

# Laminate flooring

Installation  
& maintenance  
instructions  
**ANGLE LOCK  
locking system**

• Easy Line 832

# 1. OBLIGATORY TESTING AND EXERCISE OF DUE CARE

Tarkett laminate flooring is manufactured in precise stages in highly-advanced and modern production facilities. Both finished and ongoing products are subjected to regular stringent checks. Yet, despite quality controls, damage to individual boards, for example during transport, cannot always be completely prevented. Therefore, it is a requirement to visually double-check each flooring element before and during the installation job. Damaged or otherwise unsuitable flooring elements (products) must not be installed and should be returned and exchanged.

## 2. SUB-FLOORS

### 2.1 - Sub-floor check

All sub-floors must be prepared for installation in accordance with regular sub-floor preparation procedures and accepted tolerances within the flooring industry. Please consider the following points before beginning installation of laminate flooring manufactured by Tarkett. In case of failure to comply, all guarantee and warranty claims will become void.

#### Check the moisture level in the sub-floor:

Use a CM device to make sure the following levels are not exceeded:

- For cement-based screed  $\leq 2$  CM % – heated screed  $\leq 1.8$  CM %
- For calcium sulphate screed /calcium sulphate floating screed  $\leq 0.5$  CM % – heated screed  $\leq 0.3$  CM %
- These values apply to screeds without additives. With the use of additives and in case of fast-setting screed, the measurements and limits specified by the respective manufacturer shall apply.
- The test material must be obtained from the lower one-third of the screed. During this process, the thickness of the screed must be measured and documented.

#### Check if the sub-floor is level:

The evenness test is based on common standards and takes place by placing a yardstick/straight-edge on the high points of the surface and determining the gauge at the deepest location in relation to the bearing surfaces (measuring point intervals). Use a max. 2 mm gauge (vertical deviation) at 100 cm intervals. Larger deviations should be addressed by suitable measures (e.g., with self-levelling compounds).

#### Check the load-bearing capacity of the sub-floor:

The sub-floor must be a sealed, self-supporting layer.

#### Check if the sub-floor is clean:

The sub-floor must be vacuum cleaned.

#### Check atmospheric conditions:

The following conditions should be met before, during and after installation:

- an air temperature of at least 18° C
- a floor surface temperature of at least 15° C
- a relative air humidity of between 40 % and 70 %

### 2.2 - Instructions per type of sub-floor

Laminate flooring from Tarkett installed as a floating flooring configuration can be installed on all sub-floors which meet the above described requirements. This includes in particular:

- All types of screed including hot water-heated screed
- Chipboard constructions
- Fibreboards
- Existing floor coatings such as PVC, linoleum, natural stone slabs and ceramic tiles.

#### A. UNSUITABLE SUB-FLOORS

Tarkett laminate flooring must never be installed on textile floor coverings (e.g. carpet) or sub-floors that are not ready for installation. In the case of failure to comply, all guarantee and warranty claims will become void.

#### B. SCREED PREPARATION

When installing Tarkett laminate flooring as a floating installation on screeds, it should be noted that rising damp must be expected. Consequently, all types of screed (with the exception of mastic asphalt) require, prior to the installation of a system specific insulating layer (see section: Attention! underlay materials), a moisture protection film, SD value  $\geq 75$  m, to be installed over the whole area in a trough shape as a moisture barrier. When professionally installed, the strips of the moisture protection film must overlap by 5 - 20 cm at the joints depending on the version.

#### C. UNDERFLOOR HEATING WITH HOT WATER-HEATED SCREED

Tarkett Laminate can be used with hot water floor heating. Following installation and use instructions need to be followed:

##### Screeds with hot water floor heating:

- When preparing a heated flooring design, all those involved (builder, architect, specialist heating planner, heating engineer, installer, floor covering manufacturer) must work together in a coordinated manner.
- All surface-heated flooring requires appropriate planning and coordination of the heating system and screed in order to ensure maximum long-term performance without causing any damage.
- Alongside the usual checks on the installation sub-floor, the underfloor heating / cooling function must be checked (functional heating / cooling). This evidence of the screed construction being properly heated up and cooled down must be provided each season and be documented.

