Glueless Tile Laminate Installation Instructions

1. PREPARATION

- Glueless Tile Look Laminate Flooring can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings, except for carpet. Wood flooring glued to concrete must be removed before installation.
- Cartons of flooring must lay flat, unopened, in the room being installed for a minimum of 48 hours before installation. Conditions of 65°F to 85°F and 45% to 65% Relative Humidity should be maintained during the acclimation and installation periods. Cartons should be stacked no more than 3 high with 4" of airfoil around them and away from any heating/cooling ducts or direct sunlight.
- Fill any low spots in the subfloor greater than 1/8" in 6 ft. with a Portland cement leveling compound. Check this by using a 6’ tape measure and away from any heating/cooling ducts and vents greater than 3 high with 4” of airflow around them. 65% Relative Humidity should be maintained around cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any other obstacle in floor.
- Do not stack cartons more than 3 high. Do not store near heat/air vents.
- Unroll one width of underlayment. Do NOT tape seams together when going over wood or organic subfloor.
- On Concrete Floors: Use 2-in-1 or Silent Step™ 3-in-1 underlayments. 2-in-1 should be rolled out overlapping the poly film only. Silent Step 3-in-1 should be rolled out with the seams pulled together; both should go up the wall at least 2” when used over concrete. Tap underlayment seams using a 2” clear packaging sealing tape. If wood flooring is adhered over concrete, it MUST BE REMOVED before installing Tile Look Laminate Flooring.
- Unroll one width of underlayment along the longest wall. All work is done from left to right. Planks should run lengthwise against the longest wall, and if possible, parallel to incoming sunlight.
- Rooms larger than 26 x 40 feet (1,040 sq. ft.) require for rooms with excessive moisture. To do so, cut 3’ x 3’ squares of polyethylene plastic (one for every 200 sq. ft. of floor space). Spread around different areas of the subfloor for a more accurate evaluation. Tape all edges down firmly sealing them directly to the existing subfloor. Leave down for 24 to 48 hours, if moisture forms under the plastic or if the cement darkens, perform a Calcium Chloride Moisture Emissions Test. The maximum allowable reading is 5 lbs./1,000 sq. ft./24 hours. Call the Shaw Information Center at 1-800-441-7429 for assistance.

2. START OF INSTALLATION

- When installing the Tile Look Laminate Flooring, it is important to fully measure the room being installed and determine if the walls in the room are truly square to each other in the corners, or if the walls are running away from square out of each corner.
- Lay out several planks in order to determine the best installation pattern for the area.
- Visually, the most appealing layout will have the longest wall, and plank 2 should be cut to 1/2 its original length. The first row should never be less than 2" in width. Tongue and groove of planks 3 and 4 joining the ends of 4 to 2. To do this, leave a gap of 1/4" between 2 and 3.
- Connect the ends of 4 to 2 by inserting edge tongue into edge groove at a slight angle. When top laminate surfaces touch, rotate downward.
- Connect plank 3 to plank 1 by inserting end tongue into end groove, keeping the edges perfectly aligned. When the top laminate surfaces touch, rotate downward.
- Connect plank 4 to planks 2 and 3 by [7] first joining the ends of 4 to 2. To do this, leave a gap where the tongue and groove of planks 3 and 4 are. Once the ends are connected, place a hand under the locked ends, raise the planks slightly upwards (1/2”). This angle will now allow you to slide the tongue of plank 4 into the groove.

3. Master Installation Strategy

Tiles should be the same size at all walls. Start the first row using full planks. Stagger the second row by starting with a half plank of tile.

