

## Uniclic® Laminate Installation Instructions

### 1) General

Uniclic® is a revolutionary system for installing laminate floors without using glue. The panels can be clicked together simply, thanks to the ingenious shape of the tongue and groove. Uniclic® is unique because you can install the planks in two different ways:

**Method A (Angle-In installation method):** Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down while exerting forward pressure. The panels will automatically click into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove, or the groove on to the tongue. The tongue into the groove is the easiest method. (See diagrams 1A – 1B – 1C.)

**Method B (Flat Installation method):** With Uniclic® you can also tap the panels into each other without lifting. For this method you must use the special Uniclic® tapping block. The planks should not be joined with a single tap and the tapping block should be sitting flat on the floor. To avoid damaging the panels you must tap them together gradually. (See diagrams 2A – 2B.) Use this method only in cases where you are unable to use the Angle In method (see below). The rest of your floor should be installed using the Angle-In method.

### 2) Tools for installing the floor

For best results, it is essential that you follow the installation instructions exactly. Besides the regular tools for installing laminate floors (i.e. hammer, saw, pencil, measure) you will also need the following accessories:

- Uniclic® installation kit (pull bar, spacers (1-8 mm / 0.039" - 0.315") and Uniclic® adapted tapping block)
- underlayment system
- maintenance products

The use of accessories other than Quick-Step® flooring accessories might cause damage to the Quick-Step® floor. In such case, the guarantee provided by Quick-Step® will be void. We recommend using only Quick-Step® flooring accessories as these have been specially designed and tested for use with Quick-Step® flooring panels.

It will generally be necessary to saw some flooring panels during installation. To obtain a clean cut, the pattern side should face down when you use a jigsaw, saber saw or circular handsaw and up when you use a handsaw, table saw or a crosscut saw.

### 10 focus points

1. Thanks to the Uniclic® system, the floor floats and is installed without glue. You can walk on the floor during and immediately after installation.
2. With Uniclic® panels you can choose where you want to begin. Think about what will be the easiest way to install the floor. We will demonstrate the installation for right-handed people, from left to right. You can work in the other direction if you want.
3. Make sure the panels are mixed sufficiently when you install them so that you do not end up with too many identical, light or dark panels next to each other.
4. Check all panels in daylight before and during installation. Defective panels must never be used.
5. The floor should preferably be installed parallel to how the light enters the room. The ideal conditions are 15-20°C (59-68°F) at a relative humidity of 50-60%.
6. Under normal conditions, Quick-Step® flooring requires no acclimation period. Normal conditions are defined as a difference of no more than 25°F and 20% relative humidity between the stocking/transportation environment of the flooring and the final installation environment of the flooring. Outside of normal conditions, let the planks acclimate for 48 hours in the unopened packaging at the normal room temperature in the middle of the room where the floor is to be installed.
7. Room humidity and temperature can vary according to the season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. For this reason, make sure you leave a minimum expansion joint of 8 to 10mm (5/16" to 3/8") on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds, under doors and around any fixed stationary objects (floor vents, kitchen islands, etc.).
8. Large rooms must have expansion joints every 13m (40 feet) width-wise to the panels and every 13m (40 feet) length wise. We recommend having an expansion joint between different rooms (e.g. under the door). Expansion joints can be finished by means of a molding that is attached to the subfloor.
9. Ensure the end joints of the panels in two successive rows are never in line. Always ensure that the joints are staggered by at least 15cm / 6 inches.
10. We recommend you purchase a few extra cartons of flooring. This will be useful to you if you damage pieces, miscalculate the size of the room or miss cut some pieces. This also will help you if your floor needs a repair but your product is no longer manufactured.

### Preparing the room

- Check that the doors can still open and close after the floor and underlayment have been installed (minimum +1 cm (3/8")).
- Check whether the old molding can be removed. You can also leave the wall base and finish the floor with Quick-Step® flooring profiles.
- Make sure the subfloor is flat. Any unevenness greater than 2mm (1/16") over the length of 1 meter (40") must be smoothed out.
- The specially designed Quick-Step® flooring underlayment has a damp-proof, insulating, noise-reducing and leveling function. The smooth top surface makes installing the floor panels easier and ensures ample expansion afterwards. You can find more information about Quick-Step® underlayment and how to install them on the underlayment packaging or at your dealer.
- Make sure the subfloor is clean and dry.

### CONCRETE SUBFLOOR:

#### New Construction:

- A new concrete floor must dry at least 1 week per 1 cm (3/8") thickness up to 4cm (1-1/2"). Sub-floors thicker than 4cm (1-1/2") require twice as much drying time. For example, a 6cm (2-1/2") concrete sub-floor must dry for at least 8 weeks. The moisture content must be less than 2.5% (CM method) or less than 5 lbs/24 hours per 1000 sqft (Calcium chloride method ASTM 1869).
- If there is underfloor heating, the subfloor must not exceed 28.8°C (84°F) and the moisture content must be less than 1.5% (CM method). You do need to follow special installation instructions. Please ask your dealer for more information.

