

## **For Laminate Floors That Require a Floating Installation:**

### **General**

Valinge 2g is a revolutionary system for installing laminate floors without using glue. The panels can be clicked together simply.

### **Method:** Angle-In Installation

Position the plank to be installed at an angle of 20° to 30° to the plank already installed. Move the plank gently up and down while applying forward pressure. The plank will automatically click into place.

REFER TO: [thekeyslaminate.com](http://thekeyslaminate.com)

### **Tools for Installing the Floor**

For the best results, follow the installation instructions above. In addition to the regular tools for installing laminate floors (hammer, saw, pencil, tape measure, level), you will also need the following accessories:

- Installation kit (pull bar, spacers)
- Saw: Cut pattern side-down when using a jigsaw, saber saw or circular saw. Cut pattern side-up when using a laminate cutter, handsaw, table saw or crosscut saw.
- Underlayment system
- Finishing moldings
- 100% silicone sealant

### **Focus Points**

1. You can walk on the floor during and immediately after installation.
2. Make sure the planks are mixed sufficiently so that you do not end up with too many identical light or dark planks next to each other.
3. Check all planks in daylight before and during installation. Do not use any defective planks.
4. The floor should be installed parallel to the light entering the room. The required conditions are 60°-85°F at a relative humidity of 35-65%.
5. Acclimation: All 12mm products must acclimate for 48 hours in their sealed packaging in the middle of the room where it is to be installed.
6. Room humidity varies according to season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. Be sure to leave a 3/8-inch minimum expansion joint on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds, under doors and around any fixed objects (floor vents, kitchen islands, etc.).
7. Large rooms must have expansion joints every 40 feet width-wise to the planks and every 40-foot length-wise. An expansion joint is recommended between different rooms (under the door). Expansion joints can be finished by means of a molding that is attached to the subfloor.
8. Ensure that the end joints of the planks in two successive rows are never in line. Always ensure that the joints are staggered by at least 6 inches.

## Preparing the Room

- Mix planks from different cartons when installing to maximize the natural look of the floor.
- Check whether the existing molding can be removed. You can also leave the wall base and finish the floor with accessory profiles.
- Make sure the subfloor is flat. Any unevenness greater than 1/16 inch over the length of 3 feet must be smoothed out.
- Make sure the subfloor is clean, dry and stable.
- Flooring may be installed over radiant heat systems following special installation instructions.

## Concrete Subfloor

The moisture content of the concrete must be less than 5lb/24hr per 1000 sq. ft. (ASTM F1869) or <80% with a moisture meter probe (ASTM F2170). Always use underlayment and a minimum 6-mil poly moisture barrier if a moisture barrier is not attached to the underlayment.

### New Construction:

- A new concrete floor must dry at least 1 week per 3/8-inch thickness up to 1-1/2 inches. Thicknesses over 1-1/2 inches require twice as much drying time. A 2-1/2 inch concrete subfloor must dry for at least 8 weeks.

### Renovation:

- Remove any damp-porous floor covering (carpet, needle felt, etc.) first.
- Damp-sealed floor covering (PVC, linoleum, VCT, etc.) does not have to be removed.

## Wood Subfloor

- Remove any existing damp-porous floor covering first.
- Make sure the sub floor is stable. Nail down any loose areas and apply a leveling layer if necessary.
- Install the planks crosswise too the direction of the existing subfloor.
- For installations over a crawl space, the soil in the crawl space must be covered by a 6-mil non-recycled polyethylene film with seams overlapping at least 8 inches. In addition, vents should be located throughout the foundation. They must provide good cross ventilation and no dead air space. There must be minimum vent openings equal to 1.5% of the square footage within the crawl space. For example, 100 sq. ft. of crawl space must have at least 1.5 sq. ft. of open vents.
- The moisture content of the wood may not exceed 12%.

## Installing the Floor

- First install the underlayment. If the underlayment is pre-mounted on the planks, use a damp-proof moisture barrier with water resistant adhesive tape. For concrete, let the moisture barrier run up the wall before cutting to size. A molding will be attached to this later. For wood, cut the moisture barrier 1 inch from the wall.
- Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both the long and the short sides.
- Place the planks with sawn-off sides against the walls. Put spacers from the installation kit between the planks and the wall. This will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: 3/8 inch.

- The floor should be installed with a staggered random length for the starting planks in each row
  - Be careful not to create a repeating pattern. Start the first row with a whole plank, second row with 1/3 of a plank, third row with 2/3 of a plank, then a whole, then 1/2, then 1/4, then back to whole, then short, then medium, etc. Alternating the length of the starting plank on each row will avoid creating a zigzag or stair step pattern in the floor.
- There must be a 3/8-inch expansion joint between the last row and the wall. The width of the final row planks must be a minimum of 2 inches wide. Keep this in mind when sawing the last row of planks.

### **Wet Areas**

Since prolonged water exposure could damage your laminate flooring, the following installation recommendations should be closely followed to validate your residential water warranty. Wet areas would 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. This does not apply to beveled edge products when used in bathrooms. An expansion area of 3/8 inch must be provided around all vertical obstructions including walls, permanent cabinets, and pipes. All perimeter expansion areas must be completely filled in with a water-repellent flexible silicone sealant. When applying sealant, it is helpful to first apply a strip of masking tape parallel to and approximately 1/32 inch from the edge of the flooring. Then fill the expansion area with sealant, remove any excess with a putty knife, let dry for 24 hours before exposure to water. It is important that moisture does not enter the core of any cut planks.

### **Under Doorframes**

When sawing the planks, ensure that the expansion joint under the door is at least 3/8 inch. If you cannot lift the plank, use an adapted tapping block or pull bar and hammer to tap the planks together with the planks flat on the floor.

### **Finishing**

Remove all spacers. Install the molding on the plastic membrane that runs up the wall from under the floor. Never attach the molding to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract under the molding.

In places where profiles or moldings cannot be placed, fill expansion gaps with flexible silicone sealant.

### **Precautions**

Protect floors from furniture and chair legs with proper felt or rubber caps. Avoid bringing dirt, water, and grit indoors by providing a suitable solid-backed floor mat at any outside leading doors. Furniture on casters/wheels must use soft, rubber wheels that are suitable for a laminate floor and/or use a suitable protective mat. Ensure that humidity in the room is always between 35-65%. Use a humidifier or de-humidifier if necessary.

## Maintenance

Never use wax, polish, oils, soaps, detergents, shine enhancers/restorers, or varnish on the floor. For dry maintenance, we recommend a dust mop. No beater bars or spinning heads.

For slightly damp maintenance, we recommend an approved laminate cleaner which you spray directly and lightly on a duster. Never put moisture directly on the floor. Always wipe dry immediately until no more moisture is visible on the floor. The use of other cleaning products might damage your floor.

For bevel edge products, we strongly recommend dry cleaning only. Do not use any type of cleaning machine such as steam cleaners, spray mops, power cleaners or buffers. Wet maintenance will damage the floor. Remove any water immediately. Laminate flooring is not suitable for use in damp spaces like saunas. Remove stubborn stains carefully with acetone-based fingernail polish remover. Never use scouring products.

**For service under this warranty, please notify your retailer in writing. Be sure to describe the specific problem and to include a copy of your invoice. Your retailer will take appropriate action, including notifying Floor Source, if necessary.**