GREEN FLOORS

SURFACE SPECIALISTS

LUXURY FLOORS

QUICK START GUIDE

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BEFORE YOU START, READ THESE PARAGRAPHS AND TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION:

PRE-INSTALLATION ESSENTIALS

Your job will be smooth, fast, and easy when you follow the essentials every time you install the material and read the instructions before beginning to start your project.

- GREEN FLOORS has a patented locking system making it ideal for a floating installation. This product must be glued down when used for light traffic commercial applications.

- Please, it is mandatory to avoid constant exposure to excessive temperatures or direct sunlight for extended periods of time, since this might cause planks to cup up, peak, separate from the click system, or decolorate.

- SPC flooring nor GREEN FLOORS does not need to be acclimated if stored and installed in a temperate-controlled environment, maintain between 60°F and 85°F. Additional acclimation must be considered when the temperatures mentioned above are not met. Store flat and fully supported during shipping and storage. It is not necessary to remove material from the packaging while acclimating. Allow the product to condition in the room where installation is to take place at a constant temperature between 60°F and 85°F or 18°C – 29°C, for period of 48 hours prior to installation.

- Moisture content on the subfloor must not exceed 5 lbs./1000ft2/24-hr (ASTMF2170), for this product to be installed.

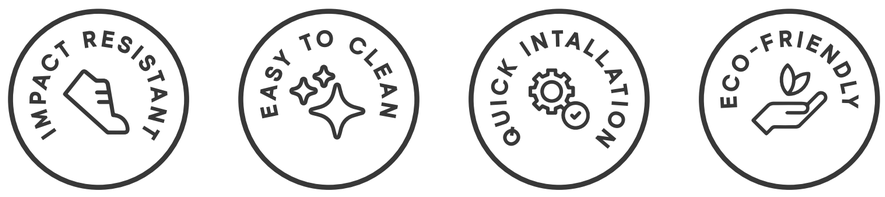
EVALUATE THE PREMISES

Exterior

This material is not intended to be installed in any external place due to shading created by sunlight, damages made by humidity, or heat due to atmospheric conditions.

Interior

Inception is only intended for interior use. • Examine the installation site for faulty plumbing, including leaks from water heaters, dishwashers, washing machines, or any other water-bearing fixtures or pipes. • Inception is waterproof, but it is not a substitute for proper moisture management. Inception cannot inhibit the growth of mold or prevent structural problems associated with, or caused by flooding, excessive moisture, alkalis in the substrate, moisture vapor emissions, or conditions arising from hydrostatic pressure. Substrate moisture issues should be addressed and corrected prior to installation. • Permanent HVAC system should be in full operation at least one week prior to installation. The room temperature should be maintained between 50°F and 100°F (10°C and 38°C) at least 48 hours before installation, during installation, and indefinitely thereafter. • All other trades must complete their respective work before installing Inception. ATTENTION: Mold and mildew grow only in the presence of moisture. Moisture issues on the project should be addressed and corrected prior to installation. Please visit www.epa.gov/mold for information about safely preventing and removing mold, mildew, and other biological pollutants.



EVALUATE AND QUALIFY YOUR SUBSTRATE All substrates, regardless of composition, must be in accordance with ASTM F2678 and in strict compliance with the following guidelines:

Grade: This material is suitable for above-grade, on-grade, and below-grade applications.

Floor Flatness: Substrates must be flat within 3/16" (4.76mm) in a 10' (3.05m) radius.

Floor Levelness: Substrates must not slope more than 1" (25.4mm) per 6' (1.83m) in any direction.

Smooth: Substrates shall be smooth and free of irregularities, roughness, excessive texture, or abrupt changes in elevation.

Dry: Substrates must be free of excess moisture. Concrete substrates must measure no more than 8lb MVER per 1,000 Sq.Ft. in 24 hours in accordance with ASTM F1869, or 85% RH when measured in accordance with ASTM F2170, with alkalinity levels between 7 and 10. Wood substrates must not exceed 14% when measured with an appropriate moisture meter.

Clean: Substrates must be free of any contaminants, bond-breakers, deleterious substances, and other foreign materials that could reduce adhesion, impair performance, affect the rate of moisture dissipation from the substrate, or cause a discoloration of the flooring. This would include, but not limited to, dust, solvent, paint, wax, oil, grease, residual adhesive, adhesive remover, film-forming curing compound, silicate penetrating curing compound, dissipative curing compounds, sealing compound, hardening compound, parting compound, alkaline salts, excessive carbonation or laitance, mold, and mildew.