#### Renovation:

- Remove any damp-porous floor covering (carpet, needle felt, etc.) first.
- Damp-sealed floor covering (PVC, linoleum, VCT, etc.) does not have to be removed. Always use a separate underlayment if an underlayment is not attached to the flooring panel.

### WOODEN SUBFLOOR:

- Remove any existing damp - porous floor covering first.
- Make sure the sub-floor is stable. Nail down any loose parts and apply a leveling layer (Quick-Step Soatboard) if necessary.
- Install the Quick-Step® flooring panels crosswise to the direction of the existing sub-floor.
- It is necessary that the crawl space under the plank floor be sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and provide sufficient ventilation (minimum 4cm (1-1/2") of total ventilation holes per meter (40") of floor). The moisture content of the wood may not exceed 12%.

### 3) Installing the floor

- First install the underlayment, per width and gradually as you progress. If the underlayment is pre-mounted on the panels, the n only use the damp-proof moisture barrier with adhesive tape as provided. For concrete subfloors, let the moisture barrier run up the wall a bit before cutting to size. For wooden subfloors, cut the moisture barrier 1 inch from the wall. A molding will be attached to this later. (See diagram 3A.)

### 4) Correct placement

Wood is the primary constituent of Quick-Step® laminate floors. Room humidity can vary according to season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. The floor may expand up to 1/4" per 40 ft. Obviously, the larger the surface area, the larger the play required. The floor has to be able to expand or contract in ANY direction. To allow this, the expansion gap at walls needs to be at least 8 mm to 10 mm (5/16" - 3/8"). This gap is also necessary wherever there is a through pipe or a threshold. Larger surface areas require a wider gap under double walls for example. Remember that the floor may move in one direction. Provide expansion gaps under doors etc wherever possible. These gaps are covered with a profile attached to the base floor rather than the laminate. You can install the tiles in any direction. Always start at one of the corners. Install the tiles from left to right unbound (with a continuous seam) or staggered (figure 4).

Placing tiles unbound is a little more exacting, so we'll explain this method here in detail. An expansion gap is recommended between each individual room if the floor is to be installed in several rooms without a break. This is covered with a fitting expansion profile. An extension joint is also recommended if the floor extends more than 40 feet in a single room.

### Refer to all images in Box marked 5

#### 5a) The first and second rows

To get the best effect your tile floor should be installed symmetrically in the room. The tiles along the edge should be the same width along all the walls. To ensure you realise this symmetry, be sure to follow these instructions: Place the first tile in the left-hand corner of the room (around 15 cm (5 7/8") from the wall) with both tongue sides facing the wall (figure 1a). Complete the first row by angling preferably unsawn tiles together one at a time. Try to install the tiles so that they form a single line when you click them together. Minor inconsistencies can be corrected with the tapping block. To do this, place the tapping block on the seam between two tiles and gently tap the tapping block with a hammer. The tiles can be made to form a perfectly straight line in this way (figure 1b). Now move the row of tiles so that the first and last tiles are approximately the same distance from the wall (figure 1c). It's now time to install a row of sawn tiles between the wall and this first row of tiles (see F on figure 2). This ensures that your floor is symmetrical. You can work out the length of the sawn tiles F as follows. Measure the breadth of the room as indicated in figure 2.B1 is from the first tile and B2 from the last tile.

... cm (B1):39.4 cm = .....(C1) (decimals of C1 = D1) ... inch (B1):15.52 inch = ... (C1) (decimals of C1 = D1)  
 ... cm (B2):39.4 cm = .....(C2) (decimals of C2 = D2) ... inch (B2):15.52 inch = ... (C2) (decimals of C2 = D2)

D1 x 39.4 cm = .....cm (E1) D1 x 15.52 inch = .....inch (E1)  
 D2 x 39.4 cm = .....cm (E2) D2 x 15.52 inch = .....inch (E2)

[.....cm (E1):2] min 1 cm (expansion gap) = .....cm (Fb) [.....inch (E1):2] min 0.394 inch (expansion gap) = .....inch (Fb)  
 [.....cm (E2):2] min 1 cm (expansion gap) = .....cm (Fe) [.....inch (E2):2] min 0.394 inch (expansion gap) = .....inch (Fe)

e.g. 5 metres /Æ 500 cm :39.4 cm = 12.69 cm(C1) e.g. 196.85 inch /15.52 inch = 12.69 (C1)  
 0.69 (D1) x 39.4 cm = 27.2 cm (E1) 0.69 (D1) x 15.52 inch = 10.70 inch (E1)  
 (27.2 cm :2) = 13.6 cm (- 1 cm = 12.6 cm (Fb)) (10.70 inch :2) = 5.35 inch - 0.39 inch = 4.96 inch (Fb)

Angle the sawn tiles Fb and Fe into the row of tiles you have already installed. Ensure that the seam of the F tiles is at least 10cm (4") from the seam of the row of tiles you have already installed. Now place the spacers b15. the wall and move the row of tiles you have already installed up against the wall (see figure 2). Now finish the whole row of F tiles by measuring and sawing all pieces (between Fb and Fe). When you're done, remove the Fb and Fe tiles again and angle all of the F tiles into each other in the manner described in figure 1b. Align these tiles with the tapping block. Now angle the whole row of F tiles into the row of tiles you have already installed (figure 3). PLEASE NOTE! To ensure that the first full row of tiles stays aligned during the remainder of the installation procedure, you should make sure that the seam of the F tiles is at least 10 cm (4") away from the seam of the row of tiles you have already placed (figure 3). Do not forget to place spacers next to the F tiles to secure the expansion gap.

