

## INSTALLATION GUIDE

Read all instructions before installation.

### IMPORTANT:

TrafficMASTER laminate flooring is intended for a floating installation only. Do not glue, nail, or attach in any other way to your existing subfloor. Cabinets and kitchen islands should be installed prior to the laminate flooring.

### PRECAUTIONS:

- Never tap laminate floors during installation
- Never use tools designed for other laminate flooring installation systems
- Never wax, polish, or use abrasive cleaners on laminate floors
- TrafficMASTER laminate floors should not be installed in rooms that are susceptible to moisture such as full bathrooms, entryways or laundry rooms

### TOOLS AND MATERIALS:

- Table or circular saw
- Gloves
- 6 mil (0.15 mm) thick vapor barrier if installing over concrete
- Measuring tape
- Pencil/marker
- Carpenter's square
- Pull bar
- Utility knife
- 3/8 in (10 mm) thick spacers
- 2 in (51 mm) wide moisture-resistant adhesive tape
- Safety glasses
- Dust mask (NIOSH-designated)
- Laminate floor underlayment

### SAFETY CAUTION:

Use safety glasses and gloves when cutting laminate floors.

Laminate floors will create wood dust; always cut the product in a well-ventilated area.

### ACCLIMATION:

Allow 48 hours for your flooring to acclimate to the conditions of the installation area before opening the cartons. Cross-stack unopened cartons in the installation area, away from outside walls, heat, and air conditioning vents. Installation temperatures should be at a minimum of 64°F (18°C) with a maximum relative humidity of 75%.

### EXPANSION:

TrafficMASTER laminate floors expand and contract with changes in relative humidity. For this reason, leave a 3/8 in (10 mm) expansion space around the perimeter of the room and all other objects such as toe kicks and plumbing. The expansion space will be covered by wall base moldings or quarter rounds once the floor is installed.

### MAXIMUM ROOM SIZE / ADJACENT ROOMS:

TrafficMASTER laminate floors can be installed in a single room up to 33 ft (10 m) in length and 26 ft (8 m) in width. Installations in rooms that are over the maximum allowable length and width must use T-moldings. Also use T-moldings when installing laminate floors to separate adjacent rooms (i.e. through doorways).

### INSTALLATION LAYOUT:

There are no rules when it comes to the layout of your installation. Typically, laminate flooring installations are laid out parallel to the longest wall in the room or perpendicular to the main window in the room.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION:

TrafficMASTER laminate floors can be installed over many types of subfloors as long as they are properly prepared and meet the required criteria outlined in this section.

#### 1. General Subfloor Preparations & Precautions

- Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt and debris prior to installation
- Subfloors must be structurally sound prior to installation
- Subfloor moisture must be tested prior to installation and should not exceed 12% through the installation area
- Carpet is not a suitable underlayment for laminate floors. All carpet, carpet pad, and carpet tack should be removed prior to installation
- Variations in the subfloor flatness should not exceed 3/16 in per 10 ft (2 mm/2 m). Floors must be leveled to meet this specification prior to installation. Level by filling depressed areas with flooring leveling compound and sanding or grinding down any raised areas
- Installations over hydronic radiant heat subfloors are acceptable but temperatures should never exceed 80°F (27°C). Radiant heat systems must be operating for a minimum of 3 weeks prior to installation of TrafficMASTER laminate floors to ensure the subfloor meets the moisture requirements

