

## GOLDEN SELECT® HERRINGBONE LAMINATE FLOORING AC5 (Canada)

### TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Vapour barrier with SD value  $\geq 75$  m (PE film, min. 0.2 mm) **OR** minimum 0.15 mm/6 mil (if needed)
- Transitional mouldings (if required)
- Measuring tape
- Carpenter's square
- Utility knife
- Safety glasses
- Pencil or marker
- Chalk line or string
- Dust mask (NIOSH-designated)
- Spacers, 10 mm (3/8 in.) thick
- 51 mm (2 in.) wide moisture-resistant adhesive tape
- 100% silicone caulking
- Handsaw or doorjamb saw (fine-toothed blade)
- Power saw (choose one: table saw, mitre saw, circular saw or jigsaw)
- White wood glue (D2 or D3) for cuts
- Pull bar
- Mitre box or chop saw for precise 45° cuts

**NOTE:** Always wear safety glasses and gloves during installation.

### PREPARATION

#### Acclimation:

Golden Select herringbone laminate flooring must be acclimated to the conditions of your home before installation. Cross-stack unopened cartons in the area where the flooring will be installed, keeping them at least 30 cm (11.81 in.) away from exterior walls, heating sources, and air conditioning vents for 48 hours. Maintain a room temperature of at least 18°C (64°F). The ideal conditions are 40%–60% relative humidity.

**Expansion Space:** Golden Select herringbone laminate flooring expands and contracts with changes in relative humidity. Leave a 10 mm (3/8 in.) expansion space around the perimeter of the room and all other objects. For rooms larger than 7.6 m (25 ft.), leave a 15 mm (5/8 in.) expansion space. These gaps will be hidden by the wall base or quarter round after installation.

**Maximum Room Size:** Golden Select herringbone laminate flooring can be installed in rooms up to 12 m (40 linear ft.) in length or 12 m (40 linear ft.) in width. Installations in rooms over 12 m (40 ft.) in length or width must use T-mouldings. T-mouldings are also required in all doorways.

**Attention:** Floating floors must never be permanently fixed to the subfloor.

**Please ensure all applicable local laws and building regulations are followed.**

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

#### A. General Subfloor Preparations and Precautions

- Subfloors must be clean, 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.
- Variations in the subfloor flatness should not exceed 2 mm per metre (1/16 per 3 ft.).
- There must be at least 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) of clearance between the floor surface and the bottom of electric baseboard heaters to allow for proper heat circulation.
- The floor covering can be installed on underfloor heating systems (hot water or electric) without any problems if they are firmly installed in the screed.
- Consult the heating system manufacturer before installation to ensure the system is compatible with herringbone laminate flooring.
- **Attention:** Installation over electric heating foils that are loosely laid on the screed is not permitted.
- When installing over underfloor heating systems, the total thermal resistance (R-value) of the floor covering and impact sound underlay must not exceed 0.15 m<sup>2</sup>K/W.
- Ensure the following installation precautions are followed:

- Maintain a room temperature between 18-22°C (65-72°F).

- Temperature should never exceed 29°C (84°F).

- Radiant heat systems must be fully operational for at least 3 weeks prior to installing Golden Select herringbone laminate flooring.

- Slight gaps may occur between laminate planks installed over radiant heating. These are not 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 before installation. A vapour barrier with SD value  $\geq 75$  m (PE film, min. 0.2 mm) **OR** minimum 0.15 mm/6 mil must be used when installing over concrete. Overlap the vapour barrier edges by 20 cm (8 in.) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape. Extend the vapour barrier 2 cm (3/4 in.) up the wall and trim it after the wall base is installed. The concrete subfloor should have a maximum allowable moisture emission of 5 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. per 24 hours (2.26 kg per 101.6 m<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours).

## **C. Wood**

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound and securely screwed or nailed to the supporting beams. Do not install Golden Select herringbone laminate flooring over wood subfloors that are applied directly to concrete. If installing over a crawl space, a vapour barrier with SD value  $\geq 75$  m (PE film, min. 0.2 mm) **OR** minimum 0.15 mm/6 mil is recommended. Overlap the vapour barrier edges by 20 cm (8 in.) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape. Extend the vapour barrier 2 cm (3/4 in.) up the wall and trim it after the wall base is installed. Wood subfloors should have a maximum moisture content of 12% throughout the installation area.