##### When heating the load and heat distribution layer, a distinction is made between functional heating and floor curing heating.

- Functional heating is the heating engineer's evidence of preparing a job free of defects and is used to review the proper functioning of the heating floor structure.
- Floor curing heating is the expelling of the residual moisture in the screed until installation suitability is reached.

**Attention!** Functional heating does not guarantee that the screed has reached the residual moisture required for installation suitability. Accordingly, floor curing heating is necessary as a rule.

**Attention!** The surface temperature of a heated floor structure may not exceed 28° C (83° F). Tarkett laminate flooring is generally laid as a "floating" installation. On mineral sub-floors it is essential to install a moisture protection film, SD value  $\geq 75$  m, over the whole area in a trough shape as a moisture barrier before the insulating underlay. When installing laminate flooring as a floating installation, attention should be paid to the heat conductivity values of the laminate flooring and the insulating underlay. The total of the heat conductivity values for all components must be  $\leq 0.15$  m<sup>2</sup>K/W according to the CE requirement. When using insulating underlays that are not from the Tarkett range of accessories, any guarantee is rejected with regards to compliance with the effective maximum permitted heat conductivity of the overall structure for a floating installation on heated screeds. When installing Tarkett Soundlogic Laminate flooring (with acoustic underlay laminated to the back), no other insulating underlay must be installed.

#### D. ELECTRICALLY OPERATED UNDERFLOOR HEATING (CONTROLLING THE SURFACE TEMPERATURE).

Electrical underfloor heating systems are classified as sub-floors with limited suitability. This is because a range of film-based, electrical heating systems are able to generate surface temperatures that significantly exceed 28° C. Tarkett approves the use of an electrically operated underfloor heating system if it can be controlled digitally and the surface temperature can never exceed 28° C. The technical approval must have been granted by the manufacturer of the heating system for Tarkett laminate flooring.

#### E. NATURAL STONE AND CERAMIC TILES

Possible residual moisture in the sub-floor may rise to the surface (see section: **Attention!** Underlay materials), a moisture protection film with an SD value  $\geq 75$  m must be installed as vapour barrier over the entire surface & extending up the wall.

#### F. WOODCHIP AND FIBREBOARD

A specially designed insulating underlay is recommended (see section: **Attention!** Underlay materials) should be installed. A moisture protection film (vapour barrier) is not necessary.

#### G. WOODEN BOARDS

Any loose boards should be properly screwed down. A specially designed insulating underlay is recommended to improve soundproofing (see section **Attention!** Underlay materials). A moisture protection film (vapour barrier) is not necessary. The laminate flooring boards must be laid at right angles to existing floorboards.

## H. ELASTIC FLOORING SURFACES (PVC, LINOLEUM, VINYL)

The use of flexible floor coverings meets the damp-proofing requirements and thus eradicates the need for a moisture protection film. A specially designed insulating underlay is used to improve soundproofing (see section: Attention! Underlay materials).

## I. WET ROOMS / WET AREAS

**Attention!** Laminate flooring from Tarkett is not suitable for installations in wet rooms and wet areas such as bathrooms, saunas or in similar rooms. In case of failure to comply, all guarantee and warranty claims will become void.

## 3. BEFORE THE INSTALLATION

### Acclimatisation of the floor boards

The packages of laminate flooring have to be stored in the room where they will be installed or in a room with the same climate condition before starting the installation. Acclimatisation takes place within the following guidelines:

- packed
- for a period of at least 48 hours
- laid flat with a minimum of 50 cm from all walls
- at a room temperature of at least 18° C
- at a flooring surface temperature of at least 15° C
- at a relative atmospheric humidity of between 40 % and 70 %.

### Direction of installation

Laminate flooring looks best when the floor boards are installed parallel to the light direction. However, in the case of sub-floors made of floorboards or strip parquet / wooden floors, the floorboards must be installed at right angles or in the same direction of the strip parquet / wooden floor.

