



COMMERCIAL

BUYERS GUIDE

LAMINATE FLOORING

What you need to know about laminate flooring utilized
in Commercial, Light Commercial and Residential areas.



General Information:

The product specification that applies to laminate flooring is ANSI- LF-01-2003 which is a self-standing document containing both product performance requirements as well as the methodology telling how to run the tests. In this document there are three tiers of performance delineated:

- Commercial
- Light Commercial
- Residential

The ANSI-LF-01-2003 document covers the basic performance requirements that can be expected for laminate flooring. These properties include basic size or dimensional tolerance; durability i.e. resistance to impact, indentation, wear or abrasion and longer term performance i.e. resistance to moisture, stains and exposure to heat and light.

For more specific information go to the NALFA website at www.nalfa.com for products certified to the ANSI-LF-01-2003 standard or check individual manufacturers' websites for review of their technical information and warranties. A list is provided at the end of this buyers guide.



Benefits of Laminate Flooring:

- Easy to clean and maintain
- Floating floor installation system permits quick and easy installation
- Excellent resistance to indentation
- Outstanding stain resistance
- More tolerant of various sub-floor types and surface irregularities than other flooring

Planning

The earlier in the planning or project bidding phase the various suppliers and trades can each agree on key issues prior to installation, many problems and potential causes of dissatisfaction can be avoided.

Each room should be measured exactly prior to installation to insure adequate material.

It is common practice that a minimum 2-3% additional flooring material or "Attic Stock" be included to cover future repair and/or building plan adjustments.

Doors that may not have sufficient clearance will require trimming. Determine who will be responsible prior to the installation.

Prior to installation, there should be an agreement as to who will move items such as furniture, appliances, and other items.

Appliances requiring utility disconnect (water, gas, etc.) may be subject to applicable local code requirements. Disconnect/reconnect arrangements are to be determined in advance by the end user or general contractor.

Verify in advance who will remove, recycle and/or dispose of the existing



flooring, if applicable, as well as the remnants and scraps.

Care should be taken not to anchor fixtures, furniture, alarm sensors, etc. directly through the laminate to the sub-floor without allowing for proper expansion space around any hole cut through the laminate floor.

Perimeter moldings must not be glued or nailed into the floor.

The end user should be provided a copy of the appropriate maintenance and warranty information pertaining to the product selected.

Prior to Installing Laminate Flooring

A permanent HVAC system must be operational before installing laminate flooring.

Laminate flooring should be installed only after other trades have finished.

Laminate flooring and related sundries must be allowed to acclimate to recommended temperature and humidity conditions, prior to installation.

Check specific manufacturer's requirements.

Layout

The flooring dealer or contractor should provide a layout drawing for the intended installation to include the following information:

- End User Name
- Address & Telephone Number (contact)
- Directions to Job Site
- Room Location
- Date of Drawing
- Scale of Drawing
- Location, Swing, & Clearance of All Doors
- Existing Floor/Under Floor Conditions
- Notation Regarding Who is Responsible for Preparation and/or Removal of Existing Floor/Under Floor
- Name of Manufacturer, Product Style and Pattern to be Installed
- Product Quantities Required
- Seam Layout Including Pattern Match Requirements (if required)
- Locations & Type of all Edge Moldings & Base Required

END USER SIGN-OFF – The end user should be shown or provided a copy of the layout drawing for approval prior to installation.





Maintenance of Laminate Flooring

In general, laminate flooring producers recommend cleaning only, as opposed to the use of finishes and polishes when caring for an installed laminate floor. There are specific do's and don'ts:

- Do NOT flood the floor.
- Do NOT use aggressive scrubbing machines to clean the surface.
- DO make sure to utilize walk-off mats at entryways, etc.
- DO refer to specific manufacturer's literature regarding how to properly care for your laminate floor.

Fire Testing

Fire test requirements for laminate flooring generally reference the following:

ASTM E-648 – Test method for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor-Covering Systems Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source. Greater than 0.45 watts per Sq-Cm required.

ASTM E-662 – Test Method for Specific Optical Density of Smoke Generated by Solid Materials. Average Corrected Smoke Density value of Less than 450 required.



What if I have additional questions about my laminate floor?

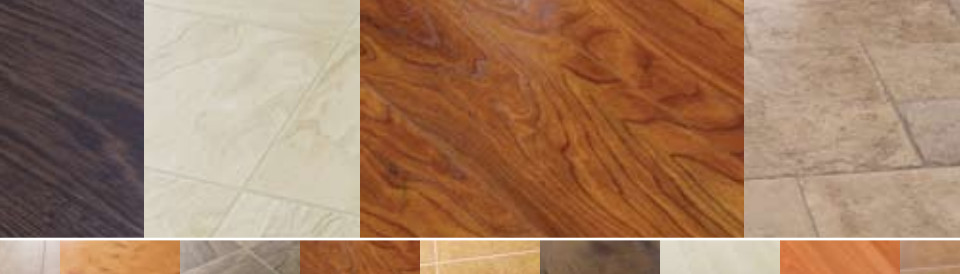
Feel free to contact your laminate flooring retailer with any questions. Also, find the answers to frequently asked questions on the NALFA website www.nalfa.com. Individual manufacturers may be contacted via the following consumer numbers and website addresses:

Alloc, Inc.	(877) 362-5562	www.alloc.com
Columbia Flooring	(800) 654-8796	www.columbiaflooring.com
Faus Group, Inc.	(888) 231-3287	www.fausfloor.com
Mannington Mills	(800) 482-9527	www.mannington.com
Pergo, Inc.	(800) 337-3746	www.pergo.com
Quick-Step USA Inc.	(888) 387-9882	www.quick-step.com
Shaw Industries, Inc.	(800) 441-7429	www.shawfloors.com
TORLYS, Inc.	(800) 461-2573	www.torlys.com
Mohawk	(800) 2MOHAWK	www.mohawk-flooring.com
Wilsonart Flooring	(800) 710-8846	www.wilsonart-flooring.com

Look for products with the NALFA Certification Seal.



Quality Certified
Laminate Flooring



Places where laminate flooring is typically utilized:

RESIDENTIAL

Kitchen

Bedroom

Dining

Rec. rooms

Foyers

Bathrooms

LIGHT COMMERCIAL

Small Restaurant

Small Retail Shop

Waiting Rooms

Trade Booths

COMMERCIAL

School Classrooms

Large Office

Large Restaurant
(LT XXX meals/day)

Large Retail-
non corridor

Nurses Stations

Assisted Living

Places laminate flooring should not be used:

LAMINATE IS NOT RECOMMENDED
FOR THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS:

- Outdoor applications
- Extremely heavy traffic corridors
i.e. shopping malls or airport corridors
- Public Restrooms
- Labor and Delivery Rooms



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Laminate Flooring



North American Laminate Flooring Association

www.nalfa.com