

## COMPLETE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Installation Method: 'Drop & Lock' Joint System

Please read complete instructions before commencing installation

Cyrus flooring is designed for easy, snap-together installation. Cyrus flooring can be installed:

- in rooms on, above or below ground level
- over plywood, OSB or concrete subfloors
- directly over most existing hard surface flooring
- over radiant heating systems

### INSTALLER'S / OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Cyrus flooring is manufactured to highest standards of product quality, but occasional manufacturing defects may occur in the product. It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all pieces Cyrus flooring before installation. Any pieces of flooring that appear to contain a manufacturing defect should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and owner, even if the owner is not present at the time of installation. If defects are found, please contact your dealer. It is the sole responsibility of the flooring installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor and installation tools and materials meet or exceed all applicable industry standards. HTBC Flooring accepts no responsibility for problems arising from incorrect or improper site preparation or installation procedures.

### SITE PREPARATION:

#### INSTALLATION IN NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED HOME

Installation of laminate flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing a laminate floor, ensure that:

- the building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to house interior
- all concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting and other wet work is complete and thoroughly cured and dry
- all floor mounted cabinetry (including kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, etc) is installed and secured
- basements and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water; crawlspaces must also have a vapor barrier and adequate ventilation in accordance with local building codes.
- gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building
- HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home
- subfloor is properly prepared for installation
- if installing over radiant heat, ensure that the system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to install

## INSTALLATION IN EXISTING HOME (RENOVATION)

Installation in an existing home must meet the same conditions as a new home. If part of a larger remodeling project, ensure that all wet work (painting, wallpapering, texturing, etc) is completed and thoroughly dry before commencing flooring installation. In addition:

- remove all furniture, artwork and other valuables from installation area
- remove baseboards and moldings
- undercut door casings (use a piece of the flooring as a depth gauge)
- remove existing flooring, if necessary
- if installing over radiant heat, it is strongly recommended that a radiant heat technician be consulted prior to installation to ensure that the heating system can be operated effectively at temperatures acceptable to the wood flooring. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone.
- all floor mounted cabinetry (including kitchen islands, bathroom vanities, etc) is installed and secured

### CLIMATE CONTROL

Conditions at the job site must be maintained with the temperature between 60-80°F (15-26°C) and humidity at 30-50% before, during and after the installation.

Flooring material should not be delivered to job site until these conditions have been met and maintained for one week prior to installation if installing over plywood, and for two weeks if installing over concrete.

Following installation, these conditions should be maintained at all times to ensure proper performance of the floor. See Warranty for details.

When temperature and humidity have met the conditions detailed above, material may be delivered to the job site. Do not deliver flooring to jobsite if climate conditions have not been met and maintained as described above otherwise damage to product may result. If stacking the boxes, cross-stack to ensure good air flow between layers. Do not open the boxes; leave closed until ready to commence the installation, and then open only as needed.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The installer and customer are jointly and solely responsible for ensuring that the subfloor is suitable for the flooring application and properly prepared for installation.

**All subfloors** must be clean, dry, structurally sound and flat to within 1/8" in 8'. All subfloors must be tested for moisture content according to NWFA guidelines, and the moisture content of both subfloor and flooring must be within allowable limits before commencing installation.

**Plywood subfloors** must meet local building code requirements (US: minimum 3/4" T&G plywood or 23/32" T&G OSB. Canada: minimum 5/8" T&G plywood or 3/4" T&G OSB). They must be secure to the joists, free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%, and the variance in moisture content between the subfloor and the flooring boards must not exceed 4 percentage points.

**Concrete subfloors** must be fully cured (60 days) prior to installation. Moisture content of the slab must conform to specifications listed below.

For **commercial installations**, slab must be tested for relative humidity using approved testing method (ASTM F2170-11 or equivalent) and must return a reading of 75% RH or less.

For **residential installations**, slab may be tested for relative humidity using approved testing method (ASTM F2170-11 or equivalent) and must return a reading of 75% RH or less or moisture content may be measured using a Tramex Moisture Meter or equivalent and return an emission rate of 3 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less.

**Gypsum concrete** subfloors must be fully cured (30 days) prior to installation. Moisture content should be measured using a Tramex Moisture Meter or equivalent and return an emission rate of 5 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less.

For installations **over radiant heat**, RH testing is not possible. In these situations, moisture content must be assessed using a Tramex Moisture Meter or equivalent device. If the slab is true concrete, the emission rate must be 3 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less. If the slab is lighter weight gypsum concrete (e.g. Gypcrete), the emission rate must be 5 lb / 1000 sq/ft / 24 hours or less.