### Planning the first row

First, the room must be measured to determine whether the width of the first row should be reduced. This will be necessary if the last row to be laid is calculated to be less than 5 cm wide.

## 2.3 - Attention! Underlay materials

- On mineral sub-surfaces, however, a moisture protection film with an SD value  $\geq 75$  m must always be installed first, over the entire surface and extend up the walls. Exceptions are the use of TARKOFLEX II (2 in 1 insulation underlay with integrated moisture protection) or a comparable 2 in 1 underlayer board. In these cases, a separate moisture protection film is not necessary.
- A system-specific TARKOFOAM II or TARKOFLEX II underlay must be used under Tarkett laminate flooring.

### Planning expansion gaps

Laminate flooring, like all organic materials, is subject to certain types of movement (shrinkage / expansion) due to changes in climate conditions. If expansion joints are used, the installed floor will not be affected as they provide spaces for these changes to take place. Expansion gaps 8 to 10 mm wide to all fixed objects such as walls, door frames, pipes, pillars, stairs etc. should be observed.

### Planning movement profiles

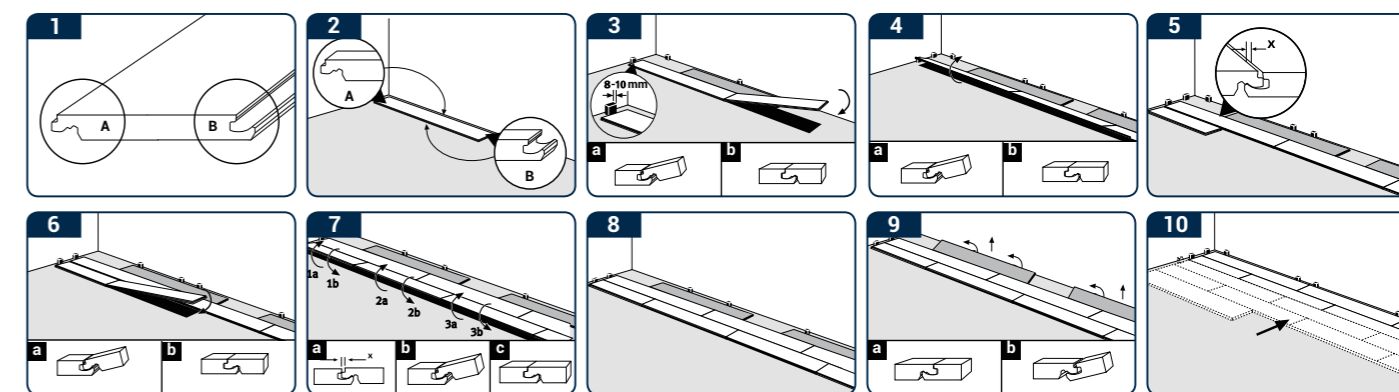
Transition mouldings must be installed in the following areas and flooring sizes because of the natural movement behaviour of laminate flooring:

- door thresholds
- passageways
- angled areas
- room lengths and / or widths of more than 10 m.