## **D. Vinyl (Sheet/Tile), Linoleum, and Ceramic Tile**

If vinyl, linoleum, or ceramic tile is installed over concrete, a vapour barrier with SD value  $\geq 75$  m (PE film, min. 0.2 mm) **OR** minimum 0.15 mm/6 mil must be installed over the surface. Overlap vapour barrier edges by 20 cm (8 in.) and seal with moisture-resistant adhesive tape. Extend the vapour barrier 2 cm (3/4 in.) up the wall and trim it after the wall base is installed.

## INSTALLATION

### Step-by-Step 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.

Begin by installing the vapour barrier before laying the first panel.

**Tip:** Use tape to secure the joints and prevent the strips from shifting during installation.

Before starting the installation, clean the room thoroughly and measure the room width.

### Choosing a Laying Pattern:

There are two possible laying patterns:

- **V1 – 45° Herringbone Pattern:** Symmetrical laying, starting from the center of the room
- **V2 – 90° Herringbone Pattern:** Asymmetrical layout, starting from a corner of the room

You must choose your preferred pattern **before** beginning installation. Switching between V1 and V2 after installation has started is not possible.

### General Installation Instructions (Applicable to Both Variants):

- Before connecting two panels, ensure all profile areas are clean and free of debris. Remove any wood chips, wood residues, or other foreign material to ensure a secure and proper connection.
- Do not use a hammer or force panels into place. Installation does not require special tools, and using excessive force can damage the profile connections.
- After locking two panels together, check the edge alignment carefully along the V-groove. There must be no visible or tactile offsets, height differences, or misalignment. Accurate alignment from the very first panel is essential to prevent dimensional deviations and to ensure an even, high-quality installation pattern.

It's important to maintain a right angle (90°) throughout the installation. This should be established from the start and checked regularly, as even small deviations can affect the overall appearance of the herringbone pattern.

### Step-by-Step Installation: Variant V1 – 45° Herringbone Pattern (Starting from the Center of the Room):

For an even and centered installation pattern, follow these steps:

1. Divide the room width in half and mark the center points on both end walls.
2. Move the center point on the starting wall 4.63 cm (1.82 in) to the right and mark the new point.
3. Repeat this process on the opposite wall.
4. Connect the two marked points with a line. This line will serve as a precise guideline for laying the panels.

### **Starting the Installation with the Starter Triangle (Central Spine):**

- Place one plank in front of you with the long side groove facing you—this will serve as your reference plank.
- Insert the first plank (Plank 1) by connecting its short side into the groove of the reference plank. The long side groove of Plank 1 should also face you.
- Take the second plank (Plank 2) and insert the tongue of its long side at a 30° angle into the groove of the reference plank. Carefully slide it until it sits flush against Plank 1, then fold it down to lock it in place.
- Check that Plank 1 and Plank 2 form a perfect 90° angle. Adjust slightly if needed.
- Install the third plank (Plank 3) by inserting the tongue of its long side at a 30° angle into the groove of Plank 1. Carefully slide it until it fits flush against Plank 2, then fold it down to lock.
- Continue this process, alternating planks on the left and right sides of the developing triangle, adding each one at a 90° angle.
- Once three planks are installed on each side, remove the reference plank by carefully tilting it upward at a 45° angle to disconnect it from Planks 1 and 2.
- Carefully slide the starter triangle to the wall, aligning it precisely with your marked guideline. Maintain a minimum 10 mm (3/8 in.) expansion gap from the wall. The tip of the starter triangle and the 90° angle between Planks 5 and 6 should sit exactly on the guideline. This forms your central spine (also called the central herringbone).

**Important:** Pay special attention to ensure all elements are positioned exactly at a 90° angle to each other. After shifting, no joints should have opened. If this happens, individual planks must be readjusted or dismantled. Since the precise positioning of the central spine affects all subsequent installation steps, this part of the process requires extra care and attention.

### **Aligning to the Central Spine:**

- Once all connections in the central spine are secure and correctly angled, the herringbone pattern can be expanded symmetrically on both sides, forming a “W” shape. Follow the fixed pattern shown in the installation diagram for the correct sequence of attaching planks to the central spine.
- Continue the “W” pattern until no full planks remain. Throughout the process, ensure the central spine stays perfectly aligned with the previously marked guideline to maintain an even and consistent installation.
- Regularly check the pattern for proper symmetry, joint appearance, and right angles.
- Avoid installing the “W” pattern asymmetrically by working from only one side of the spine, as this can cause gradual angle shifts and joint separation.