#### 2. Concrete Subfloors

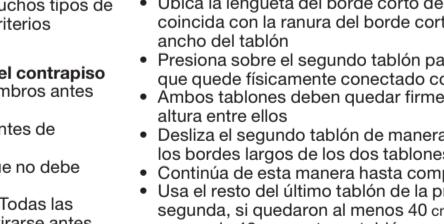
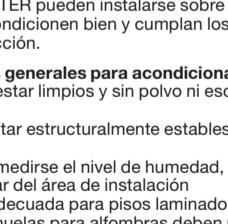
- Concrete subfloors must be properly cured and allowed to dry for at least 60 days prior to installation. Test the concrete subfloor for moisture prior to installation. To do so:
  - Tape 3 ft x 3 ft (91 cm x 91 cm) pieces of polyethylene vapor barrier to the subfloor
  - If condensation appears on the film after 24 hours or concrete appears dark in color, moisture is likely present and a Calcium Chloride test must be performed
    - The maximum allowable moisture emission is 5.0 lbs/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours (2.26 kg/92.9 m<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours)
  - A 0.12 in (3 mm) thick underlayment and 6 mil (0.15 mm) polyethylene vapor barrier must be used when installing over concrete
  - Overlap vapor barrier edges by 8 in (20 cm) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape
  - Run the vapor barrier 3/4 in (2 cm) up the wall and trim after the wall base is installed
  - The underlayment must be installed prior to installation of laminate floors
  - Do not overlap underlayment edges. Butt end edges together and seal with adhesive tape

#### 3. Wood Subfloors

- Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and screwed or nailed to supporting beams
- A 6 mil (0.15 mm) polyethylene vapor barrier must be used if installing laminate floors over wood subfloors applied directly to concrete
- If installing floors over a crawl space, install a 6 mil (0.15 mm) vapor barrier:
  - Overlap vapor barrier edges by 8 in (20 cm) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape
  - Run the vapor barrier 3/4 in (2 cm) up the wall and trim after the wall base is installed
  - Crawl space should be dry and vented as per local building code
- Underlayment must be installed prior to installing the laminate floors
- Underlayment edges should not be overlapped. Butt end edges together and seal with adhesive tape

#### 4. Vinyl (sheet/tile), Linoleum, Ceramic Tile Subfloors

- If vinyl, linoleum, or ceramic tile is installed over concrete, install an 6 mil (0.15 mm) vapor barrier over it:
  - Overlap vapor barrier edges by 8 in (20 cm) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape
  - Run the vapor barrier 3/4 in (2 cm) up the wall and trim after the wall base is installed
- Underlayment must be installed prior to installing the laminate floors
- Underlayment edges should not be overlapped. Butt end edges together and seal with adhesive tape



## GUÍA DE INSTALACIÓN

Lee todas las instrucciones antes de la instalación.

### IMPORTANTE:

El piso laminado TrafficMASTER fue creado para instalación flotante únicamente. No lo pegues, claves ni fijes de ninguna otra manera sobre el contrapiso existente.

### PRECAUCIONES:

- Nunca golpees los pisos laminados durante la instalación
- Nunca uses herramientas diseñadas para otros sistemas de instalación de piso laminado
- Nunca coloques cera, pulas ni uses limpiadores abrasivos en los pisos laminados
- Los pisos laminados TrafficMASTER no deben instalarse en habitaciones que puedan tener humedad, como baños completos, entradas o lavanderías

### HERRAMIENTAS Y MATERIALES:

- Sierra circular o de mesa
- Guantes
- Barrera contra vapor de 6 mil (0.15 mm) de grosor si se instala sobre concreto
- Cinta de medir
- Lápiz/marcador
- Esquadra de carpintero
- Barra de tracción
- Cuchillo de uso general
- Espaciadores de 10 mm de grosor
- Cinta adhesiva resistente a la humedad de 51 mm de ancho
- Gafas de seguridad
- Máscara contra el polvo (certificada por NIOSH)
- Base para piso laminado

### ADVERTENCIA DE SEGURIDAD:

Al cortar este producto, usa gafas de seguridad y guantes. Los pisos laminados generan aserrín; corta siempre el producto en un área bien ventilada.

### ACLIMATACIÓN:

Antes de abrir las cajas, deja que los pisos se aclimaten por 48 horas a las condiciones del área de instalación. Apila las cajas sin abrir de forma cruzada en el área de instalación, alejadas de las paredes exteriores, el calor y las rejillas de ventilación del aire acondicionado. Las temperaturas de instalación deben estar a 64 °F (18 °C) como mínimo con una humedad relativa máxima del 75%.

### EXPANSIÓN:

Los pisos laminados TrafficMASTER se expanden y contraen con los cambios en humedad relativa. Por esta razón, deja 10 mm de espacio de expansión alrededor del perímetro de la habitación y todos los objetos, como zócalos e instalaciones de plomería. El espacio para expansión se cubrirá con molduras de base de pared o cuartos de bocel una vez que el piso esté instalado.