## 4. INSTALLATION

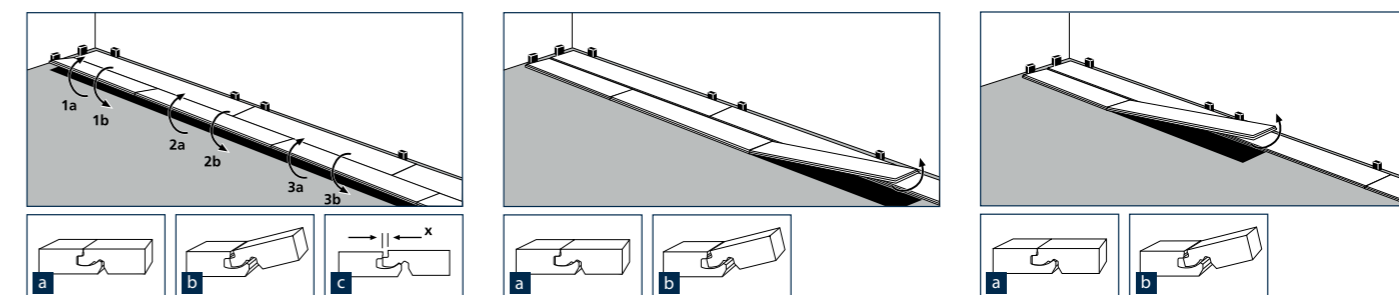
- Check the floor panels in the first row for any damage/fault. Ensure you understand the difference between the tongue and the groove on the panel (Fig. 1).
- Start laying the first row of boards in a left-hand corner of the room with both tongue sides of the panel facing the wall (Fig. 2).
- In order to fit the panels insert the new panel to be laid at an angle from above into the connection system of the already laid panel and lower it until it lies flat on the sub-floor (Fig. 3). The last panel in the first row can be marked and cut to the required length. In order to allow subsequent rows to be added to the long edge without gaps, make sure the long edges of the panels are lined up precisely in the first row. It is recommended to insert a piece of the flooring as a stop / spacer between the wall and the flooring being installed in the first row, respectively in the area of the end joints. After installing the first 2-3 rows, remove these positioning elements and correctly align the installed laminate flooring with the walls, observing the required gaps (placing the spacers). (Fig. 3 to 10)
- Start installing the 2<sup>nd</sup> row with the remaining panel of the 1<sup>st</sup> row, if the latter is at least 200 mm long. In the following rows, the new row can be started with the remaining panel, while observing the minimum offset of the short ends. **Attention!** Make sure that the short ends are staggered at least 200 mm (8"). In case of products supplied with the bevel and/or with a special decor (e.g., tiles decor), ensure the offset is even according to the bevel and/or pattern.
- Place the tongue on the protruding lower lip of the first panel of the first row (Fig. 5). Connect all other panels for this row on their narrow sides as described above, until the entire row is installed. Afterwards, all short sides of the panels in this row should be adjusted and connected with each other (Fig. 6).
- Slightly raise the first panel or panel section and connect its long edge with the first row. Continue to do so until you have connected the whole row with the previously laid row (Fig. 7). Pay attention that the panels are not displaced along the short sides.
- You can now install panel after panel, row after row.

In order to prepare the last row of panels for installation, take the panel and place it exactly on top of the row before last. By means of a residual panel (panel width), it is possible to transfer the wall structures to the element within a pre-chosen distance.

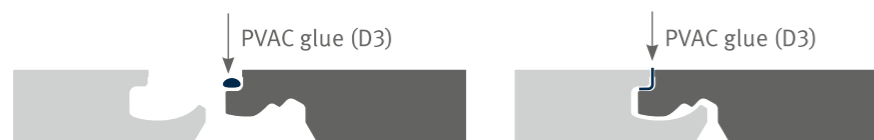


### Removal / Dismantling of elements

In order to replace installed panels without destroying them, you first have to unlock the entire row by tilting it and then offset the panels at the short ends while tilted. Proceed with due care in order to avoid damaging the tongue and groove.



## Class 32 & 33 commercial applications



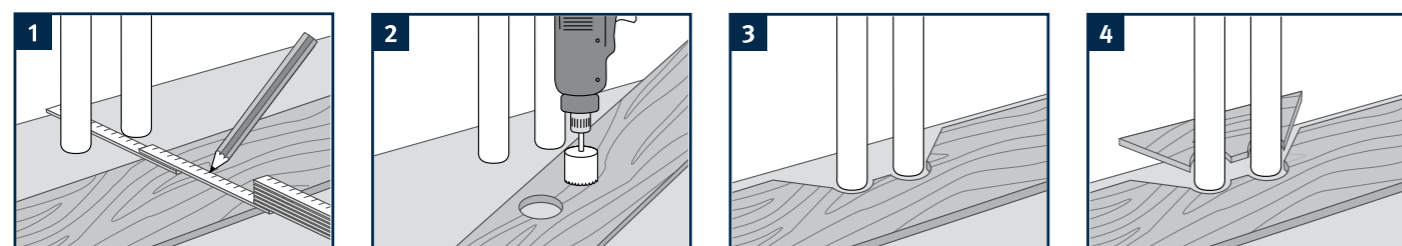
In industrial areas, you have to anticipate extraordinary exposure to moisture. As a result, additional sealing with PVAC glue (D3) is mandatory for such applications. Apply the sealing glue to the top of the tongue on the short and long edge. The glue should ooze out along the complete long and short edge after the panels have been connected together. Excess sealing glue is easy to remove from the surface immediately or after a short drying period.