Structurally Sound: Structures must be free from flaws, deficiencies, defects, decay, or deterioration and in compliance with all applicable building codes. Free of Excessive Deflection: The maximum allowable deflection of the structure or substrate must not exceed L/360.

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Concrete Substrates General Conditions

All concrete floors regardless of age or grade level must be properly cured and prepared in accordance with the most current version of ASTM F710 (Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring). Concrete substrates must have a compression strength of 3,000 psi or greater. Below-grade and on-grade concrete substrates must have a suitable and uncompromised vapor retarder properly installed beneath the slab (ASTM E1745). Contaminant Removal: Non-chemical methods for removal, such as scraping, abrasive cleaning, grinding, bead or shot blasting, including methods described in ASTM D4259 (Standard Practice for Abrading Concrete), may be used on pre-existing slabs with deleterious residues or other contaminants. The use of adhesive removers or solvents (including soy and citrus-type products) is strictly prohibited. Moisture and Alkalinity: Moisture and alkalinity tests should be performed on all concrete substrates regardless of grade level or the age of the slab. Perform either ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative

Humidity (RH) test or ASTM F1869 Calcium Chloride Moisture Test. RH Test results should not exceed 85% relative humidity. The Calcium Chloride Test for the moisture should measure no more than 8 lb per 1,000 Sq.Ft. in 24 hours Moisture Vapor Emission Rate (MVER). All moisture tests should be conducted prior to installation to ensure that moisture is at recommended levels. If test results exceed recommended tolerances for moisture, the area must be allowed to further dry to an acceptable level or remediated using a moisture-mitigation system before installing Inception. Electronic meter testing is not a replacement for a Calcium Chloride Test or Relative Humidity Test. Perform a pH test per ASTM F710 to determine the alkalinity of the slab, pH tests for alkalinity levels should register between 7 and 10. Rinsing and vacuuming with clean, potable water is the best way to lower surface pH, but it will not prevent future issues. Do not acid rinse concrete floors to neutralize pH. Some moisture-mitigation systems are designed to control pH. It is highly recommended that substrate moisture and pH testing be conducted by an International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) certified technician. Moisture Mitigation: Concrete substrates that exceed the maximum moisture value must be brought into compliance prior to the installation of Inception. Due to the complexities associated with concrete moisture vapor emissions and the movement of soluble salts in concrete substrates, GREEN FLOORS does not warrant a specific product. GREEN FLOORS does recommend the use of products that meet the criteria listed in ASTM F3010 (Standard Practice for Two-Component Resin Based Membrane Forming Moisture Mitigation Systems for Use Under Resilient Floor Coverings.

Radiant Heat Assemblies

Radiant heating systems must be cast a minimum of 1⁄2" (12.7mm) below the surface of the substrate and should be operating for at least two weeks before installing the material. 48 hours prior to installation, set the heating system temperature to 68°F (20°C). The temperature of the radiant heat floor may be increased gradually 72 hours after installation, but the surface temperature of the substrate should never exceed 85°F (29°C). Contact the manufacturer of your radiant heating system for further recommendations.

Plywood, OSB, and Particleboard

Wood substrates must be A.P.A. approved with a minimum grade of “BB” or “CC" and be well fastened to the structure. All wood substrates must be checked for moisture. Even if obvious signs are not present, the material should be tested using the appropriate moisture meter; moisture levels should not exceed 14%. Obvious signs of moisture issues may include warping, peaking, degradation of the integrity of the substrate, rusted fasteners, and rusted floor registers.

Ceramic Tile, Terrazzo, Resilient Tile, NonCushion Sheet Vinyl, and Metal

Pre-existing coverings must be well bonded to the underlying substrate. When installing GREEN FLOORS material in commercial settings, fill in grout joints and imperfections on ceramic tiles, quarry tiles, terrazzo, and similar floors with an appropriate floor patching compound. In most cases, filling grout joints is not required for residential applications. Grout joints will need to be filled in bonded applications. Always ensure compliance with substrate flatness tolerances.

