



# METROFLOR®

## HYBRID LAMINATE INSTALLATION GUIDE

Store the packages of Hybrid Laminate in the room or rooms to be covered for at least 48 hours at normal room temperatures before installation and after. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in an installation failure (i.e. flooring may expand or contract resulting in gapping). Hybrid Laminate is an interior product only, and must be installed in a temperature controlled environment, maintained between 65 and 85 degrees F. Do not open the packages but spread them out. Stack no more than 3 high with at least 4" of airflow around and not next to and heat or cooling ducts and direct sunlight. Wait for any completion of wall preparation, painting, and other wet trades before storage begins. If the installation area is new construction, wait for 14 days with the climate controlled at normal room temperature with a minimum of 65 degrees to 85 Degrees F. This allows for acclimation of the temperature and humidity conditions.

Please perform proper moisture test: A moisture test should be done several days before installation. The installer is responsible for moisture testing. Metroflor recommends all concrete subfloors (new and old) be tested using Calcium Chloride Test ASTM F1869. Unacceptable results using this method would be over 5 lbs for 24 hours per 1000 square feet. Electronic meter testing is not considered a replacement for a Calcium Chloride Test; the following moisture readings are just an indication that a Calcium Chloride test should be performed. Concrete subfloors must have moisture barriers installed under the slab and be determined, through testing, to be dry and not subject to water absorption. For more information about moisture problems and moisture testing, refer to MOISTURE GUIDELINES FOR THE FLOOR COVERING INDUSTRY available from the World Floor Covering Association, at 1-800-624-6880.

Check the sub floor for a smooth surface and fill any depressions or holes with a Portland base cement compound. All rooms should be checked for any uneven conditions in the subfloor and level compound should be applied to within a difference from one end to the other of a gradual minimum of 1/8" within a 6' radius.

Before installing:

Tools Needed: Electric Saw (Carbide Blade), Pull Bar, Pencil, Hammer, Tapping, Block, ¼ Spacers, Tape Measure, 6 foot straight edge

A Laminate underlayment/Vapor barrier pad must be used.

Always shuffle the planks from various packages to insure mixture of grain and color.

Under Cut Door Frames: Lay a loose plank upside down on top of the underlayment against the door frame. Use the plank as a guide to determine height to cut so the plank sides under. Cut the door frame case back to the wall studs so you leave the proper expansion space after you slide the Hybrid Laminate under the door jam.

### **CHECK THE PLANKS BEFORE INSTALLING THEM TO BE SURE OF APPEARANCE.**

We maintain strict quality control at the factory but it is a good idea to check each plank for any blemishes or flaws. Check grooves to make sure they are free of dirt and debris. Do not install damaged planks.



Figure 1:  
Thoroughly clean the subfloor and roll the underlayment out if it is not made to act as a vapor barrier then a 6 mil Polyethylene plastic film should be laid first. Overlap the seam area of the film 6 to 8 inches, and tape with clear plastic sealing tape. Follow the instruction included with the underlayment.



Figure 2:  
Commence installation in the left hand corner. Use shims to allow about 1/4" between the planks and the walls, or stationary interior room objects, so that there is room for normal expansion and movement.



Figure 3:  
Insert the end section of the next plank at an angle and press down to get a flat adjoining surface. Continue this process to the end of the first row.



Figure 4:  
Place the last plank face down with the short side (without the locking side) facing the wall as indicated. Be sure to allow for the 1/4" expansion space next to the wall and draw the cut line.



Figure 5:  
We recommend a laminate cutter if available. If you are using a saber saw, or other type of power saw, place the plank face down on the work area and cut to size. If you are cutting with a hand saw, use a fine tooth blade and cut the plank with the face up. Insert the cut plank into the row; use a crowbar to ease the plank into position.

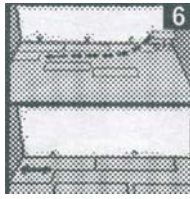


Figure 6:

The cut piece from the previous row should be used to start the next row. This cut piece should be at least 12" long. If the cut piece is less than 12", start with a full plank which should be cut in half length-wise in order to achieve the staggered appearance. Be sure that all end joints are staggered in length at least 12".



Figure 7:

Insert the starting piece of plank on the next row at an angle and press forward and down to snap into place.



Figure 8:

Insert the next plank at an angle and snap into place length wise. Allow a slight space between the ends and then lock into place by using a tapping block and tap the ends tightly together. The tapping block can be a remnant piece from a cut plank or you can use a block of wood with a routed out interior that does not adversely impact the end side profile.



Figure 9:

Continue step 8 system on the remaining planks in the row. At the end of the row repeat steps 4, 5, and 6.

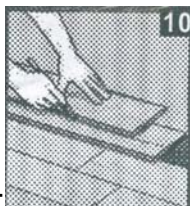


Figure 10:

To install the last row of the project, place a loose board on top of the last installed plank on the adjoining row. Place another board on top, with the tongue side facing the wall (allow the 1/4" expansion joint) and draw a line along the edge of the plank as indicated in the figure and cut along the drawn line. Insert the cut plank against the wall and use a crowbar to ease into position. The shims can then be removed.

