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## Power Dekor Engineered Hardwood Flooring Floating Installation Instructions

- It is the sole responsibility for the Owner/Purchaser/Installer, prior to installation, to verify that the area/environment planned for installation is suitable for Engineered Hardwood flooring and meets all local building codes and that all subflooring is dry, sound, flat and clean and meets or exceeds all industry standards; as well as the recommendations listed herein. The manufacturer and distributor accept no responsibility for product failure extending from or related to failure to meet job area/environment and subflooring requirements.
- The Owner/Purchaser/Installer assumes full responsibility for the final inspection of this product. Inspection should be done prior to installation and should include color, factory finish, milling and/or locking system damages. If the product is not acceptable, **DO NOT** install it. Contact your supplier immediately for assistance. This laminate Flooring warranty **DOES NOT** cover materials with visible defects after they are installed.
- Certain condominium and other multi-unit type building associations and/or owners may have floor covering acoustic performance requirements that may exceed the acoustic performance levels of this product, thereby requiring that a supplemental acoustical underlayment be required. When installing this product in condominiums or other multi-unit type buildings, it is the sole responsibility of the Owner/Purchaser/Installer to ascertain if this product meets their acoustic performance requirements prior to its installation.

### **Please note:**

An Engineered Hardwood flooring is to be considered as an interior product, and should be taken care of like such prior to, during and after installation. The installation should be done after eventual painting and other wet works are done and dried

out. If other works are ongoing after installation, an appropriate covering should be placed on top of the Power Dekor Engineered Hardwood Flooring. Do NOT tape covering material direct to the surface since the tape glue might harm the lacquered or oiled surface

### **Installation tool and accessory requirements:**

Before starting to install your Engineered Hardwood floor, ensure you have all the necessary and correct tools, equipment, and accessories, including:

- Work gloves
- Broom and dustpan
- Vacuum cleaner
- Chalk-line & chalk (stringline)
- 2mm acoustic underlay
- Tape measure
- Straight edge
- Pencil
- Safety glasses
- Tapping block
- Tapes
- 6-12mm spacers or shims
- Saws (miter, chop, table, hand, circular or jig type)
- Utility knife & sharp blades

### **Before you start the installation of your Laminate Flooring you must do the following:**

- When calculating flooring square footage requirements, allow for 7% to 10% for waste, cuts, future needs, and replacements. If installing a diagonal, formal or other special pattern or smaller rooms, allow for 10% to 15% additional materials.
- Power Dekor Engineered Hardwood flooring is designed for indoor climate-controlled installation only where the temperature is ideally controlled between 18°C-25°C with humidity level between 35%-65%. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature and humidity level before, during and after the installation.
- You must acclimatize Laminate Flooring 48 hours horizontally on a smooth flat surface at room temperature between 18°C-25°C, relative humidity (RH) level between 35%-65% prior to installation. Leave the products in their original packaging until time of installation. If it is not possible to keep your laminate floor on site, it must be stored indoors horizontally on a smooth flat surface, in a warm, dry place between 18°C-25°C, away from direct sunlight and rapid of changing temperatures.
- Do not fix the floor. Any heavy objects (for example: Kitchen, Waterfall Kitchen Island, Kitchen Benchtop, Build-in cabinets, heavy stoves, and others) should be installed first, their weight can stop flooring from freely expansion and contraction. Power Dekor Engineered Hardwood flooring must be able to move around all heavy objects to avoid open joints and separating planks.

- Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.

## **Preparation of your subfloor:**

- **All substrates must be structurally sound, dry, flat, plain, and clean.**
- It is a floating installations system and can be laid over most subfloors including: Concrete, plywood, particle board, ceramic/porcelain tile, smooth stone, marble, granite, and linoleum. If you are installing over an existing floor, the existing floors must be securely attached (nailed or glued) to the subfloor and be smooth and flat. When installing over an existing wood or laminate plank floor, the new laminate floor must be installed at 90° to the rows in the existing floor.
- **Wooden subfloors:** plywood, particle boards must be flat. High and low areas exceeding 2mm over a length of 2 meter or 1mm over a length of 20cm must be levelled first. Sand down high areas and fill low areas.
- **Concrete:** Most concrete subfloors (slabs) are not flat and must be leveled before installation. In all cases, verify the subfloor using a 2-meter-long straightedge to locate high and low areas, high and low areas exceeding 2mm over a length of 2 meters or 1mm over a length of 20cm must be levelled first. Low areas should be filled with a self-leveling compound per manufacturer's recommendations. Voids and bumps in the subfloor may prevent your floor's locking system from locking securely and may damage or weaken the locking system.
- Sweep or vacuum your subfloor immediately prior to installation ensuring there is no debris or grit on the subfloor, as it will interfere with proper product installation. Verify your subfloor is dry and clean. Check to ensure your subfloor is completely smooth. Nail and screw heads must be countersunk. Sand any protrusions including joints/seams between subfloor sheets. Check your subfloor structure to ensure there are secure nails or screws every 30cm along the joists and 15cm along bearing supports and seams. This will help to avoid squeaks and warping of the subfloor. You must replace any delaminated, swollen, or damaged subfloor sections.
- **NOTE:** Avoid installation over subfloors with excessive flex or deflection. The installation of Engineered Hardwood flooring will not reduce any flex or deflections in the subfloor. Excessive subfloor deflection may damage the locking system and cause it to fail.