UNAPPROVED SUBSTRATES: The substrates listed below are not approved and must be removed, including any underlying adhesives, prior to installation. Pre-existing adhesives must be removed so all that remains is a thin, smooth film. The remaining film should be properly encapsulated using an appropriate floor patching compound or completely removed by a non-chemical method such as shot blasting or grinding. • Carpet or Carpet Cushion • Cushion Back Sheet Vinyl • Floating Floors • Engineered Hardwood Over Concrete • Solid Hardwood Over Concrete • Parquet Over Concrete • Sleeper Substrates

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NOTES

Various federal, state, and local government agencies have established regulations governing the removal of in-place asbestos-containing material. If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains (or is presumed to contain) asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphalt “cut-back” adhesive, or other adhesives. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust may produce Cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content. The RFCI’s Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Covering are a defined set of instructions addressed to the task of removing all resilient floor covering structures. For further information, contact the Resilient Floor Covering Institute website at www.rfci.com.

MEASUREMENTS:

- Agree with the client on which direction the floorboards should run since this influences the visual size ratio of the space. Installation parallel to the longest wall or the main light-source is recommended for the best visual effect.

- Pre-plan the floor by measuring the room first. If the width of the last row is less than 2” (5cm) saw the first and the last plank in equal width.

- Snap the lines on the substrate to identify the layout reference points. Planks should be set using this reference to ensure boards are aligned and will lock together correctly.

- In large areas where the flooring will span more than 40’ long, an expansion gap should be used; otherwise, place expansion space in room-narrowing and in the door rebate. Cover the expansion space with suitable moldings.

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PREPARE THE PROJECT

1. Check the HVAC: Confirm the structure's HVAC system is in full operation. The building should be maintained at service conditions between 50°F and 100°F (10°C and 38°C) at least 48 hours before installation, during installation, and indefinitely thereafter.

2. Acclimation: Acclimate the materials, and the job site for as long as necessary to reach service conditions.

3. Remove Floor Moldings: Quarter round and/or wall base should be carefully removed before installation begins.

4. Remove Unapproved Substrates: Unapproved substrates and adhesives cannot be installed over and must be removed.

5. Evaluate the Substrate: Check the substrate for flatness, excess moisture, and levelness, and ensure the structure is sound and free of excessive deflection.

6. Perform Substrate Preparation: Perform all necessary preparations to ensure the project is in compliance with all aforementioned specifications.

7. Door Jambs & Casings: a. Wood door jambs and casings should be undercut so that the flooring fits neatly beneath, concealing the expansion space. b. Metal door jambs may need to be left undisturbed. In such instances, the material must be cut around the jambs and casings, leaving the appropriate expansion space. Fill the expansion space with a coordinating premium waterproof flexible sealant, such as 100% silicone, upon completion of the project.

8. Clean the Substrate: Sweep and vacuum the substrate to remove all dust, dirt, and debris.

9. Perform Final Qualification: Perform a final acceptance inspection of the substrate and project. Make sure the substrate is completely clean, dry, smooth, flat, and all necessary preparations have been properly completed and documented.

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INSTALLATION

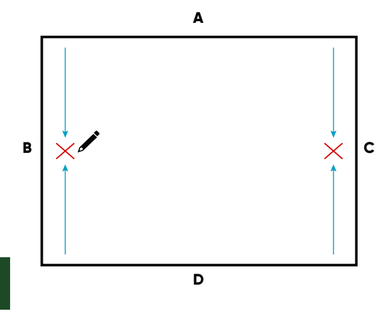
Understanding the Edge Profiles:

Short Joint

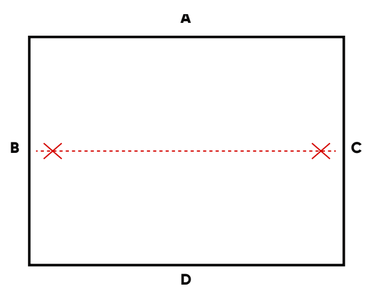
Long Joint

1. **Layout:** The project layout should be discussed with and approved by the architect, designer, general contractor, end-user, and/or homeowner prior to installation of material.

2. **Balance the Room:** Balance the layout by measuring and marking the center-point on both sides of the room (2a.). Connect the marks using a chalk line to create the centerline of the area. (2b.) (For tile format installations, an additional perpendicular centerline may be necessary to ensure the room is properly balanced on all four sides.)