### **Adjusting and Installing Edge Areas:**

- Cut edge planks precisely at a 45° angle using a mitre saw or mitre box.
- Maintain expansion gaps of at least 10 mm (3/8 in.) at all wall connections.
- Cut-offs and triangular leftover pieces with an edge length smaller than 15 cm (5.90 in.) should be glued together using white wood glue (D2 or D3).

- When using glue, immediately wipe away any excess with a slightly damp cloth to prevent residue and protect the surface finish.
- Secure glued pieces in place until the glue has fully cured to ensure a strong, stable bond.

**Important:** Full planks should never be glued. Glue is used only for individual panel remnants and does not affect the floating installation method of the rest of the floor.

**Step-by-Step Installation: Variant V2 – 90° Herringbone Pattern (Starting from a Corner of the Room)**

- Begin by placing a reference plank, in front of which the starter triangle (central spine) will be assembled.
- Create the starter triangle similarly to the 45° installation method by alternately laying three planks on the left and right sides at a 90° angle.
- After inserting the sixth plank, remove the reference plank by carefully tilting it upward at a 45° angle to disconnect it from Planks 1 and 2.
- Carefully slide the starter triangle into the left corner of the room and align it precisely. Make sure to maintain a minimum 10 mm expansion gap from the wall.
- Check that all planks are positioned at exactly a 90° angle and that no joints have opened.

**Continuing Installation:**

- Once aligned, continue laying additional planks on both sides of the central spine according to the established pattern.
- In this variant, all cutting and fitting is done at a 90° angle.
- Pay special attention to pieces shorter than 30 cm (11.81 in.) or narrower than 13 cm (5.11 in.), as these must be glued together using suitable white wood glue (D2 or D3).
- Glue the cut elements immediately after aligning them to the central spine and secure them until fully cured.
- Regularly check the joint formation and angle accuracy to ensure a consistent, high-quality installation pattern.

**WARNING**

A 10 mm (3/8 in.) expansion gap must be maintained around pipes and all other on-site rising objects. When installing planks around pipework, cut holes approximately 20 mm larger than the pipe diameter. Then cut through the center of the holes and use adhesive to rejoin the parts.

**Installation in Door Areas:**

Plank installation in doorways should be completed with extra care, as transition areas between rooms are typically exposed to greater movement and stress.

- **Installation Variant V1a:**  
Shorten the door frames so that the plank, including the backer, can be easily laid underneath with a clearance of 2 to 3 mm. Measure the depth and width of each door frame and add 2 mm to both sides. Transfer this measurement onto the plank and cut accordingly.
- **Installation Variant V1b:**  
Measure the depth and width of each door frame and add 10 mm (3/8 in.) to both sides and the depth. Cut the corresponding recesses into the plank.

### **After Installation:**

- Remove all spacers used during installation to ensure expansion gaps along the walls.
- Verify that the required 10 mm (3/8 in.) expansion gap has been maintained along all walls and fixed structural elements.
- Install suitable skirting boards along the walls. Skirting must not press against or fix the flooring, as this would restrict the necessary floor movement.
- Clean the floor carefully using a broom or a vacuum with a hard floor nozzle, ensuring all dust and loose debris is removed.

### **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Golden Select herringbone laminate flooring is one of the highest-performing options available. However, like all flooring, it's not indestructible, and minor cosmetic scuffing is normal. To keep your floors performing as well in the future as they do the day after installation:

- Place walk-off mats and area rugs at main traffic entrances and use 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 and do not wet-mop your floors.
- Avoid soap-based cleaners. Spot clean only with water-based cleaners designed for laminate flooring, as needed.
- Wipe up spills immediately. Never allow standing water to remain on the surface.
- Do not use polishes, waxes or abrasive cleaners.
- Maintain humidity levels between 40% and 60% year-round in the installation space. You may need to use a dehumidifier during high humidity and a humidifier during dry periods.
- Do not place moist plant pots or similar items directly on the floor; always use coasters or protective pads.

### **WARRANTY**

Golden Select herringbone laminate flooring is covered by a limited lifetime residential warranty. The terms of this residential warranty are as follows:

- The flooring will be free from manufacturing defects.
- The decorative herringbone laminate surface will not wear through.
- The flooring will not fade due to sunlight, UV rays, or electrical light.
- The flooring will resist moisture from mopping and everyday household spills for a period up to 24 hours.
- The flooring will not stain.
- Seams will not unlock under normal use conditions.