**Attention!** Ensure that the elements below the sealing glue are installed without a gap.

### Built-in kitchens/built-in cabinets

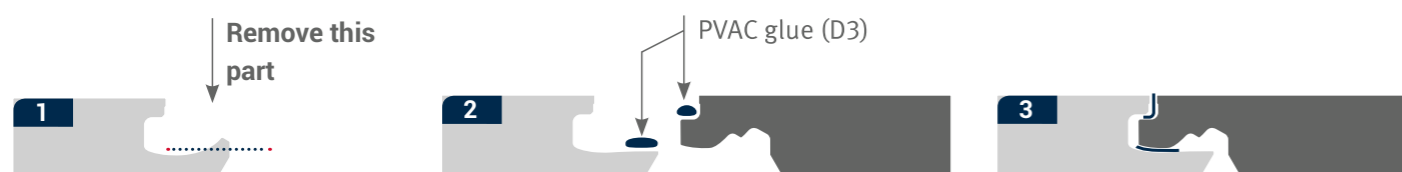
Built-in kitchens and built-in cabinets should be assembled prior to installation and the laminate floor should be laid under the plinth panel.

### Pipes

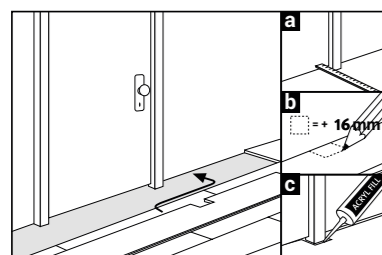


- Measure the position of the pipes and mark it on the panel (allow for edge joint).
- Drill at least 16 mm more than the diameter of the pipe.
- Saw to the holes at a 45° angle.
- Fit and glue the sawn piece.

### Door frames



- For wooden door frames, we recommend undercutting them – with the approval of the customer – according to the thickness of the flooring and the underlay.
- Install the flooring underneath the door frame – leave the necessary expansion gaps. In the event that your installation job will end underneath a door frame, we recommend that the locking part is removed from the protruding groove of the pre-installed panel with a chisel. The newly installed panel can then be pushed horizontally over the groove of the previously installed panel. This connection area has to be glued with a PVAC glue.
- If you have a door frame that cannot be shortened, e.g., one made of metal, we recommend that you close or cover the expansion gaps with sealant or suitable end profiles.



