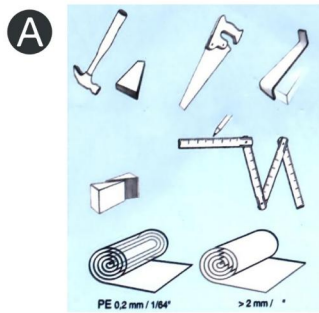
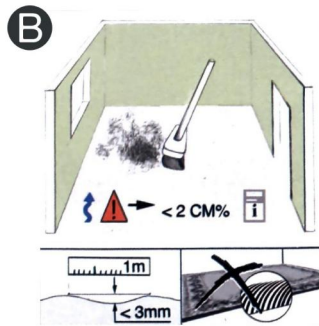


laminate floor

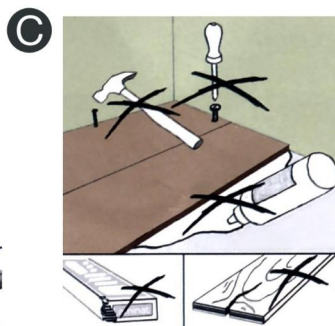
before you start:



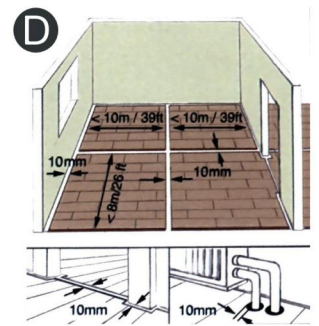
Tools required: Floor fitting kit L-bar, plastic knocking block, plastic wedges tape measure, underlay, hammer, handsaw, pencil, stanley knife.



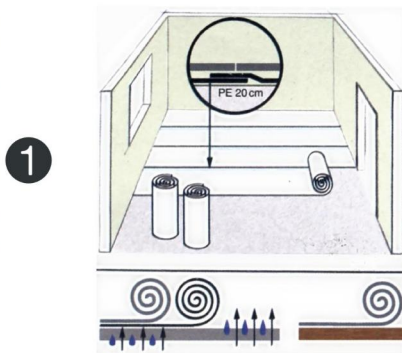
Preparation: Make sure all dirt is cleaned from the underlying floor and undulations (dips & bumps) are levelled.



Be careful when fitting the floor not to take short-cuts by using unnecessary fixings. Nails and screws should not be needed if doing the job correctly.

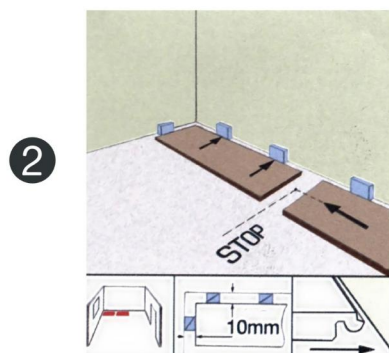


Expansion gaps should be used on all edges (10mm min gap.) If the floor is over 10m wide or long an expansion gap should also be provided across the area.



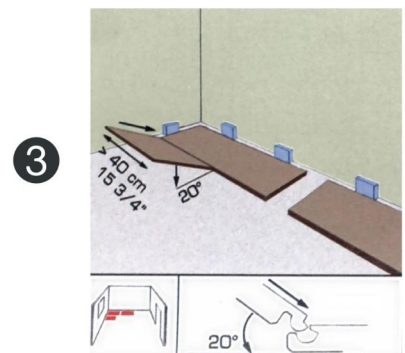
1

First thing to do is clear as much of the room as possible. Make sure no dust or mess on floor as this will transfer through. Make sure the correct underlay is chosen. (see above for underlay types). Roll out the underlay allowing an overlap if on concrete floor.



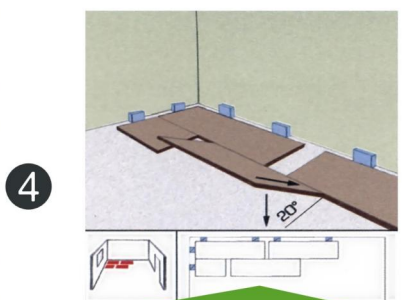
2

Next, add the plastic wedges around the edge of the floor. This is to provide a gap for expansion of the flooring (usually 10mm). Start fitting the floor against a straight wall, fitting the next section into the short end of the board. Always make sure the female edge of the click system is facing away from the wall to allow the male section to inter-lock.



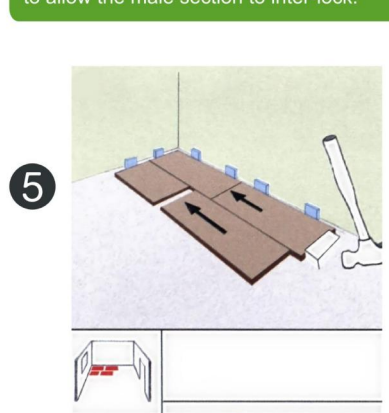
3

To make the floor as strong as possible, the boards should fit together like brickwork - so to start the next row, cut a board in half and put the half-length board against the wall. To connect the boards on the long length you simply lift the board up on an angle whilst connecting the male and female sections. Slowly drop the board down pressing with your hand until it sits level with the floor.