Calculate the length of the end pieces (G) as follows. Measure G1 and G2

[[G1 (cm) + G2 (cm)] - 2 cm expansion gap] / 2 = G' (cm)[[G1 (") + G2 (")]] - 0.7874" expansion gap] / 2 = G' (")

e.g. G1 = 11.5 cm and G2 = 12.2 cm e.g. G1 = 4.52 inch and G2 = 4.80 inch  
 [(11.5 + 12.2) - 2] / 2 = 10.85 cm [(4.52 + 4.80) - 0.7874] / 2 = 4.2663 inch  
 G' = 10.85 cm G' = 4.2663 inch

The end pieces are now ready for sawing. Do not place the G1 and G2 tiles yet. We advise you to re-measure G1 and G2 every time you install a new row, as the room with perfect right angles and the exact same breadth all down its length is yet to be built.

### 5b) Subsequent rows

To install subsequent rows use the method described in point 5a. Always click the complete row into a new row (figure 1b) and try to align the tiles as well as possible. First correct minor inconsistencies with the tapping block. Then angle the complete new row of tiles into the row of tiles you have already placed (figure 4a). Use the tapping block as described in 5a. Always ensure that the seams of all panels join perfectly together. Also ensure that the individual rows are aligned so that the seam of the tiles form a perfect straight line. You can do this by placing the tapping block or a crowbar at the end of the first two complete rows, next to the joint between them. Tap a few times to align both rows perfectly (figure 4a). Now install the sawn G1 end piece, again around 10 cm (4") from the start of the first two complete rows. Don't forget to place spacers next to the G1 tile to secure the expansion gap (see figure 4b).

By following this procedure you can complete installation of the floor row by row. If the space between the wall and the installed floor is too small to hit the tapping block with sufficient force, you can place the pullbar on the tapping block and tap the crowbar.

### 5c) The last row

Leave an expansion gap of 1 cm (3/8") between the last row and the wall. Keep this in mind when you are sawing the last row of tiles. Angle this last row of tiles into each other, align them and angle them into the previous row (see figure 5a).

**5d)** Now it's time to move the end pieces around the edges so that they are in the right place and to measure, saw and install the missing pieces.

You will have to angle out the first row of end pieces (Fb, Fe, etc.), move them and then angle them back in again, so that the seams of all the tiles are aligned. Now angle out the end pieces breadthwise (G1). Click them together with the H1 and H3 corner pieces to make a single row and then angle this row back in again. Repeat the procedure with the G2 end pieces and the H2 and H4 corner pieces. (Figure 5b)

### 6) Pipes

In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two panels. Take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 20mm (3/4") for the expansion. Unclick the panels together on the short side and drill a hole in the center of the joint between the two panels. Now you can install the panels in the floor. (See diagrams 6A-6B-6C.)

### 7) Under doorframes

When sawing the panels, ensure that the expansion joint under the door is at least 10mm (3/8"). If you cannot lift the panel, use an adapted tapping block or pull bar and hammer to tap the panels together with the planks flat on the floor. (See diagrams 7A-7B.)

### 8) Finishing

- Remove all spacers.
- In places where profiles or skirting cannot be placed, fill expansion gaps with caulking. (See diagram 8.)
- Install the molding on the plastic membrane that runs up the wall from under the floor. Never attach the molding to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract under the molding.
- For a perfect finish around pipes, use rosettes or caulking.

### Wet Areas

Since prolonged water exposure could damage your laminate flooring, the following installation recommendations should be closely followed to validate your residential water warranty. Wet areas would include, but are not limited to, bathrooms, powder rooms, kitchens, mud rooms, foyers, and laundry rooms. Neither Quick-Step® flooring panels nor Quick-Step® flooring accessories are recommended for extreme humid applications such as in saunas or swimming pool areas. The water warranty excludes all products thinner than 8mm (not including attached pad) and does not apply to beveled edge products when used in bathrooms. An expansion area of 8 to 10mm (5/16" - 3/8") must be provided around all vertical obstructions including walls, permanent cabinets, pipes etc. All perimeter expansion areas must be completely filled in with a water repellent sealant. When applying sealant, it is helpful to first apply a strip of masking tape parallel to and approximately 1mm (1/32") from the edge of the flooring. Then fill the expansion area with sealant, remove any excess with a plastic scraper or putty knife, then remove the tape. Let dry for 24 hours before exposure to water.