4. Typical Tools Required

- Pull Bar, Tapping Block, 1/4” Wall Spacers, Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Broom, Electric Saw (carbide blade), 6 foot straightedge, Hammer, Pencil, Eye and Ear Protection.
If the starting wall is uneven, you can scribe the
• If you build these rows away from the starting
• When cutting the last row, place a full row of
• All joints should be a tight fit with no gaps.
• A complete line of trims and transition pieces are
• The transition pieces, (excluding
• Repeat the process of alternating full length start
to row to insure the structural integrity of the
end joints a minimum of one half plank from row
able to use cut pieces from the end of each row
the width of your installation area, you may be
upwards and removing planks in the opposite
direction in which you installed them.
3. REMAINDER OF FLOOR
• Repeat the process of alternating full length start
planks with half length start planks throughout the
remainder of the installation.
• Randomly pull planks from 3 cartons at a time to
ensure random appearance. Depending upon
the width of your installation area, you may be
able to use cut pieces from the end of each row
as half board starting planks [5] Always stagger
end joints a minimum of one half plank from row
to row to insure the structural integrity of the
interlocking floor pieces.
• All joints should be a tight fit with no gaps.
 Stop and reconnect if a joint is not tight or if all
edges are not even with adjacent planks. These
planks can be engaged and disengaged several
times if needed to help make a correct installation.
Use a tapping block if necessary.
• When cutting the last row, place a full row of
planks directly on top of the last row installed
planks (keeping the tongue in the same direction of
the installed planks). Use the full width of a
scrap piece of plank, insert a 1/4" space between
wall and scrap piece of plank [14b]. Place a pencil next to the edge and trace a line
down the planks following the contour of the
wall. Cut planks on the pencil line and connect last row. It won't allow the downward
rotation, lay the plank flat to underlayment and use pull bar [12] and hammer to tap into place, leaving no gaps.
4. MOLDING AND TRANSITION INSTALLATION
• A complete line of trims and transition pieces are
offered to finish your floor, including T-Molding,
Reducers, End Molding/Carpet Transition,
Wallbase, Quarter Round and Stairnosing.
• The transition pieces, excluding Quarter
Round and Wallbase can be easily secured in place with the Molding Track which can be
screwed, nailed or glued with silicon adhesive
directly to the subfloor. The use of Molding
Track provides a fast, secure transition
installation and minimizes the use of screws or
nails through the decorative surface of the transition piece.
• T-Molding is used when two level flooring surfaces meet, like in a doorway or a narrow
archway. In a doorway, center the T-Molding
under the space that the closed door occupies. Likewise, in an archway, the T-Molding
should be centered. To install the T-Molding, first install the Molding Track by gluing, screwing or nailing
it 1/4" from the edge of each adjoining flooring
surface (equals about 1/16”). Push the T-Molding into the track, working from left to
right.
• When Glueless Tile Look laminating flooring meets a flooring surface that is lower, use a
Reducer Strip. Leave 1/2” space between the
finished floor and front edge of the
Reducer. Install the Molding Track by gluing,
screwing or nailing it 1/4” from the edge of the
flooring. Push the Reducer into the track
working from left to right.
• The End Molding/Carpet Transition works
great when finishing the floor in areas that meet
vertical objects and is also ideal for transitioning
between your Laminate flooring and carpet. To
finish the flooring in areas that meet
vertical objects like exterior doors, sliding glass
doors, tubs or shower basins, raised heater
low sills, leave a 1” space between the floor
and the vertical object. Install the Molding
Track by gluing, screwing or nailing it 1/4” from the
flooring. Push the molding into the track
working from left to right.
• When transitioning from Glueless Tile Look laminating floor to carpet, leave a 1” space
between the finished floor and the front edge of
the carpet. Install the Molding Track by
grafting or nailing it 1/4” from the edge of the
flooring. Push the molding into the track
working from left to right. Finish the carpet by tucking it
between the molding and the track strip.
• Note: In heavy traffic areas, use screw type
fasteners or nails to permanently secure the
molding into the Molding Track.
• The Stairnosing is used to finish stair treads and
risers, when have been fully adhered to the
floor using a Shaw approved multipurpose
flooring adhesive. Stop the flooring about 1/2” from the steps edge.
Install the Molding Track by gluing, screwing or nailing it 3/4” from the edge of the stair
tread. Apply construction grade adhesive to the
Stairnosing where the molding makes contact with the stair tread. Push the
Stairnosing into the track from left to right. You must use either screw type fasteners or nails
through the face of the Stairnosing to
permanently secure it to the track. Place
screws/nails into the Stairnosing 2" from
the end and 6” to 8” apart [Note: nailing piece
should be in place under Stainoosining before
screws or nails are set].
• To finish the perimeter of the room where the
expansion and contraction of the flooring
remove spaces and install Wallbase and/or
Quarter Round. Both of these moldings are
installed by nailing them directly into the wall.
Never allow nails or screws in the Wallbase or
Quarter Round to enter into the laminate
flooring or the expansion zone around the
flooring perimeter, as it will prevent proper
expansion and contraction of the flooring.
• Perforated nail holes in both types of wall
moldings before nailing to eliminate any
splitting. Use Shaw color coordinated putty
to fill the countersunk nail heads.
• Silicone sealant should be used in expansion
zones in bathrooms, near kitchen sinks,
dishwashers and refrigerators with acemakers.
Call the Shaw Information Center at 1-800-441-7429 for assistance.

GLUELESS LAMINATE FLOORING
CARE GUIDE:
Shaw Laminate flooring is designed to
stand up to the toughest household
conditions. However, to keep it looking its
best, follow these simple instructions for
protection and care.
Routine Care Instructions
Follow these quick and easy steps to care
for your new Laminate Flooring:
• Avoid extremes in temperature or humidity
conditions. Laminate flooring will perform at
its best when climate-controlled conditions
of 65°F to 85°F and 45% to 65% relative
humidity are maintained in the home or office.
• Never use any type of dust attraction product
on your laminate flooring as these products
may leave sticky or slippery residues on the
laminate surface.
• Remove loose dirt by using a non-abrasive
duster vacuum or a dust mop.
• For everyday cleaning, use a sponge mop or
cloth slightly dampened with Shaw Hard
Surface Cleaner. Do not saturate floor.
• Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool,
soap based detergents, waxes, polishes, or
scouring powder because they will scratch,
dull, or leave residue on the flooring surface.
• For resistant stains, such as indelible marker,
use the Shaw Heavy Duty Remover to clean
the spot by applying the remover to a clean
soft cloth and then buffing the stain off of the
flooring surface. Wipe off any remaining
cleaner residue with a damp cloth.
• For tough spots such as candle wax or
chewing gum, harden the spot with ice and
then gently scrape with a plastic scraper,
being careful not to scratch the flooring
surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
• Wipe up spills immediately. Do not allow
liquids to stand on your laminate flooring.
• Do not use any type of buffer machine.
• A more frequent dust mopping or vacuuming
schedule may be required in very sandy
areas such as a beach home.
Scratch and Wear Protection
Any laminate flooring may scratch if
not cared for properly. Therefore, follow these
simple and protective steps to keep your
flooring looking new:
• Place floor mats at outside doorways
to collect dirt and moisture.
• Place glides or floor protectors under furniture
legs.
• Use Shaw EverShine to refresh the glass level
of your laminate floors to its original shine.
• Use chair pads under rolling chairs.

MADE IN U.S.A. 02/03