### TAMAÑO MÁXIMO DE HABITACIÓN / HABITACIONES ADYACENTES:

Los pisos laminados TrafficMASTER pueden instalarse en una sola habitación de hasta 10 m de largo x 8 m de ancho. Las instalaciones en habitaciones que superan el largo y ancho permitidos requieren molduras en T. Además, usa molduras en T al instalar pisos laminados para separar habitaciones adyacentes (es decir, en umbrales).

### DISPOSICIÓN PARA LA INSTALACIÓN:

No hay reglas para el diseño (disposición espacial) de las instalaciones. Generalmente, las instalaciones de pisos laminados se colocan en paralelo a la pared más larga o perpendicularmente a la ventana principal de la habitación.

### PREPARACIÓN DEL CONTRAPISO:

Los pisos laminados TrafficMASTER pueden instalarse sobre muchos tipos de contrapisos, siempre que se acondicione bien y cumplan los criterios requeridos descritos en esta sección.

#### 1. Precauciones e indicaciones generales para acondicionar el contrapiso

- Los contrapisos deben estar limpios y sin polvo ni escombros antes de la instalación
- Los contrapisos tienen que estar estructuralmente estables antes de la instalación
- Antes de la instalación, debe medirse el nivel de humedad, que no debe superar el 12% en ningún lugar del área de instalación. Nivelar rellenando las áreas hundidas con compuesto para nivelación de pisos y lijá o pule cualquier área levantada

Las variaciones en el nivel horizontal del contrapiso no deben superar los 4.8 mm cada 3 m (2 mm/2 m). Los contrapisos tienen que nivelarse hasta cumplir esta especificación antes de la instalación. Nivelar rellenando las áreas hundidas con compuesto para nivelación de pisos y lijá o pule cualquier área levantada

Es posible instalar sobre contrapisos hidráulicos de calefacción radiante si la temperatura no supera los 80 °F (27 °C). Los sistemas de calefacción radiante tienen que estar funcionando al menos 3 semanas antes de instalar los pisos laminados TrafficMASTER para asegurarse de que el contrapiso cumple con los requisitos de humedad

#### 2. Contrapisos de concreto

Los contrapisos de concreto deben curarse adecuadamente y hay que dejarlos secar durante al menos 60 días antes de la instalación. Verifica la humedad del contrapiso de concreto antes de la instalación. Para hacerlo:

- Pega con cinta adhesiva tiras de 91 cm x 91 cm de la barrera de vapor de polietileno en el contrapiso
- Si aparece condensación sobre la película luego de 24 horas o el concreto se oscurece, es muy probable que haya humedad y es necesario realizar una prueba de cloruro de calcio
- El máximo permitido de emisión de humedad es 2.26 kg/92.9 m<sup>2</sup> cada 24 horas

Al instalar sobre concreto, usa un piso base de 3 mm de grosor y una barrera de vapor de polietileno de 6 mil (0.15 mm)

Superponer los bordes de la barrera de vapor 20 cm y sella con cinta adhesiva resistente a la humedad

Extiende la barrera para vapor 2 cm hacia arriba de la pared y recórtala después de instalar la base de la pared

El piso base debe instalarse antes que el piso laminado

No superpongas los bordes del piso base. Une bien los extremos y sella con cinta adhesiva

#### 3. Contrapisos de madera

Los contrapisos de madera tienen que ser estructuralmente estables y atornillarse o clavarlos a las vigas de soporte

Debe usarse una barrera contra vapor de polietileno de 6 mil (0.15 mm) al instalar pisos laminados sobre contrapisos de madera aplicados directamente al concreto

Al instalar los pisos sobre un semisótano, instala una barrera para vapor de 6 mil (0.15 mm):

Superponer los bordes de la barrera de vapor 20 cm y sella con cinta adhesiva resistente a la humedad

Extiende la barrera para vapor 2 cm hacia arriba de la pared y recórtala después de instalar la base de la pared

El semisótano debe estar seco y ventilado, según el código local de construcción

El piso base debe instalarse antes que el piso laminado

No superpongas los bordes del piso base. Une bien los extremos y sella con cinta adhesiva