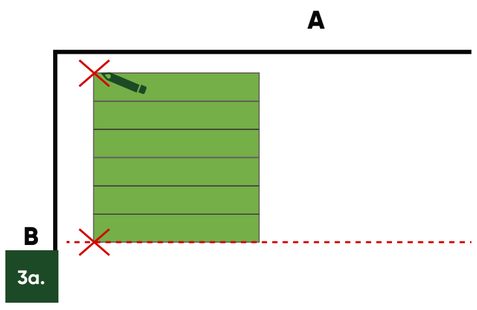


2a.

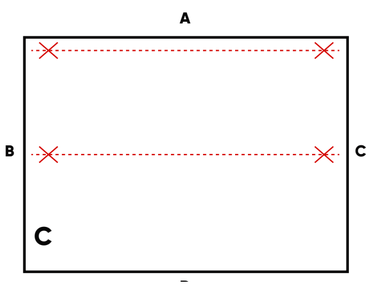


2b.

3. **Establish the Starting Line:** Starting at the centerline, assemble a column of material working toward the starting wall (wall A); continue until no additional full-width pieces can be laid. Place a mark on the substrate along the long edge of the last full-width piece, closest to the starting wall. (3a) Snap an additional chalk line at this location while ensuring that it is perfectly parallel to the centerline. (3b) (Note: If the perimeter pieces are less than half the width of a piece, offset the starting line by shifting away from the starting wall by a distance equal to half the width of a piece.)

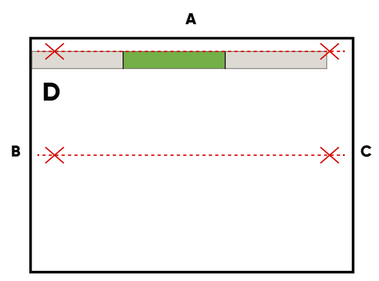


3a.

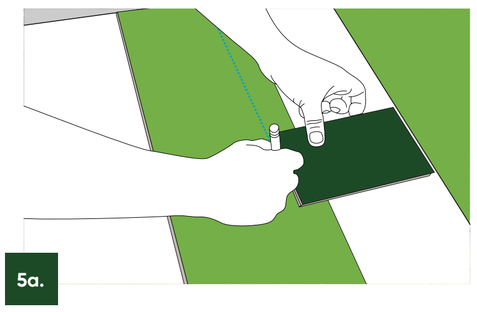


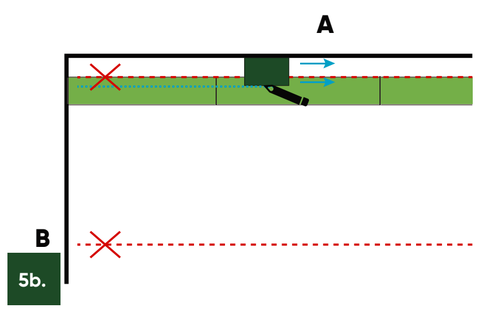
3b.

4. **Position the First Row:** Place full pieces end-to-end along the starting-line with the long tongue-edge facing the starting wall, without engaging the short joints.



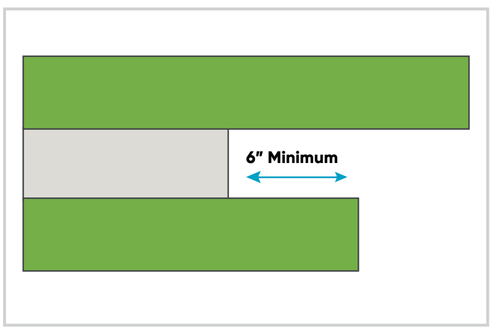
5. **Mark and Cut First Row:** To transfer the contours of the starting wall onto the first row, a "scribing block" will be necessary. To create a scribing block, first determine the size needed by measuring the width of the flooring (excluding the locking profiles) plus an additional ¼" for a residential project or 3/8" for a commercial project. Cut a piece of scrap flooring, plywood, or similar material to this measurement. Place the scribing block against the wall; mark a line at the edge of the scribing block. Slide the scribing block along the starting wall while continuing to mark. Carefully cut the marked material on the line, these pieces will be used for row #1.


5a.

