If the flooring is unacceptable, contact your distributor and arrange shipment of replacement material. Material that is subjectively viewed as unacceptable but falls within quality control norms will not be replaced.
3. Prior to installation, the installer must ensure the job site and subfloor conditions meet the requirements as specified.

a. Wood & Concrete Subfloors: Flat to tolerance of 3/16" in a 10' radius, 1/8" in a 6' radius. Subfloor firm (max deflection between joists is L/360)

4. **IF THE FLOORING AS SUPPLIED WILL NOT SATISFY THE CUSTOMER IN FULL, DO NOT PROCEED TO INSTALL.** The decision not to proceed must be made within the first 10% or 100 square feet of flooring boxes opened, whichever is less.

Site Requirements

Watershed is only suitable for climate-controlled indoor installations (35-65% RH and 60-85° F) and can be installed above, on, or below grade. Moisture testing is required to determine if high moisture exists in the subfloor. If using a calcium chloride moisture test for concrete subfloors ASTM F1869, values must be ≤ 5lbs./1000ft² or <80% RH with an in-situ probe (ASTM F2170). Wood Subfloors must be ≤ 12%.

Acceptable job site conditions, including subfloor moisture conditions and relative humidity, must be maintained throughout the lifetime of the flooring.

Watershed is installed in floating floor applications only and will require transitions in doorways less than 32 inches or if a direction change occurs. For spans 50 feet or greater, add one extra 1/16” expansion for every additional 5’ of span.

Site and Material Preparation

a. Climate Control: The structure must have climate control operating for 48 hours prior to installation.
b. Acclimation: Structure must be at 60 to 80° F and 35 to 65% RH. If storage and delivery conditions are at this range for 12 hours prior to delivery, no acclimation time is required. If outside of these conditions, allow 48 hours acclimation time in the listed conditions.
c. Remove any wood installed on a concrete subfloor. Confirm that the materials to be removed do not contain asbestos.
d. Clean loose debris from the subfloor before installation.
e. Secondary Vapor Barrier: Use six to eight mill poly sheeting on concrete slabs. Overlap seams twelve inches and tape seams with water proof duct tape. Factory tested roll on moisture barriers for concrete or plywood subfloors are also approved as a moisture barrier as an alternative to poly sheeting.

Flooring Installation

1. **Open Multiple Boxes -** Always work from multiple boxes simultaneously and blend the planks throughout the installation. This is especially important in the event of multiple production run numbers.
2. **Undercut All Door Jambs/Moldings -** Remove all shoe and base molding to ensure adequate expansion space. Use a scrap piece of flooring to establish the height of the cut.
3. **Irregular & Out-of-Square Walls -** Scribe cut the first row to match variations in the wall. A scribe can be created by drilling a hole in a scrap piece of wood and inserting a pencil. The starting row can then be cut to compensate for an irregular wall or to help minimize the appearance of an out-of-square room.
4. **Starting line -** Select the longest wall in the room and install left to right, starting in the left-hand corner. For the starting row, cut blocks against the side and end walls to maintain 3/8" minimum expansion space. Use spacers at both sides of the end of the rows. Adjustable spacers may be needed to help maintain a straight edge line if not scribing the floor.
5. **Expansion Space -** Standard perimeter expansion space should be factored at 3/8", including any vertical obstructions; this will suffice for a floor that does not exceed 50' in span or width. Larger floors can be accommodated with a transition molding to break the span or width into a smaller configuration at interior doors etc.
6. **Placing Additional Planks** At a slight angle, insert the tongue end into the grove end of the previous plank. Get as close to the side of the previous plank as possible. Also, at a slight angle, press the side tongue into the groove of the plank next to it. Press gently to engage the planks.
7. **Fully Engage End Lock -** Using a tapping block and rubber mallet, tap the end of the plank edge with the block to ensure that the locking mechanism is fully engaged. Do not strike the edge of the plank or locking mechanism with the rubber mallet. Damaged edges are unsightly, and the joint could be compromised.
8. **Lock in First Row End Joints -** Insert the short tongue end of the plank into the groove at an angle and drop it into place. Continue the process for the remainder of the first row.
9. **Fully Engage Side Lock -** Use a tapping block and rubber mallet and tap the block against the plank edge to fully engage the locking system. Failure to fully engage the locking system will cause the joints to open later. **CAUTION**: Do not strike the edge of the plank or the locking system with the rubber mallet.
10. **Place and Secure Row End Planks -** Ensure the end joint at the end of the last plank of the row is completely engaged with a pull tool.
11. **Starting New Row -** Use the end cut piece from the first row to start the second row. End joint spacing must be no less than 8" apart from rows on either side. Repeat the process

throughout the floor. Watch carefully to avoid lining up too many end joints and setting an obvious pattern.

12. **Bridge the End Joint -** Using a cut piece approximately 12" to 14" in length, form a temporary bridge next to the end of the plank just installed.
13. **Trim Last Row -** The last row of planks may need to be cut widthwise to achieve the correct width. The width of the last row must not be less than 2". This is accomplished by measuring the room prior to installation and factoring how many rows it will take to complete the room.
14. **Secure Last Row -** After engaging the side joints in the last row, slightly lift the edge of the plank. Using a pull tool, pull the plank completely into place. Follow up the length of the plank a second time and tap to ensure the joint is completely locked.
15. **Installing Around Pipes -** If the room has pipes or radiators or pipes, drill a hole large enough to fit around them with space for expansion.
16. **Create a watertight seal** by applying flexible 100% silicone sealant to the entire perimeter of the installation. **DO NOT** use acrylic sealant.
    a) First, fill all expansion spaces with a 3/8" compressible Polyethylene (PE) foam backer rod and cover with silicone sealant.
    b) Prior to molding installation, apply flexible silicone sealant to the portion of the molding or transition that will have direct contact with the flooring surface.
    c) Install moldings and immediately wipe away any excess silicone sealant.
    d) Apply silicone sealant at the connections to door frames or any other fixed objects.

Installation Tools:

- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- 3/8" Wedge Spacers
- Rubber Mallet
- Chop Saw
- Lip-Over Tapping Block
- Chalk Line
- Pull Tool
- 3M Scotch Blue 2080 Tape™ (**for delicate surfaces**)