## **Installation Instructions:**

- **Use of a supplemental acoustic underlayment:** A minimum 2mm high density acoustic underlayment is required for installation. Do not install this product over other types of soft, rough, non-flat, uneven, or other non-approved surfaces, doing so will damage the locking system and void the product warranty.
- **Wall jamb & doorway preparation:** Remove all trim, skirting boards, and quarter rounds. Identify them on their reverse side for reinstallation. Remove doorway thresholds, which may or may not require reinstallation. For door casings, you

will need to notch the bottom of the casing with a saw or chisel so that the laminate floors can slide freely beneath it. To make a straight cut easily, lay a handsaw flat on a piece of scrap flooring as a guide.

## **Important general tips for installing Engineered Hardwood Floors**

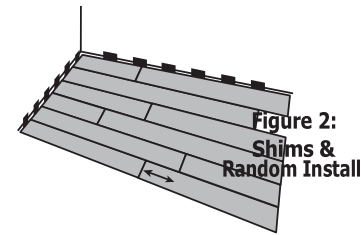
- Squeaks are caused when the subfloor separates from the joist or moves, and this happens when there are temperature and humidity changes or when new construction “settles”. When the subfloor moves up and down on a pulled nail or incompletely set screw, it causes the subfloor to squeak. If you install Engineered Hardwood flooring over existing ceramic tiles, skim coat the grout lines with a floor leveling compound and fill or repair any damaged or cracked tiles. Carefully inspect your subfloor and replace any nails that are not completely secure. Close adherence to installation instructions can minimize the risk of squeaks; however, there is no guarantee or warranty that your floor will not squeak. **Note: It is recommended that your subfloor is screwed down rather than nailed down.**
- Evenly throughout your room to ensure that planks with a similar design are not adjacent to one another. Install usable cut pieces in closets, adjacent to walls or in other less visible areas. Pay special attention not to have any joints line up; joints should be a minimum of 30cm part.
- Verify locking profile is free of any contamination including debris, grit, milling chaff or other material; remove any contamination before installing. Also verify that the locking profile was not damaged during shipping or handling. Any pieces with damaged profiles should not be installed in main traffic areas; discard or install in a closet or non-traffic area.
- Do not tap directly on the ends or the sides of planks. When using a tapping block, only tap on the long sides of planks to ensure rows fit tightly. If you need to remove a plank or tile, carefully lift the plank you wish to remove, as well as the previously installed plank and slide it out laterally so not to damage the locking mechanism.
- If any end-seams resist fully closing tight & flush, the use of a rubber mallet will assist in fully locking the ends of planks together. Firmly tap the surface of the plank you are installing along the end-seam to close the seam 100%.
- Continues runs are more than 10 meters should have an expansion gap in between.
- **Getting started:**
- Every Power Dekor wood plank is methodically checked for any imperfections before being packed. Still, packs can be damaged during transportation or when the packs are opened. Do not install a plank with a damaged surface, edge or click joint. Carefully inspect each plank before installing. Be aware of the fact wood is not a homogeneous material. There will be differences from plank to plank as there are differences from tree to tree. These aspects provide you with the warm and natural look and feel a wood floor has to offer. Knots and cracks will also appear depending on the grading and the chosen range. This is natural and will not be considered as a product fault. Therefore always be sure you have got the right

impression of the floor and information from the dealer before installation. An installed plank is considered as accepted and cannot be claimed. We recommend mixing the planks, taking planks out of different boxes at the same time when installing.