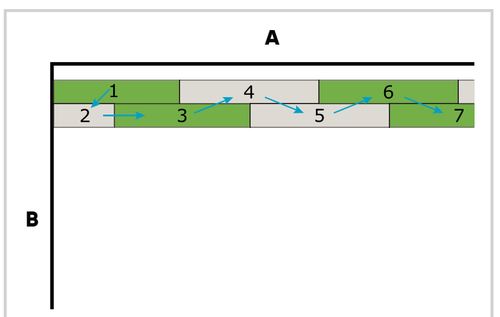


5b.

6. **Determine Proper Staggering:** Maintain a minimum 6" short-joint stagger from row-to-row throughout the entire installation. (Tile format installations should be staggered in a brick-laid pattern with stagger equal to half of a tile.)



7. **Sequence of Installation:** Installation will move from left to right, beginning in the left corner while facing the starting wall. The installation will alternate back and forth between rows one and two, for the first two rows only.



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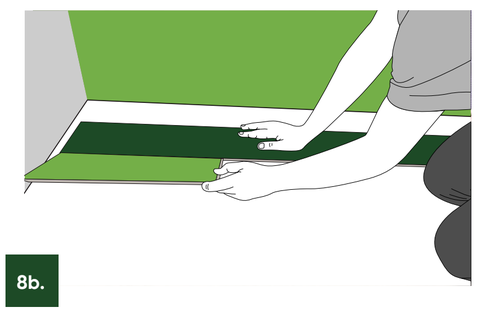
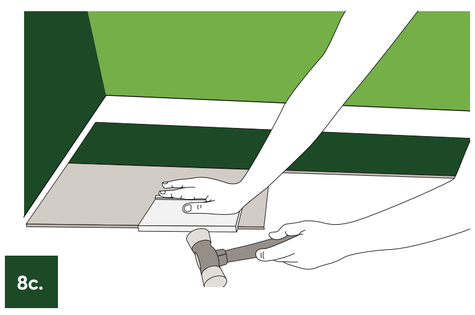
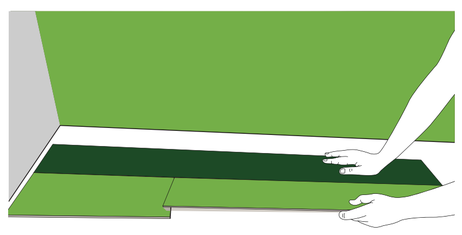
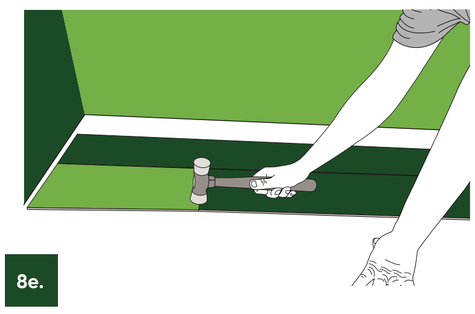
8. **Install Starting Rows:** Place the first piece of row #1 several inches from the starting wall with the long cut edge facing the starting wall (8a). Cut the first piece of row #2 to one-third its length. Interlock the long tongue-edge of the first piece of row #2 into the long groove-edge of the first piece of row #1, ensuring that there are no gaps (8b). Using a hammer and a Prevail Tapping Block, carefully tap along the long groove edge to fully engage the joints (8c). Install the second piece in row #2 by inserting the long tongue-edge into the long groove-edge of the first piece of row #1. With the piece angled slightly, slide the piece towards the first piece of row #2 until the edges align (8d). Tap the long joint tight using the prevail tapping block, then tap down on the short joint using the soft faced hammer (8e). Continue installing rows #1 and #2 until you reach the opposite wall and cannot install another full-length piece (8f). Always make certain the long joints are fully engaged before tapping down the short joints using a softfaced hammer.

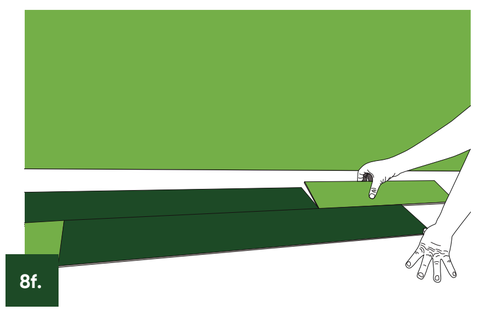

8a.


8b.

