

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Vapour barrier (minimum 0.15 mm/6 mil) (if needed)
- Transitional moldings (if needed)
- Measuring tape
- Carpenter's square
- Utility knife
- Safety glasses
- Pencil/marker
- Chalk line/string
- Pull bar
- Dust mask (NIOSH-designated)
- 10 mm (3/8 in) thick spacers
- 51 mm (2 in) wide moisture-resistant adhesive tape
- Handsaw or doorjamb saw (fine-toothed blade)
- Power saw (any of the following) :
  - Table saw, mitre saw, circular saw or jigsaw

**NOTE:** Safety glasses and gloves should be worn at all times.

## PREPARATION

### Acclimation:

Golden Select laminate flooring must be acclimated to the conditions of your home before they are installed. To do so, cross-stack unopened cartons in the area where they will be installed, away from outside walls, heat, and air conditioning vents for 48 hours. Installation temperatures should be a minimum of 18°C (64°F) with a maximum relative humidity of 75%. The ideal conditions are 40%-60% of relative humidity.



### Expansion Space:

Golden Select laminate flooring expands and contracts with changes in relative humidity. Leave a 10 mm (3/8 in) expansion space around the perimeter of the entire room and all other objects. The expansion space will be covered by the wall base or quarter round once the floor is installed.

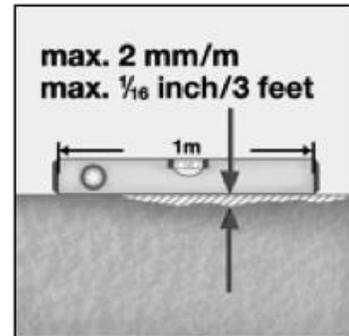
### Maximum Room Size:

Golden Select laminate flooring can be installed in a single room up to 12 m (40 linear feet) in length or 12 m (40 linear feet) in width. Installations in rooms that are over 12 m in length or width must use T-moldings. Use a T-molding for rooms larger than 12 m (40 linear feet) in length and width and in any doorway.

## SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

### A. General Subfloor Preparations and Precautions

- Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt and debris and structurally sound prior to installation.
- Subfloor moisture must be tested prior to installation and should not exceed 12% throughout the installation area.
- Carpet is not a suitable underlay for laminate flooring. All carpet, carpet pad, carpet tack and underpadding should be removed prior to installation.
- Variations in the subfloor flatness should not exceed 2 mm per meter (1/16 per 3 feet).
- There must be at least 12.5 mm (1/2 in) between the surface of the floor and the bottom of electric baseboard heaters to allow heat to circulate.
- Installations over radiant-heated subfloors are acceptable and it is recommended to maintain the temperature between 18-22°C (65-72°F).
  - Temperature should never exceed **27°C (80°F)**.
  - Radiant heat systems must be operating for a minimum of 3 weeks prior to installation of Golden Select laminate flooring.
  - Slight gaps may occur between laminate planks installed over radiant heating and will not be covered by the warranty.



### B. Concrete

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. A 0.15 mm (6 mil) polyethylene vapour barrier must be used when installing over concrete. Overlap vapour barrier edges by 20 cm (8 in) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape. Run vapour barrier 2 cm (3/4 in) up wall and trim after wall base is installed.

### C. Wood

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and screwed or nailed to supporting beams. Do not install Golden Select laminate flooring over wood subfloors applied directly to concrete. If installing floors over a crawl space, it is recommended that a 0.15 mm (6 mil) vapour barrier be installed. Overlap vapour barrier edges by 20 cm (8 in) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape. Run vapour barrier 2 cm (3/4 in) up wall and trim after wall base is installed.

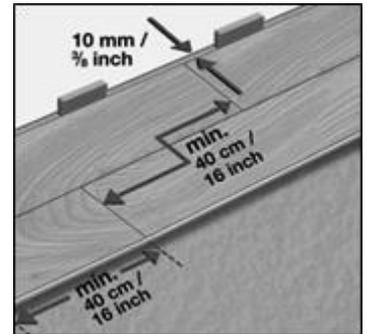
### D. Vinyl (sheet/tile), Linoleum, Ceramic Tile

If vinyl, linoleum, or ceramic tile is installed over concrete, a 0.15 mm (6 mil) vapour barrier must be installed on top of it. Overlap vapour barrier edges by 20 cm (8 in) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape. Run vapour barrier 2 cm (3/4 in) up wall and trim after wall base is installed.

## INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

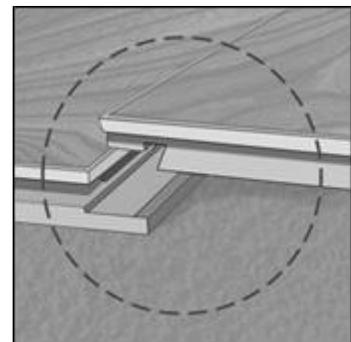
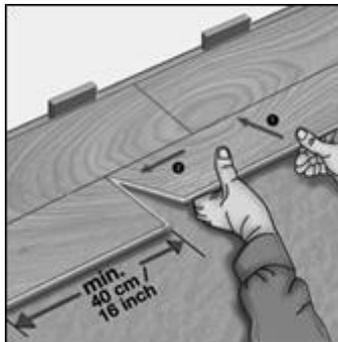
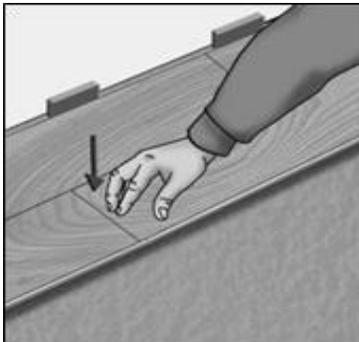
### **Important: Never tap Golden Select laminate flooring during installation.**