#### 4. Pisos de vinilo (lámina/losa), linóleo y losa de cerámica

Si se instala vinilo, linóleo o losas de cerámica sobre el concreto, debe colocarse encima una barrera de vapor de 6 mil (0.15 mm):

Superponer los bordes de la barrera de vapor 20 cm y sella con cinta adhesiva resistente a la humedad

Extiende la barrera para vapor 2 cm hacia arriba de la pared y recórtala después de instalar la base de la pared

El piso base debe instalarse antes que el piso laminado

No superpongas los bordes de la base de piso no deben superponerse. Unir bien los extremos y sellarlos con cinta adhesiva

## ROOM PREPARATION:

### 1. Wall Base/Trim

- Removal of the existing wall base/trim is optional. If the existing wall base/trim is not removed, leave the required expansion space in front of the existing wall base/trim
- Install wall base or trim after the flooring installation is complete to cover the expansion space around the perimeter of the room
- Always nail/adhere the wall base and trim to the wall. Never nail/adhere it to the laminate flooring

### 2. Doors/Door Jambs

- Undercut door jambs so that the laminate floor can be installed under them
  - To do this, use a laminate flooring off-cut and a small piece of underlay to support a hand saw blade at the correct height for undercutting
- Check the door clearances and make any necessary height adjustments before installing laminate floors
- Leave the correct expansion spacing under the door jamb

### 3. Wall Irregularities

- Walls are not always perfectly straight. TrafficMASTER laminate floors need to be cut so as to fit within the irregularities of your walls
- Complete these steps:
  - Install the first row of laminate floors (following the Installation section) and ensure that all long edges of the laminate flooring planks are aligned
  - Slide the whole row against the wall. You will now notice any irregularities (areas where the wall is not straight)
  - Trace the contour of the wall onto the row of laminate flooring with a pencil or marker
  - Once traced, uninstall the planks carefully so as not to damage the locking system and cut along the traced line
  - Re-install the planks, leaving the necessary 3/8 in (10 mm) expansion space

## INSTALLATION PROCEDURES:

Before you begin the steps in the Installation section, ensure you have completed the following:

- Sort planks before installation to avoid plank repetition and to achieve the most natural and varied results
- Inspect every plank for damage before installing it
- The first and last row of the installation should be wider than 3.5 in (9 cm):
  - Measure the width of the room and divide it by the width of the planks you are installing
  - If the remainder is less than 3.5 in (9 cm), cut 3.5 in (9 cm) from the width of the first row. If this is not possible, ensure that both edge planks are as even in width as possible
- The first and last plank in a row should be a minimum of 16 in (40 cm) long
- Stagger the planks from row to row by a minimum of 16 in (40 cm)
- Use spacers to maintain the 3/8 in (10 cm) expansion space between the planks and walls/vertical objects
- Select a starting corner of the room and work from left to right

TIP: It is often easiest to start at the door of the room so that the first plank can be easily slid under the door jamb.

### 1. Installing the First Row

- Lay the first plank with the long edge tongue facing the wall
- Position the short edge tongue of the second plank so that it overlaps the short edge groove of the first plank by half the width of the plank
- Press down on the second plank so as to engage the locking mechanism and physically connect it to the first plank
- The two planks should lock together tightly and there should be no height differences between them
- Slide the second plank horizontally towards the wall until the two planks' long edges are aligned
- Continue in this manner until the first row is complete
- Use the remainder of the last plank of the first row to start the second row provided that it is a minimum of 16 in (40 cm) long. If the cut piece is shorter than 16 in (40 cm) long, cut a new plank in half and use it to begin the second row

### 2. Installing All Other Rows

- Install the first plank of the second row by installing its long edge to the previous row's groove
- To install remaining planks, install the long edge of the plank to the previous row
- Before lowering the plank, make sure it's short end tongue overlaps with the previous plank's short end groove
- Lower the plank slowly (a short oscillating or up and down motion may help lower the plank)
- Apply pressure to the short edge of the planks so as to activate the locking mechanism. You will typically hear an audible click sound
- When you are finished installing all rows, remove all wall spacers and install wall base and applicable