Golden Select herringbone laminate flooring is covered by a 25-year limited warranty for commercial use. The terms of the commercial warranty are as follows:

- The flooring will be free from manufacturing defects.
- The decorative herringbone laminate surface will not wear through.
- The flooring will not fade due to sunlight, UV rays, or electrical light.
- The flooring will resist moisture from mopping and everyday household spills for a period up to 24 hours.
- The flooring will not stain.
- Seams will not unlock under normal use conditions.

The Golden Select commercial-use warranty applies to installations in areas without immediate access to street traffic, such as offices, hotel rooms and suites, hotel conference and multipurpose rooms, and retail stores.

This warranty does not apply 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 in accordance with Golden Select installation guidelines and must be used only in dry, interior environments.

**The following conditions apply to the warranty and may void the warranty if not followed correctly. The owner is responsible for adhering to all care and maintenance.**

- The flooring must be installed in accordance with the Golden Select installation instructions.
- Warranty claims must be submitted within 30 days of discovering the damage.
- For installations on concrete subfloors, below grade, or in moisture-prone areas, a moisture-barrier underlayment is required to validate the warranty.
- Surface wear must be evident and visible from a standing position and must measure at least 13 cm<sup>2</sup> (2 sq. in.). Loss of gloss or sheen is not considered surface wear and is not covered.
- Proof of purchase (e.g., a bill of sale) is required to obtain warranty service.
- The manufacturer reserves the right to appoint a representative to inspect the floor in question and remove samples for analysis.
- Removing the flooring prior to contacting Golden Select Claim Department voids the warranty.
- The warranty includes the replacement material and excludes labour cost.
- The warranty only applies to product installed indoors.
- If a warranty claim is approved, Golden Select will provide the claimant with instructions on how to proceed with the repair or replacement. The claimant must comply within 90 days of receiving instructions. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of all warranty rights.

#### **WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS**

- Damage due to improper installation, care, cleaning, or maintenance.
- Installation in heavy commercial environments, including but not limited to airports, lobbies, mall corridors, schools, commercial kitchens, or any areas subject to heavy rolling loads, machinery, or industrial wet cleaning equipment.
- Damage caused by severe impact, scratching, cutting, fire, water, unauthorized alterations, the use of additional underlay, or any other wear or damage resulting from acts of God.
- Minor gaps between planks installed over radiant heating systems are not covered by the warranty.
- Peeling or wear on bevelled-edge products, within 5 mm (3/16 in.) of the panel edge, is not covered by the warranty.
- The limited warranty does not apply to mouldings.
- Warranty coverage applies only to flooring purchased through an authorized dealer.
- Damage resulting from improper subfloor/surface preparation, including failure to conduct moisture testing prior to installation, is not covered. A vapour barrier is required when installing over concrete subfloors, below grade, or in moisture-prone areas.
- The warranty does not cover damage caused by water or moisture in the subfloor or underneath the flooring. This includes, but is not limited to, damage resulting from hydrostatic pressure (moisture forced up from beneath the floor) or any condition that causes moisture to accumulate below the surface.
- The warranty excludes damage caused by events beyond typical household spills, including but not limited to flooding, standing water from plumbing or mechanical failures, and leaking appliances. All spills should be cleaned up immediately.
- The seams of the herringbone laminate flooring are designed to resist water penetration for up to 24 hours.

- Excessive moisture on buildings or building materials can lead to mold or mildew. This warranty excludes any resulting damage caused by prolonged moisture exposure.

Golden Select offers no other warranty, expressed or implied. This warranty supersedes all other warranties.

#### **FILING A CLAIM**

Any claim under the above warranty must be made within 30 days after the issue is detected by contacting Golden Select Technical Support by email at [techsupport@goldenselect.ca](mailto:techsupport@goldenselect.ca) or by telephone at 1-800-267-3183. Proof of purchase (indicating the date of purchase) must be presented to file a claim. Golden Select reserves the right to send a representative to inspect the floor and remove samples for analysis. If the claimant fails to give reasonable cooperation to the representative to inspect the flooring and remove samples, Golden Select shall be under no obligation to provide any remedies to the claimant.

**\*Important to Note\*:** This warranty applies only to the original purchaser and is non-transferable. The owner or purchaser is responsible for inspecting the colour, finish, and overall quality of the flooring before installation. The manufacturer cannot be held responsible for any costs incurred from installing flooring that has visible defects.

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 mouldings, please contact our Customer Service Department at [info@goldenselect.ca](mailto:info@goldenselect.ca) or visit [www.goldenselect.ca](http://www.goldenselect.ca).