It is recommended that planks be mixed from at least three cartons to achieve the most natural and varied results. Inspect every plank for damage before installing it. The first and last rows of the installation should be wider than 9 cm (3.5 in). The first and last planks in a row should be a minimum of 40 cm (16 in) long and the rows should be staggered by a minimum of 40 cm (16 in). Use spacers to maintain the 10 mm (3/8 in) expansion gap.



### **A. FIRST ROW**

- Select a starting corner of the room and work left to right.
- Lay the first plank with the long-edge tongue facing the wall.
- Lift the right side of the second plank to a 30-degree angle and place its short-end tongue into the groove of the first plank.
- Lower the plank to lock the two together.
- 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 40 cm (16 in) long.
- To avoid ending the row with a plank of less than 40 cm (16 in) in length, it may be necessary to cut the first plank. Always remove the groove on the last plank.

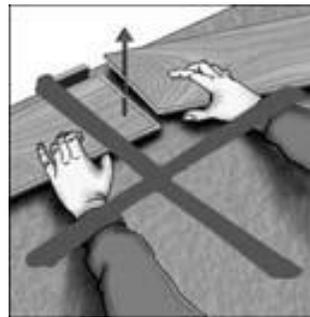


### **B. ALL OTHER ROWS**

- Install the first plank of the second row by installing its long edge into the previous row's groove in a manner similar to how you installed the short edges of the first row (i.e., an angle of 30 degrees or less).
- Install remaining planks as follows:
  - Install the long edge of the plank to the previous row.
  - Before lowering the plank, make sure its 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 plank's short edge so as to activate the locking mechanism. You will typically hear an audible click sound.
- For a stronger and more natural-looking floor, make sure to stagger the joints in each row by at least 20 cm (8 in.).
- When cutting a plank, if using a portable electric saw (jigsaw), the decorative surface must face up. If using a circular table saw, the decorative surface must face down.

If at any point in the installation it is necessary to disassemble planks on the long side, remove by lifting the long edge of the row to approximately 30° in order to disconnect the long edge installation mechanism. For the short end of the plank, DO NOT lift the plank on the sides, as this will damage the locking mechanism. Instead, slide the short ends apart in opposite directions.



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Golden Select laminate flooring is among the highest-performing of floors available, but it is not indestructible, and minor cosmetic scuffing is normal for any laminate flooring. To ensure your floors perform as well in the future as they do the day after you install them:

- Place walk-off mats and area rugs at main traffic entrances and protective pads under furniture legs to prevent scratching.
- Vacuum or dust-mop to remove loose dirt or grit.
- Never flood the floor with water or cleaner; use a damp cloth. Do not wet-mop your floors.
- Do not use soap-based cleaners or abrasive detergents. Spot clean with water-based cleaners designed for laminate flooring.
- Never let water stand on the floor for any length of time; wipe up spills immediately.
- Do not use polishes, waxes or abrasive cleaners.
- Maintain the humidity level in the installation space between 40% and 60% year-round. It may be necessary to use a dehumidifier in periods of high humidity and a humidifier in periods of low humidity.

## WARRANTY

Golden Select laminate flooring is covered by a limited warranty of 35 years for residential use. The stipulations of the residential warranty are as follows:

- The flooring will be free from manufacturing defects.
- The decorative laminate surface will not wear through.
- The flooring will not fade due to sunlight, UV rays or electrical light.
- The flooring will not stain.
- Seams will not unlock under normal use conditions.

Golden Select laminate flooring is covered by a limited warranty of 10 years for light commercial use. The stipulations of the light commercial warranty are as follows:

- The flooring will be free from manufacturing defects.
- The decorative laminate surface will not wear through.
- The flooring will not fade due to sunlight, UV rays or electrical light.
- The flooring will not stain.
- Seams will not unlock under normal use conditions.

The Golden Select commercial-use warranty is applicable to installations in the following areas without immediate access to street traffic: offices, hotel rooms and suites, hotel conference and multipurpose rooms, and retail stores.

This warranty is not applicable to installations in heavy commercial areas such as, but not limited to, airports, restaurants, bars, etc. To validate the commercial warranty, the flooring must be professionally installed following Golden Select installation guidelines and only installed in dry interior areas.

**For detailed warranty information, please visit [www.goldenselect.ca](http://www.goldenselect.ca).**

**For questions regarding installation, please contact our Technical Support Department by email at [techsupport@goldenselect.ca](mailto:techsupport@goldenselect.ca) or by telephone at 1-800-267-3183. To purchase matching moldings, please contact our Customer Service Department at [info@goldenselect.ca](mailto:info@goldenselect.ca) or visit [www.goldenselect.ca](http://www.goldenselect.ca).**