

MORE FROM WOOD.



Installation instructions  
for Egger Laminate and  
Comfort flooring with  
**UNI *fit!*** installation system



UNI *fit!*



Patented

## 1. Required Inspection Prior to Installation

EGGER Laminate and Comfort flooring are manufactured in precise stages in highly-advanced and modern production facilities. Both finished and ongoing products are subjected to regular stringent checks. However, damage to individual boards cannot always be prevented. Therefore, the installer should examine each board prior to and during installation. Damaged or otherwise unsuitable pieces of flooring must not be installed and should be returned to the retailer for replacement.

## 2. Sub-floors

### 2.1

Prior to installation, sub-flooring must be prepared and assessed as set forth below. Failure to properly prepare the sub-floor prior to installation of EGGER products will void all guarantees and warranties which may otherwise have applied.

#### **Check the moisture level in the sub-floor:**

Use a CM device to make sure the following levels are not exceeded:

- For cement-based screed  $\leq 2$  CM % – heated screed  $\leq 1.8$  CM %
- For calcium sulphate screeds / calcium sulphate floating screeds  $\leq 0.5$  CM % – heated screeds  $\leq 0.3$  CM %
- These values apply to screeds without additives. With the use of additives and in case of fast-setting screed, the measurements and limits specified by the respective manufacturer shall apply.

#### **Check if the sub-floor is level:**

Sub-flooring must be completely level prior to installation of EGGER floor products.

#### **Check the load-bearing capacity of the sub-floor:**

The sub-floor must be a sealed, self-supporting layer.

#### **Check if the sub-floor is clean:**

The sub-floor must be vacuum cleaned.

#### **Check atmospheric conditions:**

The following conditions should be met before, during and after installation:

- an air temperature of at least 18°C (64°F)
- a floor surface temperature of at least 15°C (59°F)
- a relative air humidity of between 40 % and 70 %.

## Sub-floors

### 2.2

Laminate and Comfort Flooring from EGGER installed as floating flooring configuration can be installed on all sub-floors which meet the above described requirements, including:

- all types of screed including hot water-heated screed
- chipboard constructions
- fiberboards
- existing floor coatings such as PVC, linoleum, natural stone slabs and ceramic tiles.

#### **Unsuitable sub-floors:**

EGGER Laminate and Comfort flooring should never be installed on textile floor coverings (e.g., carpeting) or sub-floors that are not properly prepared for installation. Doing so will void all guarantees and warranties which may otherwise have applied.

#### **Sub-floors of limited suitability include:**

- electrically operated underfloor heating (controlling the surface temperature)

Electrical underfloor heating systems are classified as sub-floors with limited suitability given that a range of film-based, electrical heating systems are able to generate surface temperatures that significantly exceed 28°C (82°F). EGGER approves the use of an electrically operated underfloor heating system if it can be controlled digitally and the surface temperature can never exceed 28°C (82°F). Prior to installation of EGGER flooring products, you must verify that the heated flooring system is suitable for use beneath Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring.

#### **Screed**

Care must be taken when installing EGGER Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring over screed, as residual moisture may seep to the surface of the sub-floor after installation. When installing Laminate and Comfort flooring over screed, the use of an appropriate moisture barrier is required.

#### **Screeds with hot water floor heating**

When installing heated flooring in combination with Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring, all participants (builder, architect, heating specialist, heating technician and installer) must coordinate installation and verify suitability. Precautions must be taken to avoid subjecting EGGER flooring to temperatures exceeding 28°C (82°F), and the heating/cooling mechanism of the sub-flooring should be installed and tested prior to installation of EGGER flooring products.

When heating the load and heat distribution layer, there is a difference between functional heating (i.e., to check the heating system for proper operation), and heating generated for the purposes of curing screed/concrete sub-flooring. In order to ensure removal of moisture beneath Laminate flooring or Comfort flooring, the screed/concrete must be completely cured prior to installation of the EGGER flooring product.

**Attention!** The surface temperature of a heated floor structure may not exceed 28°C (82°F). EGGER Laminate and Comfort flooring are generally installed floating. When installing as a floating floor over heated mineral sub-floors, the installer should consider the thermal resistance of EGGER Laminate flooring and its insulation underlay. The combined floor must not exceed thermal resistance of 0.15 m<sup>2</sup>K/W. In addition, the use of an appropriate moisture barrier is required. Failure to install such a barrier will void all guarantees and warranties which may otherwise have applied. When installing EGGER flooring products which are already equipped with Silenzio underlayment, for example EGGER Comfort flooring, no additional insulating underlay must be installed.