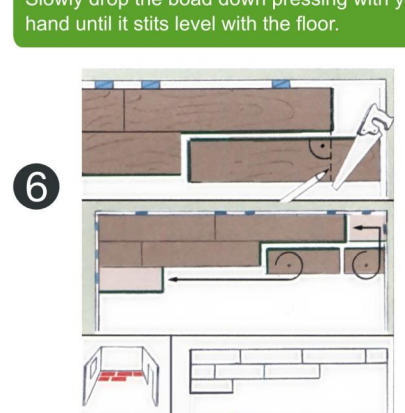
4

This diagram shows the next board in line two fitting in place, this is the board that will strengthen up the first row. Depending on the type of click system the floor has, the small end will either knock in with a hammer/ block or will snap into position in a similar way to the long edge. If the system is similar to the long edge design the smaller edge will need to be connected first before the long edge will snap in place.



5

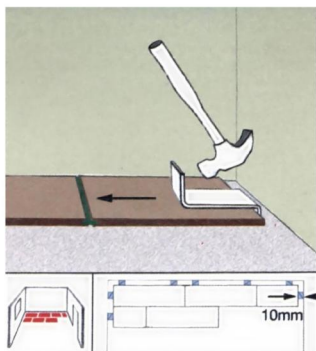
As mentioned above, knocking the laminate boards up from the short end is an alternative fitting technique.



6

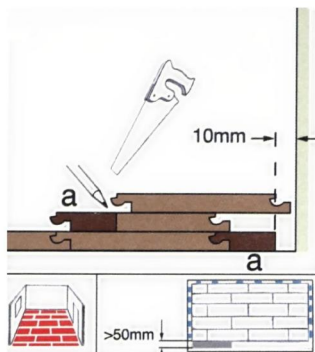
When you reach the end of the line, cut the board and use the off-cut to start the next row. This is a good way to use all the waste and also create the correct brickwork effect pattern.

7



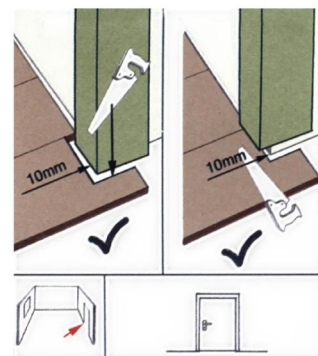
Use the cranked metal flooring bar from the fitting kit to enable the end board to be tapped into position. Remember not to knock too hard as it may create the end joint and create a lip. Try to account for the 10mm gap when measuring the board.

8



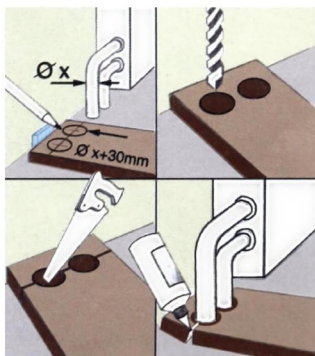
Cutting in the end line can be a little tricky at times. By using the technique above, you can provide an exact cutting size allowing for the 10mm gap needed for expansion.

9



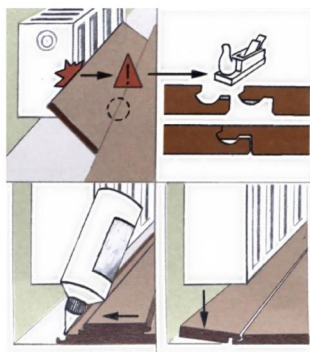
Cutting the flooring around door frames can make the difference between a good and bad job. Choosing to cut the flooring short (allowing 10mm gap) will mean that you will have to fill the gap with either beads or filler. An alternative would be to cut the bottom of the door architrave and frame, allowing the floor to slide underneath, therefore hiding the 10mm expansion gap.

10



Cutting around the radiator connector pipes can be tricky. Once again there are a couple of different techniques for this: the first and easiest way is to pre-drill the holes in the flooring leaving 4mm expansion. Cut the board down the middle of the hole and re-glue the edge once fitted. Another option is to drill the holes on the end of the board, and the same on the connecting board, so they connect to make a full whole when fitted.

11



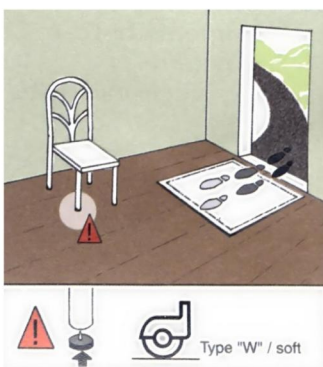
The edge boards can be difficult to fit - especially where radiators prevent the boards dropping in easily. A quick way around this is to trim the edge off the click tongue allowing the board to drop in without a 'full' connection. Adding a little glue to the tongue keeps the boards in place.

12



Cleaning laminate flooring should be done with a cloth/mop which is moist - not wet. As laminate flooring is made of MDF, if the floor gets too wet, problems can occur. So keep the cloth/mop damp rather than wet!

13



Keep your new laminate flooring clean and protected by using an entrance mat and chair protectors where applicable.

tips & advice

- ★ **Make it easy for yourself!**
clear the room of breakable objects and furniture before you start fitting.
- ★ **Get some knee pads** or use a pillow or cushion to kneel on when fitting.
- ★ **Many hands make light work!**
If possible, get a friend to help. One person cuts the boards to the required sizes and passes them to the other, who other measures and fits them in place. This saves you having to get up and down on your knees every time something needs cutting.
- ★ if you haven't already, check out our huge range of laminate flooring at <http://www.diyclick2buy.com/>
- ★ **If you get stuck**
Give us a phone: **0151 207 7488**. We're open 8am til 5pm on weekdays, 8am til 4pm on Saturdays and 10am til 4pm on Sundays. We'll help you out over the phone as best we can.
- ★ **Check out our other guides**
Check on our website for more buying, building and fitting guides:
 - 🔍 **Build your own Shed**
 - 🔍 **Build your own Fence**
 - 🔍 **Build your own Deck**