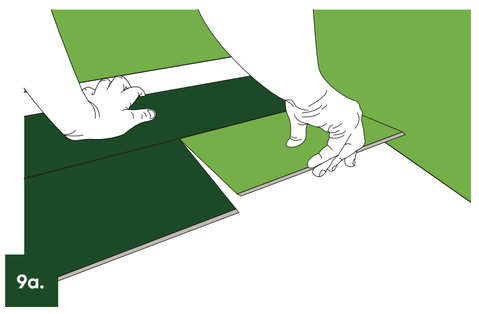

8c.

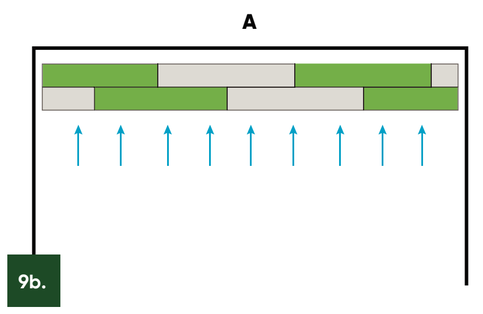

8d.


8e.

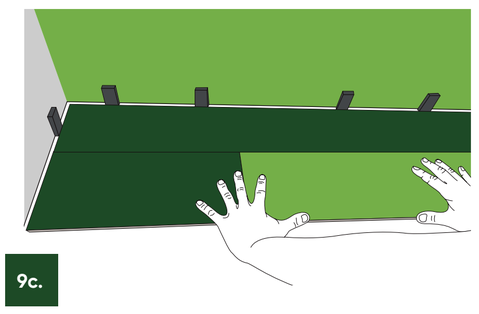

8f.

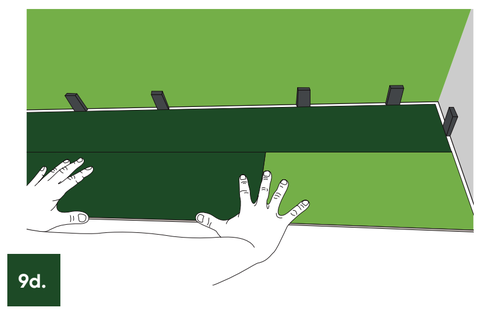
9. **Install Last Pieces of Rows 1 and 2:** Measure, mark, and cut the final pieces of rows #1 and #2 ensuring both sides of the rows have proper expansion space. Residential projects require a 1/4" expansion space and commercial projects require a 3/8" expansion space. Place appropriately sized spacers along the left, right, and starting walls. Slide the assembly over and against the spacers along the starting wall.


9a.

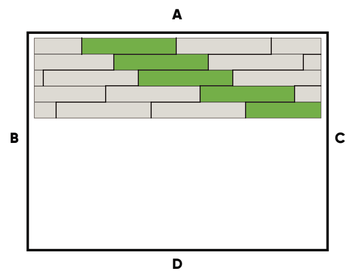


9b.

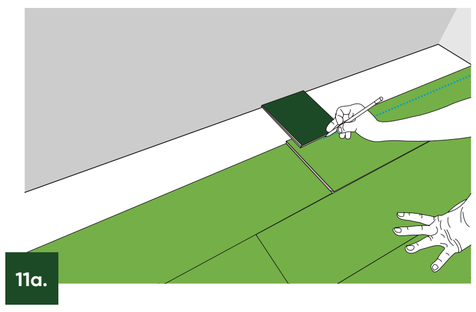

9c.


9d.

10. **Install Remaining Rows:** Install the remaining material, one row after another. Always tap the long joint tight using the Prevail Tapping Block before tapping the short joint down using the soft-faced hammer. Maintain the required stagger throughout the installation



11. **Install the Final Row:** Using the scribing block; mark, cut, and install the final row. Always ensure proper expansion is provided. Use a pull bar to fully engage the long joints. Do not use the pull bar on the short edges.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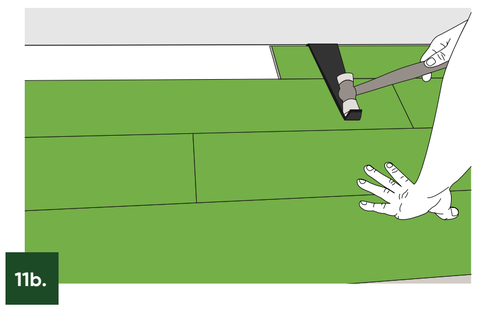
11b.

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