## Sub-floors

### Natural stone and ceramic tiles

When installing EGGER Laminate and Comfort flooring over natural stone or ceramic tile, the use of an appropriate moisture barrier is required. Failure to install such a barrier will void all guarantees and warranties which may otherwise have applied.

### Woodchip and fiberboard

When installing EGGER Laminate and Comfort flooring over woodchip and fiberboard a moisture barrier is unnecessary.

### Wooden boards

Any loose boards should be properly screwed down. When installing EGGER Laminate and Comfort flooring over wooden boards a moisture barrier is unnecessary. The EGGER Laminate and Comfort flooring boards must be laid at right angles to the existing floorboards.

### Elastic flooring surfaces (PVC, linoleum, vinyl)

When installing EGGER Laminate flooring or Comfort flooring over elastic floor coverings a moisture barrier is unnecessary.

### Wet rooms / wet areas

**Attention!** Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring from EGGER are not suitable for installation in wet rooms and wet areas such as bathrooms, saunas or in similar rooms. Installation in such areas will void all guarantees and warranties.

#### Attention! Underlay Materials

- On mineral sub-floors such as stone or concrete, a moisture barrier with SD value of 75 m (250 feet) must be installed prior to installation of EGGER Laminate Flooring and Comfort Flooring. No separate moisture barrier is necessary when using EGGER Silenzio Duo (2 in 1 insulation underlay with integrated moisture barrier) prior to installation of EGGER Laminate Flooring. For all sub-floors, EGGER recommends using EGGER Silenzio underlayment for insulation or another underlayment with similar properties [thickness 1.5 mm to 3.0 mm (approx. 1/10 inch), CS value of at least 10 kPa, best  $\geq 60$  kPa] prior to installation of the EGGER Laminate flooring.
- No separate insulation underlayment is necessary prior to installation of EGGER Comfort flooring.
- Failure to install such a barrier or underlayment will void all guarantees and warranties which may otherwise have applied.

## 3. Before the installation

### Acclimatization of floor boards

Prior to installation, EGGER Laminate and Comfort floorings must be acclimatized to the environment in which they will be installed. Acclimatization should consist of the following:

- flooring may remain in its package
- for a period of at least 48 hours
- laid flat with a minimum of 50 cm (20 inches) distance from all walls
- at a room temperature of at least 18° C (64° F)
- at a flooring surface temperature of at least 15° C (59° F)
- at a relative atmospheric humidity of between 40 % and 70 %.

### Direction of installation

Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring looks best when the floor boards are installed parallel to the light direction. However, when installing over hardwood or strip parquet floors, the new floor boards must be installed perpendicular to the existing floor boards.

### Planning the first row

First, the room must be measured to determine whether the width of the first row should be reduced. This will be necessary if the last row to be laid is calculated to be less than 5 cm (2 inches) wide.

**Attention!** The flooring elements (floor boards) must be cut lengthways from the tongue side (red inlay).

### Planning expansion gaps

Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring, like all organic materials, are subject to shrinkage and/or expansion after installation. It is recommended that the installer allow gaps of 8 to 10 mm (1/3 to 1/2 inch) against all fixed objects to which the new flooring abuts, including walls, door frames, pipes, pillars and stairs.

### Planning movement profiles

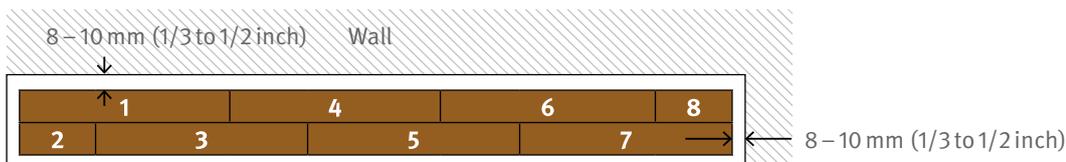
Floor transition thresholds must be installed in the following areas and flooring sizes because of the natural movement behaviour of the Laminate and Comfort flooring:

- door thresholds
- passageways
- angled areas
- room lengths and / or widths of more than 10 m (32.808 ft)

## 4. Installation

- Check the flooring boards for any damage. Determine which is the tongue and which is the groove (Figure 1 / Figure 2).
- Start installation in a left-hand corner of the room, ensuring that tongue of the boards face the wall and groove face the fitter (Figure 1 / Figure 2).