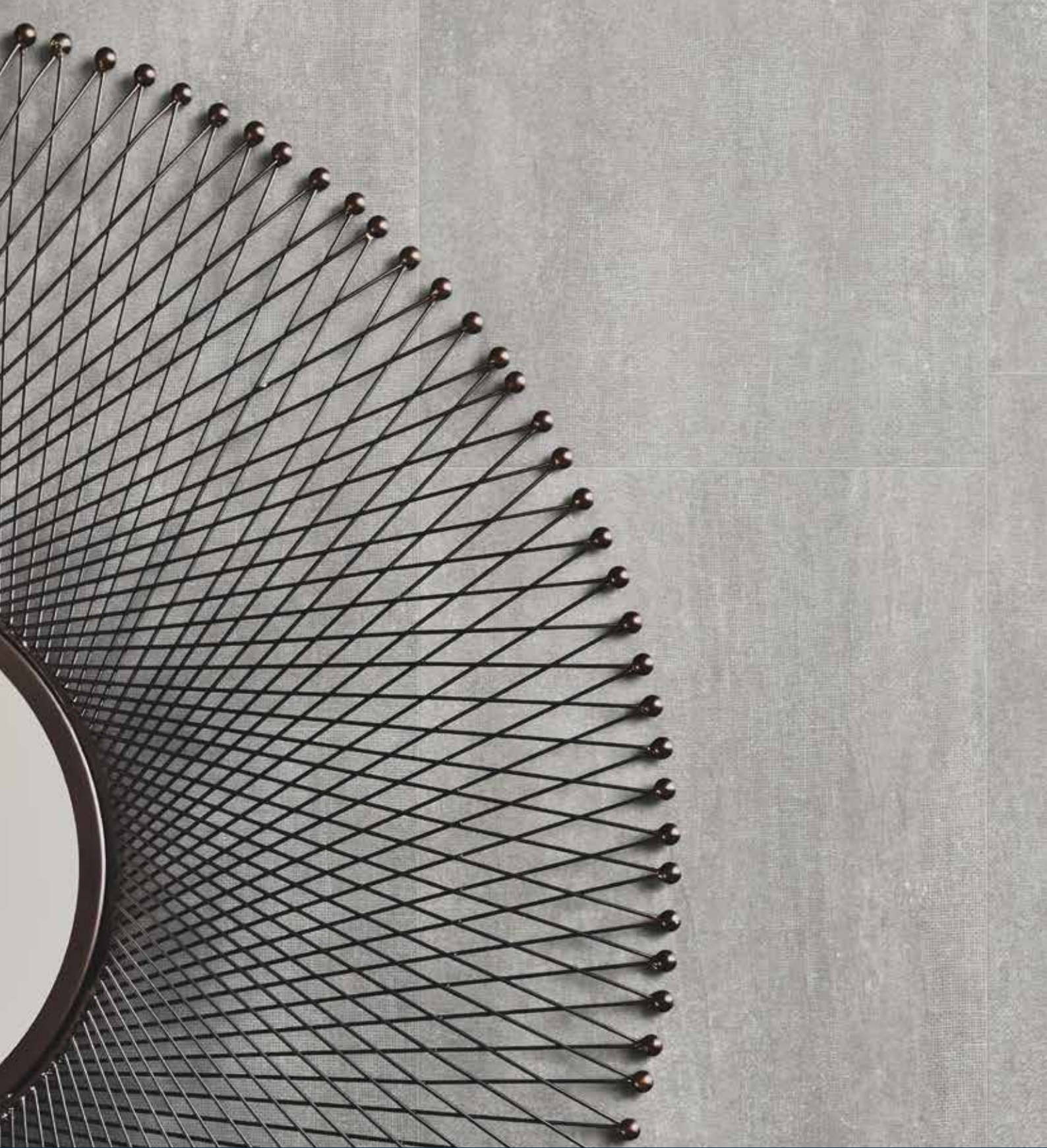
### Floor profiles

Install the required flooring profiles and the skirtings after the laminate flooring has been installed in the correct way as described above. Simple assembly instructions are enclosed with all the accessories.

**Attention!** With most types of profile, the base (sub-profile) taking the cover profile must be installed prior to installing the laminate floor.

## 5. CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- Entrance areas must be fitted with a properly sized clean-off zone / doormat.
- In commercial applications where the laminate flooring area leads directly outside, an appropriately sized clean-off zone must be built into the floor structure.
- Attach felt pads to the feet of furniture, including chairs and tables. Clean these regularly, check for proper functionality, and replace if required.
- Lift furniture when moving, rather than pushing or dragging.
- Use soft furniture castors (type W) in the case of office chairs and all other objects on castors. Clean office chair and furniture castors regularly, check for proper functionality and replace if required.
- Wipe any stagnant moisture / liquids from the laminate flooring immediately.
- Steam cleaners should not be used.
- Only clean the laminate floor with a damp cloth.
- Never use abrasives or scouring agents on the laminate floor.
- Do not use cleaning products that may leave a residue.
- Waxing and/or polishing is neither necessary nor permitted.
- Subsequent surface sealing of Tarkett laminate flooring is not necessary and not permitted.
- Use the hard floor nozzle (brush accessory) when vacuum cleaning.



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