**Check with your dealer for finish moldings and instructions on use.**

## GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Although the Hybrid Laminate Vinyl top is durable, all floor coverings require some care to look their best and many problems can be prevented before they occur. The type and frequency of traffic on your floor will determine the frequency of maintenance needed. The type of floor and even the color will also have some bearing on how much care may be necessary. For example, solid color floors will visually show scuffs, scratches, dirt and general wear to a greater degree than multi-colors of chips or patterns. Of course, white or light colors will visually show staining to a greater degree than darker colors. For this reason, solid color and white floors should receive special attention in regard to preventative maintenance and amount of care provided. Good judgment when choosing the type and style of floor will help prevent maintenance problems before the floor is even installed!

Here are the proper steps for maintaining your floor:

1. In order to prevent indentations and scratches, provide glass, plastic or other non-staining cups with flat under surfaces not less than 2" in width for the legs of heavy furniture or appliance. Equip swiveled-type office chairs and other rolling furniture with broad surface non-staining casters at least 2" in diameter. Remove small diameter buttons from the legs of straight chairs and replace with metal glides that have bearing surfaces not less than 1" in diameter.
2. Protect your floor against burns. Burns from the glowing end of a cigarette, matches, or other extremely hot items can damage the floor.
3. **Do not flood or leave any standing water and/or cleaner on the floor. This can cause issue with water infiltration on or into the hybrid laminate hardboard base.** Problems associated with excessive moisture can affect the job site and should be addressed. Protect your floor from tracked-in-dirt and grit particles by using mats at all outside entrances. Take time to remove any imbedded grit particles from shoe soles before entering the room. Avoid the use of rubber-backed mats, as certain rubber compounds can permanently stain vinyl. Avoid tracking in tar or asphalt from driveways, as this can also discolor vinyl. Avoid high heels on your floor. They can cause permanent damage. Do not use vinegar, one-step cleaner/polishes or oil soaps on floor.
4. All Hybrid Laminate floors have a good resistance to stains. They are not affected by most common household spills: however, any spill should be cleaned up immediately. The longer the spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanently staining the floor. For information regarding the proper method or solution to use on a specific stain, contact our Technical Department. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended. Prolonged direct sunlight can result in discoloration, and excessive temperatures might cause tile expansion.
5. Do not use vinegar as a cleaning agent on the Hybrid laminate floor.

### **MAINTENANCE FOR METROFLOR HYBRID APPLICATION**

- The type frequency of traffic on your floor will determine the frequency of maintenance needed.
- The type of floor, and even the color, will have some bearing on how much care may be necessary.
- Regular adherence to an effective maintenance program should include:
  - thorough dirt and grit regulation and prompt removal of spills and stains
  - protection of the floor surface

The most effective part of any floor maintenance program is the simplest: sweep, dust mop or vacuum flooring DAILY, or more frequently if needed.

**Initial Maintenance Upon Completion of the Installation:**

1. Sweep or vacuum thoroughly and remove any adhesive residue from surface. Mineral Spirits is fine for this.
2. Do not apply any maintenance products for the first 24 hours. Lightly damp mop with Metroflor Corp. Metroflor Cleaner following instruction on bottle. Remove any scuffs and excessive soil by careful scrubbing. Certain types of rubber heel marks may be removed by rubbing with a cloth dampened in mineral spirits.

**Routine Commercial Maintenance:**

1. Hybrid Laminate plank has excellent durability and a history of performing well in heavy commercial installations as long as a sound maintenance program is followed. Light daily sweeping, dust mopping or vacuuming will prevent dirt and grit particles from being ground into the surface of the tile. Non-rubber, walk off mats should be used to control the amount of dirt and grit reaching the floor. The mats should be as wide as the doorway and thick enough to trap dirt. Frequent light damp mopping will prevent the floor from becoming heavily soiled and will remove most spills and stains. The amount and type of traffic will dictate the frequency of cleaning. Clean the floor by damp mopping or use an Auto-Scrubbing machine with Metroflor Cleaner following instructions on the bottle. **Do not flood or leave any standing water and/or cleaner on the floor. This can cause issue with water infiltration on or into the hybrid laminate hardboard base.**
2. If the floor receives hard use and becomes extremely dirty, as in heavily used commercial installations, Floor scrubbing with a 175-300 RPM floor Buffer will be necessary with a red scrubbing-type (polyester or nylon) pad. Mop the floor with Metroflor Corp. Konecto Cleaner and work the solution over the floor using the buffer and the scrubbing pad. After this has been done, remove the dirty residue by damp mopping with a clean bucket of Cleaner following instructions on bottle. Let floor dry, you will then see a light film residue, take low speed buffer and a White polishing pad and buff until the film is removed. Please Note: Do not use a buffer that is more than 300 RPM under any circumstances.

**Stain Removal:**

To remove stubborn spots or stains from Hybrid Laminate floor, always begin with mild cleaners such as Metroflor Corp. Metroflor Cleaner. If this fails to remove stain, use mineral spirits. Do not use harsh solvents such as acetone or lacquer thinner, as these can permanently soften the vinyl surface.

For extreme staining (paints, permanent markers, dyes) try applying fingernail polish remover containing acetone (not straight acetone) applied to a soft cloth and rubbing. Any damage resulting from use of pure solvents IS NOT covered by warranty. Always test stronger cleaning agents on sample pieces or in unnoticeable areas first.

For questions, call our Technical department at 866-687-6357