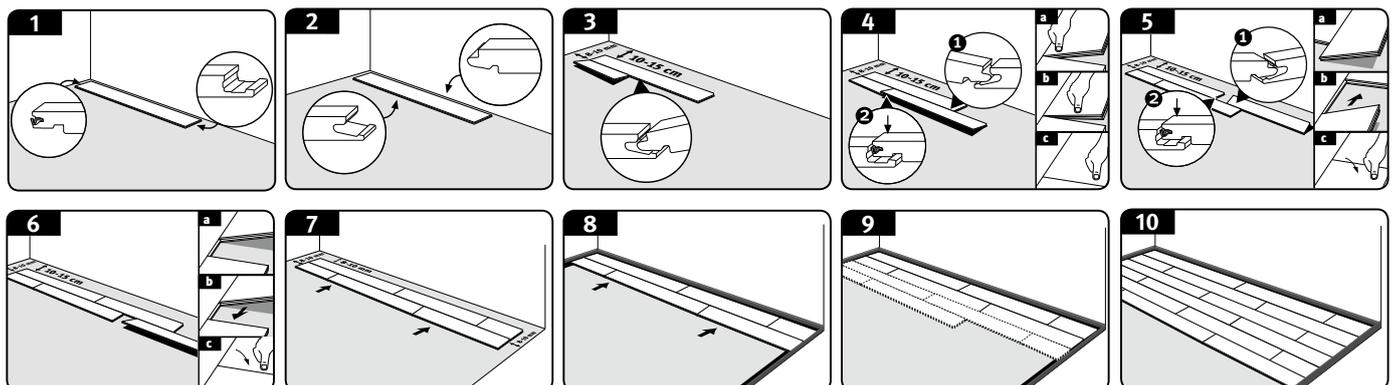
Take care to assemble the boards of the first two rows as described below.



- Board 1** = Lay in a left-hand corner of the room
- Board 2** = Board 2 should be cut so that it is at least 200 mm (8 inches) long as well as 200 mm (8 inches) shorter than board 1, as a staggered installation will give your floor best stability and a more natural appearance. Align the long edge (tongue) of board 2 along the long edge (groove) of Board 1, and connect the two boards using the tongue and groove design. Board 2 should be slightly diagonal to Board 1 until the tongue of board 2 is fit into groove of board 1. Then lower board 2 into place flat against board 1. (see Figure 3)
- Board 3** = Repeat the procedure for board 2, except that the short side of board 3 connects with the short side of board 2, also through a tongue and groove assembly, but here by pressing down board 3 until it's tongue is fit into the groove of board 2. (see Figure 4)
- Board 4** = Align the long edge (groove) of board 4 along the long edge (tongue) of board 3, and connect the two boards using the tongue and groove design. Board 4 should be slightly diagonal to board 3 until the groove of board 4 is fit into tongue of board 3. Then the short side of board 4 connects with the short side of board 1, also through a tongue and groove assembly. Lower board 4 by pressing down until its tongue is fit into the groove of board 1. (see Figure 5)
- Board 5** = Repeat the procedure for board 3.
- Board 6** = Repeat the procedure for board 4.
- Board 7** = Repeat the procedure for board 3.
- Board 8** = Repeat the procedure for board 4.

Repeat this procedure for installation of additional boards to finish the first two rows, being sure to stagger the lengths of the boards by at least 200 mm (8 inches) each, and making sure an appropriate expansion gap is allowed against all fixed objects, such as walls. **Attention!** If installing LONG format floor boards, they should staggered 500 mm (20 inches).

Once the first two rows of flooring are assembled, orient the flooring to ensure it is square to both walls, and insert spacers along the walls to maintain an appropriate expansion gap of 8 – 10 mm (1/3 to 1/2 inch) for the remaining installation. (Figure 7 to Figure 10)



## Installation

- When installing floor boards with bevels and/or special patterns (e.g., tile decor), ensure the offset is even and according to the bevel and/or pattern.
- **Continue to install the 3<sup>rd</sup> row:**

**Board 1:** If necessary to keep a staggered installation the first board should be cut so that it is at least 200 mm (8 inches) long as well as 200 mm (8 inches) shorter than the first board of the previous row. Align the long edge (tongue) of this board along the long edge (groove) of the previous row, and connect the boards using the tongue and groove design. The board to be installed should be slightly diagonal to the board of the previous row until the tongue is fit into the groove. Then lower the board into place flat against the previous row.