**Note:** Prior to flooring installation, ensure that the radiant heat system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone

## VAPOR BARRIER & UNDERLAY

When installing laminate over a concrete subfloor that is either on, above, or below grade, a Class I perm rated vapor barrier **must be** placed between the laminate and the concrete subfloor.

As listed by the North American Laminate Flooring Association (NALFA), some acceptable vapor barriers/retarders over concrete include:

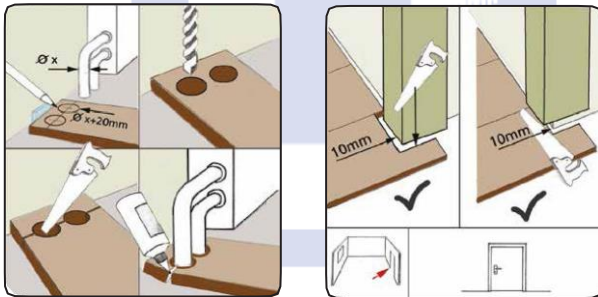
- A minimum 6 mil construction grade polyethylene film or other impermeable similar material.
- NALFA certified underlayment providing moisture protection and having a vapor transmission factor of less than 3 lbs/1000 sq. ft/24 hours.

The above listed vapour barrier/retarders should be installed in the following manner:

- Lay a single layer of poly over the entire subfloor.
- Allow a 12 inch overlap between seams, and seal the seams with duct tape along their entire length.
- Leave an excess of 4 inches of material extending up the wall at all outer edges and hold in place with blue or painter's masking tape. (This excess will be trimmed away later.)
- Next, if you are using a laminate without the pad already attached, install an appropriate underlay over the entire subfloor surface. The seams should butt, not overlap. The recommended underlay for this purpose is Kentwood Kombo.

## STARTING WALL

Orient the installation so the boards are parallel to incoming sunlight, and select your starting wall. Check it for straightness. If it is not straight, you may need to trim the edge of the first row of floor boards to match the shape of the wall. Calculate how many rows of flooring will be required for the job. You will probably have to rip down (cut lengthwise) the final row of boards to fit. The final row must be at least half a board width wide to ensure the integrity of the joint. If it will not be half a board width, then rip down your starting row enough to make up the difference.



Cyrus flooring will expand around the entire room. To allow for this, leave a 3/8" (10mm) expansion space around the entire perimeter of the floor between the flooring and the walls. Also leave expansion space where the flooring will meet any vertical obstacle, such as stairs, pipes, door sills, tiles, cabinets etc. Have supply of 3/8" (10mm) spacers on hand during installation.

**Note:** In climates with extreme variations in humidity (beyond the range of 30-50%) or in large room installations (1000 square feet or more) a larger expansion space is required. If installing in a room measuring 1000 sq ft or more it is recommended that an expansion gap be left in the middle of the space and covered with a T-cap molding. An expansion gap and T-cap should also be used in any doorway threshold where the flooring is being carried through into an adjoining room.

## INSTALLATION

### Plank Assembly Steps:

#### Step 1 The First Row

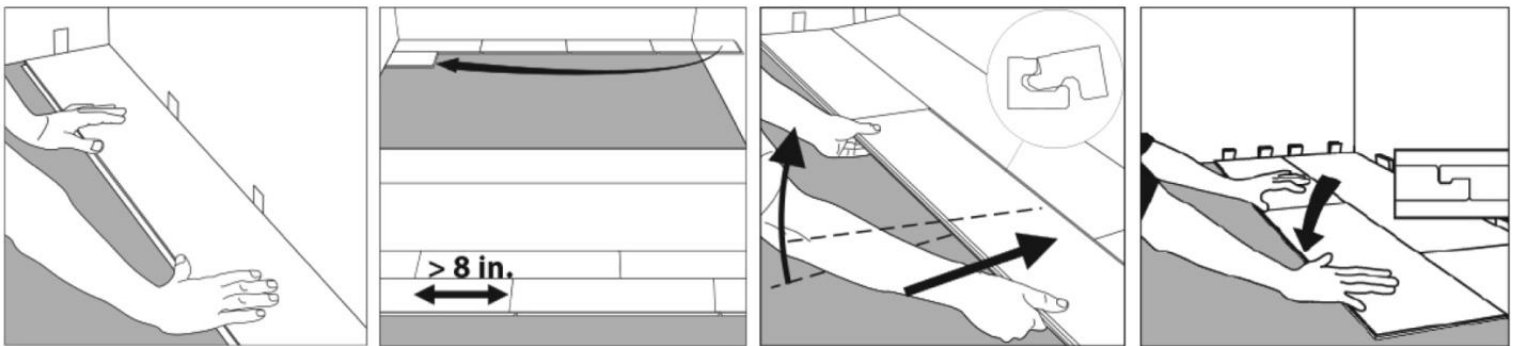
Starting from the LEFT with the tongue facing the wall, carefully place the first board in place. Use spacers along the wall to allow the required expansion gap of 1/4" (6.35mm). Align the next piece by overlapping the end of the first board so that the joint is tight when the board lays flat. Some slight adjustment of the board may be necessary to assure a tight fit. Press down on both ends of the short side. Gently tap the end joints together with a soft head mallet to ensure full engagement of the short side locking system (a visible gap between the planks at the end joints is an indication that the locking system is not fully engaged). Place spacers against the wall to restrain movement and maintain the expansion gap. Continue in this manner until reaching the final plank in the first row. Cut the final board to length allowing for the required expansion gap. Place spacers against wall to restrain movement and maintain the expansion gap.