- Before starting, you should measure the length and the width of the room to plan a precise layout to achieve a balanced appearance of the floor. This will help to ensure that you will not end up with the very small last row boards. If the last row will be less than 10cm, it is better if you reduce the width of the planks of the first row.
- Decide on the installation pattern you want your Engineered Hardwood floor to have. Set up your starting line for the first row by measuring the width of the laminate plank. Add 6-10mm to this number and mark the floor at each end of your starting wall, approximately 30cm away from the corners. Snap a line along the wall where you wish to start. This will ensure your first row is straight, even if your wall is not.
- Check to make sure there will be approximately 6-10mm between the edge of your first row of planks and the wall. This space allows for slight expansion of the wood planks and will be covered by the skirting board/ quarter-round. If there is too much space in any place along the wall, you will have to move your chalk line in. If there is too little space at any point along the wall, however, you may have to trim some of the planks in the first row.
- Layout first row of planks, the side with the narrow tongue (male) should be facing the wall. Lock the ends of the planks together by inserting and locking the end of the next plank into previous one so that the planks are all securely locked together and aligned in a straight line. First plank should start 6-10mm from the wall. Cut the last plank to finish 6-10mm from opposite wall. If necessary, firmly tap the surface of the plank you are installing along the end-seam to close the seam 100%.
- We recommend you use temporary 6-10mm shims to keep the floor away from the walls, as the floor will shift during installation due to it being a floating floor. Place the shims every 60-90 cm along the starting wall, plus at the end of each of the starting rows so planks or tiles do not shift when clicked into place.
- Installing 1st row: work from left to right, carefully inserting the ends of one plank into the next, cutting the last plank so there is a 6-10mm gap once locked into place. Complete the entire length of the 1st row; if the waste from the piece is 300mm or longer, it may be used to start the next row.

## Important note:

- Mark your cut on the last plank and use a saw to cut it. If you need to remove and replace any planks during installation, carefully lift and slide out the planks to avoid damaging the end locking profile.
- When installing 2nd and subsequent rows: install from left to right. When possible, start the next row using the leftover cut piece of the last piece of the previous row. Place a 6-10mm shim between the wall and the end of the first plank in the 2nd row. Starting on the left side, start the 2nd row by installing the first plank or tile into the previous row securely. Insert the long side of the long side of the next plank into the previous row at an approximately 20-30° angle, slide it to the left so the end perfectly aligns with the previously installed plank and lower it into place. Run your thumb over the end seam to make sure the end seam is flush and securely locked. If necessary, firmly tap the surface of the plank or tile along the end-seam with a rubber mallet and to close the seam 100%. Repeat this process to complete the entire row.



## Important facts:

- Do not install Engineered Hardwood flooring over any type of soft underlay like foam, carpet or other soft, rough, uneven, or non-flat surfaces.
- Do not install Engineered Hardwood flooring over existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring, floating flooring of any type.
- Direct exposure to sunlight from large windows and patio doors can cause the surface of the floor to exceed the product installation temperature limitations; in south to west exposure rooms with multiple and/or large windows or patio doors, it will be recommended to install blinds or drapes. Rapid temperature change (heat from direct sunlight) may cause floor to temporarily expand in these areas. Please be sure that the indoor temperature is kept ideally between 18°C-25°C with humidity level between 35%-65%, a humidifier and a dehumidifier will be used if the RH is too low or too high. Too low RH may cause irreversible damage to the floor, cracks, open joints, squeaking sound, etc.
- Engineered Hardwood floors are designed for indoor use only and are not approved for any type of exterior use; installation outdoors will void product warranty.
- To remove dirt and dust from the floor use a damp mop, a brush or a vacuum cleaner. Make sure the vacuum cleaner is equipped with soft wheels and a special Wood brush to avoid scratching your floor. Never use a steam cleaner to clean your wooden floor. For the first cleaning of the floor make sure to first remove ALL dust and dirt before using a cloth. Too wet maintenance of a wooden floor is absolutely forbidden.
- Only use the recommended cleaning products for floor maintenance. Remember that using other cleaning products may damage your floor. Always wipe the floor dry immediately so that no more moisture or liquid is visible on the floor.
- Castor chairs must have castors of the so-called type “soft wheels” and a plastic protector mat should be placed under the area where the chair is placed/used. All furniture legs should be protected by felt pads to avoid scratching the lacquered/oiled surface. Avoid sliding/dragging furniture over the wooden surface to avoid possible scratching. Lifting the furniture is recommended. Always place a quality door mat at any entrance door to avoid introduction of sand, dirt or water which might be harmful.