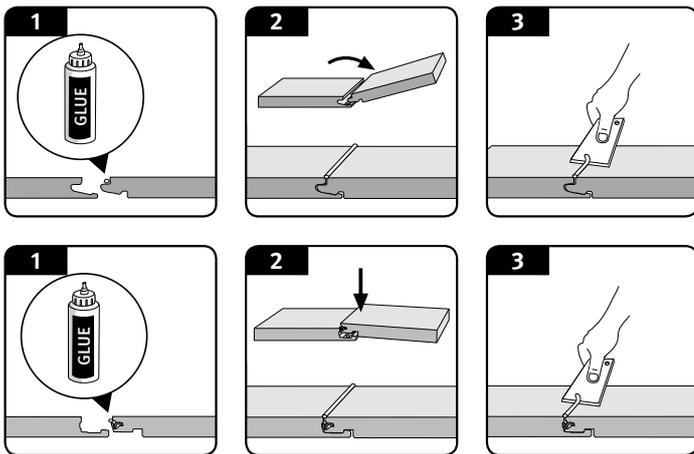
**Board 2:** Align the long edge (tongue) of this board along the long edge (groove) of the previous row, and connect the boards using the tongue and groove design. The board to be installed should be slightly diagonal to the boards of the previous row until the tongue is fit into the groove. Then the short side of the board connects with the short side of board 1, also through a tongue and groove assembly. Lower the board by pressing down until its tongue is fit into the groove of board 1.

**Board 3, Board 4, ...** Repeat this procedure for installation of additional boards to finish the 3<sup>rd</sup> row, being sure to stagger the lengths of the boards by at least 200 mm (8 inches) each, and making sure an appropriate expansion gap is allowed against all fixed objects, such as walls.
- **Continue to install all other rows:**

Repeat the procedure for installation of all additional rows as described for the 3<sup>rd</sup> row, being sure to stagger the lengths of the boards by at least 200 mm (8 inches) each, and making sure an appropriate expansion gap is allowed against all fixed objects, such as walls.

When installing the final row of flooring, you will likely need to cut the width of the panels and to adjust the angle of the panels to accommodate rooms which are out of square. A “short-cut” for properly measuring the cuts necessary for the best fit and appearance is as follows: Take a panel and stack it flush on top of a panel from the row you just finished. Take a spare panel and lay it flush against the wall, over the gap between the wall and the stacked pieces of floor you just created. The spare piece will reflect the angle and width of the gap. Trace the edge of the spare piece onto the panel you intend to install, and cut that panel accordingly. Be sure to allow for an expansion gap of 8–10 mm (approximately 1/3 to 1/2 inch) when making the cut.

### Class 31, 32 and 33 Commercial Applications



Commercial areas are exposed to higher levels of moisture and because of this, additional sealing with PVAC glue (D3), is required in such applications. The sealing glue should be applied on the long and short side of the tongue of the board being installed so that it can leak out along the full length of the connection at the top when the boards are joined together. Make sure that there is no gap in the flooring joints under the glue which has oozed out. Excess sealing glue is easy to remove from the surface immediately or after a short drying period.

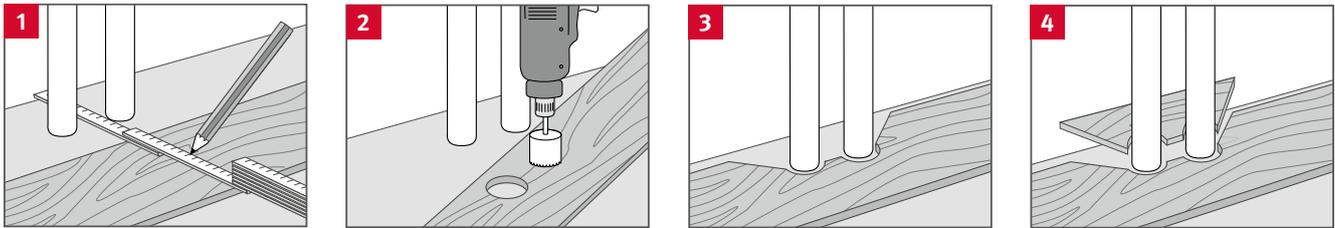
**(Attention!** Because the UNIfit! clic system has a low profile, care should be taken to avoid using too much glue.)

## Installation

### Built-in kitchens / built-in cabinets

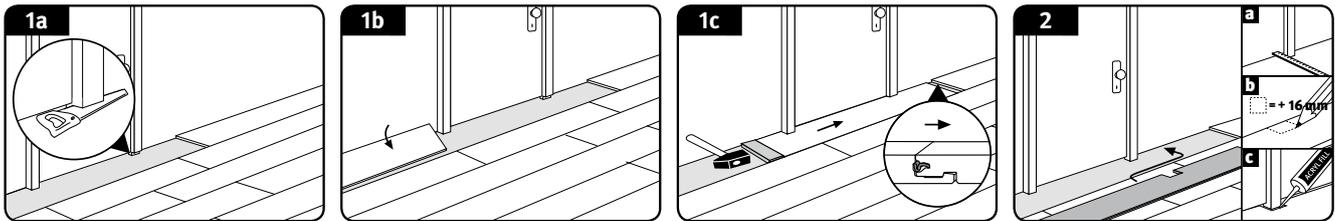
Built-in kitchens and built-in cupboards should be assembled prior to installation and the Laminate flooring or Comfort flooring should be placed just under the base.