#### Step 2 First Piece of the Second Row

You can often use the leftover piece from the end of first row to begin the second row. This piece must be at least 10" long but no more than 38" long. Visually, the installation will look more natural if the starting planks are a variety of lengths. After installing the first row of planks, line up the first plank of the second row so the outside end is even with the outside end of the left most plank in the first row. Insert the long side tongue of the second-row plank into the groove of the first-row plank while holding the second-row plank at a 30-degree angle from the floor. Lay the second-row plank down flat and use a tapping block and soft head mallet to lock the long side joint of the second-row plank firmly into place.

#### Step 3 Second and Subsequent Planks in the Second Row

Restrain movement of the first board by inserting a spacer in the expansion gap at the end of the board. Position the second board in place by inserting the long side of plank at a 30-degree angle and then sliding it until reaching the short side of the previously installed plank. Press down on both ends of the short side. Gently tap the end joints together with a soft head mallet to ensure full engagement of the locking system (a visible gap between the planks at the end joints is an indication that the locking system is not fully engaged), and use a tapping block and soft head mallet to lock the long side joint firmly into place. Install the remaining boards and rows in the same manner.

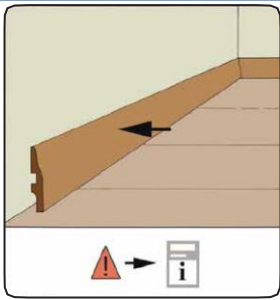


#### Step 4 Subsequent Rows

Ensure each plank of each subsequent row has at least 8 inches of overlap; that they are fitted brickwork style. This ensures a strong fit.

#### Step 5 Fitting the Last Row and Doorways

Cyrus floors also be installed with a pull bar or tapping block and rubber mallet or hammer in difficult areas, such as the last row, and when fitting around door trim. Use a pull bar and rubber mallet or hammer to lock the joints together in the last row. Always use a pull bar on the cut edge of the plank. Factory edges can be damaged if the pull bar is used directly against the tongue or groove.



**Note: If you must remove a board that has already been installed, slide it out horizontally to disengage the butt joint (see Figure 06). Do not lift it - this will damage the joint lock.**

That's it! Your new Cyrus floor is installed! To finish the job, trim away the excess vapor barrier around the perimeter of the floor and remove the expansion spacers. Install moldings, trim and transitions. Remember, all moldings must be affixed either to the subfloor or to the wall – never to the flooring itself (see Figure 07).

Before you move furniture onto the floor, take a moment to protect your new floor by putting felt pads on all furniture and accessories. To learn more about care and maintenance of your

Cyrus floor, please see the product warranty.

If the flooring was installed over a radiant heating system, when you turn the system back on bring the temperature of the system up gradually, in 5° increments. Never allow the surface temperature of the floor to exceed 82°F (28°C). For more information see the special instructions for installation over radiant heat.

**To Remove Cyrus Flooring:** You will probably need one or two helpers, depending on how large the room is. First, remove all moldings and baseboards. Begin removing the floor at the last row that was installed. Using prybars and with helpers, lift the entire last row up by its outside edge to disengage the long side tongue and groove joint. Lay the row flat, then slide the boards apart at each butt joint. Repeat for subsequent rows. Do not try to separate the butt joints by lifting as this will damage the locking mechanism and prevent re-installation.



# CYRUS FLOORS

Flooring Made Easier