### Pipes



- Measure the position of the pipes and mark it on the panel (allow for edge joint).
- Drill at least 16 mm (1/2 inch) more than the diameter of the pipe.
- Saw the holes at a 45° angle.
- Fit and glue the piece, as modified.

### Door frames



- If there are wooden door frames, it is recommended to shorten these by the installation height (flooring plus underlay materials) in consultation with the customer. (Figure 1a)
- Then install Laminate or Comfort flooring under the frame with an appropriate expansion joint. In case the installation takes you to a door frame, the respective board can be angled longitudinally and lowered. Subsequently, the element placed flat on the floor is pushed under the door frame and the frontal connection is locked through horizontal knocking with a hammer and tapping block. (Figure 1b + 1c)
- On door frames that cannot be shortened, e.g. made of metal, the fitted expansion joint must be sealed or covered with an elastic jointing material or suitable end profiles. (Figure 2)

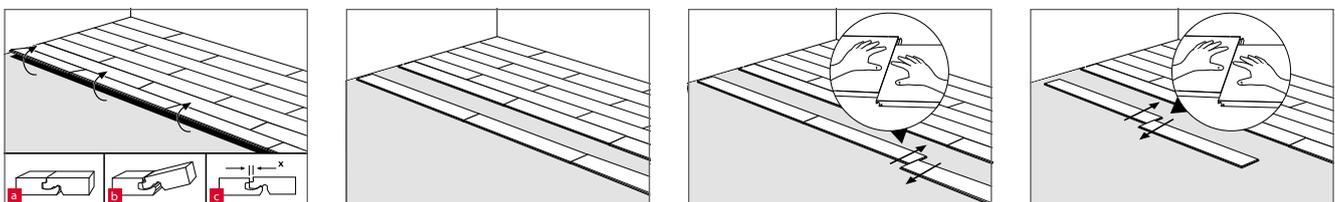
### Floor Thresholds and Base Mouldings

Floor transition thresholds and base mouldings should be installed only after installation of flooring.

**Attention!** If transition thresholds will require the installation of a base on which to attach them, the base piece should be placed prior to installing the adjoining piece Laminate and Comfort flooring.

### Removal / Dismantling of Boards

In order to replace installed panels without destroying them, you first have to unlock the entire row by tilting the previously installed boards, along their long sides, to unlock the tongue and groove assembly. See illustration below. To separate boards from each other on their short ends, do not tilt, but rather slide the ends apart from one another, as shown. Care should be taken to avoid damaging the tongue and groove assembly.



## 5. Cleaning and maintenance

- Entrance areas should be equipped with a reasonably sized doormat.
- In commercial applications where the flooring area leads directly outside, an appropriately sized clean-off zone must be built into the floor structure.
- Attach felt pads to the feet of furniture, including chairs and tables. Clean these regularly, check for proper functionality, and replace if required.
- Lift furniture when moving, rather than pushing or dragging.
- Use soft furniture castors (type W) in case of office chairs and all other objects on castors. Clean office chair and furniture castors regularly, check the proper functionality and replace if required.
- Immediately remove stagnant moisture fluids (humidity).
- Steam cleaners should not be used, except of Aqua+ Laminate Flooring.
- Only clean Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring with a damp cloth.
- Never use abrasives or scouring agents on Laminate and Comfort flooring.
- Do not use cleaning products that may leave a residue. We recommend our system-related flooring cleaner, Clean-it from EGGER.
- It is unnecessary to apply wax or polish to EGGER Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring. The use of wax or polish will void all guarantees and warranties.
- It is unnecessary to apply sealant to EGGER Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring. The use of sealant will void all guarantees and warranties.
- Use the hard floor nozzle (brush accessory) when vacuum cleaning.
- Built-in kitchens and built-in cupboards should be assembled prior to installation and the Laminate flooring and Comfort flooring should be placed just under the base.

No matter how hard wearing your floor is, a piece of flooring may still get damaged. If the damage is slight, use EGGER repair paste, Decor Mix & Fill, to repair. More severely damaged panels can be easily replaced by a professional fitter. Separate instructions are available upon request.

For instructions on installation on stairs, or for other installation issues not addressed in this material, please contact your local dealer.

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