MORE FROM WOOD.

EGGER

Installation instructions for Egger aqua+

laminate flooring in wet areas with the glueless system UNI *fit!*

DEFINITION WET AREA

Areas with increased, but not permanent, moisture and air humidity. For example wet areas include bathrooms, kitchens, corridors, and hallways.

ATTENTION!

- EGGER laminate floors which are not classed as aqua⁺ floors may not be installed in wet areas.
- Applications exclude wet rooms (such as, for example, saunas, steam baths, shower cabins or cells, community laundry rooms and swimming pool areas), areas with permanent moisture or liquid, as well as any outdoors area.

1. OBLIGATORY TESTING AND EXERCISE OF DUE CARE

EGGER Laminate flooring is manufactured in specific production stages in one of the most modern production sites. Both finished and semi-finished products are subjected to stringent on-going checks. Yet despite quality controls, damage to individual boards, for example during transport, cannot be totally eliminated, and we therefore recommend checking laminate flooring elements before laying.

2. SUB-FLOORS

2.1 Generally speaking, it is the job of the flooring contractor, as part of his preparation work, to ensure that the sub-floor is in suitable condition prior to installation. Please consider the following points before starting to install laminate flooring manufactured by EGGER:

CHECK THE MOISTURE LEVEL IN THE SUB-FLOOR USING A CM DEVICE:

The following levels should not be exceeded:

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

CHECK THE SUB-FLOOR IS LEVEL:

The levelness test is based on common standards and takes place by placing a yardstick/straightedge 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 (deviation) at zm intervals. Larger deviations should be handled with suitable measures (e.g., with self-levelling compounds).

CHECK THE LOAD 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 vacuumed clean.

CHECK ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS:

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

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

2.2 aqua+ EGGER laminate flooring installed as a floating flooring configuration in wet areas can be installed on the sub-floors listed below, which meet the requirements described above:

- all types of screed including hot water-heated screed
- existing floor coatings made of natural stone slabs and ceramic tiles

UNSUITABLE SUB-FLOORS INCLUDE :

- textile floor coverings
- chipboard constructions
- wood boards
- fibreboard
- sub-floors not prepared for installation in accordance with normal procedures and accepted tolerances within the flooring industry

SUB-FLOORS OF LIMITED SUITABILITY INCLUDE:

- under floor heating (controlling the surface temperature)

  Under floor heating systems are generally suitable as a sub-floor when installed in the screed or concrete layer, and not placed as foil heating on the concrete layer.
  Electrical sub-floor heating systems installed as a foil heating elements may be used only if the manufacturer of the heating system can ensure that the surface temperature never exceeds 28° C.

ATTENTION! When installing on mineral sub-floors, it is absolutely necessary to install the EGGER aqua+ ALUFLEX or a moisture protection film with an SD value › 75 m as vapour barrier prior to the relevant insulation underlay, and to seal it off with the EGGER aqua+ tape extending up the wall. When using insulating layers which are not part of the EGGER accessories range, floating installation on concrete floors with in-floor heating systems voids all warranties in regards to compliance with the effective, maximum allowable thermal transfer resistance of the overall structure.

SCREEDS

When aqua+ laminate flooring elements are installed over a concrete sub-floor, note that possible residual moisture may rise to the surface, and humidity damage to the building and flooring structure should be avoided. Due to the above mentioned reasons, all concrete sub-floors require, prior to the installation of a suitable insulating layer. Please note: **ATTENTION!** Underlay materials; the EGGER aqua+ ALUFLEX or a moisture protection film with an SD value › 75 m to be installed over the entire surface, and sealed off with the EGGER aqua+ ALUTAPE extending up the wall. Properly and professionally laid, the strips must overlap 20 cm in the jointing area.

SCREEDS WITH HOT WATER-FLOOR HEATING

Depending on the intended use, any floor with a radiant heating system requires planning and coordination with the concrete floor in order to assure long-term, optimum functionality and integrity. Generally, existing floor coverings, must be removed before the laminate flooring is laid. In addition to the standard sub floor tests, it is necessary to provide a certificate that the proper heating up and cooling down phases have been completed. Proper under-floor heating of the heated screed construction must be ensured throughout the year.

THE HEATING UP AND COOLING DOWN PHASE

- Functional heating: In the event that the sub-floor is a cement-based concrete, do not start the heating-up phase until 21 days following the concrete installation. In the event that the sub-floor is a calcium sulphate concrete, do not start the heating-up phase until 7 days following the concrete installation. **ATTENTION:** Observe the manufacturer's specifications!
  Begin the heating-up phase with a water temperature of 25° C, which must remain for three days.
  The water temperature is increased until the maximum water temperature is reached (max. 55° C).
  Maintain the maximum water temperature over a period of 4 days without turning off overnight.
- Floor curing heating: In the event that the sub-floor is a cement-based concrete, do not start the heating-up phase until 28 days following the concrete installation. In the event that the sub-floor is a calcium sulphate concrete, do not start the heating-up phase until 14 days following the concrete installation.
  ATTENTION: Observe the manufacturer's specifications!
  Day 1 - start the heating-up phase with a water temperature of 25° C and increase it by 10° C per day.
  Day 4 - the maximum water temperature is reached (max. 55° C).
  Day 5-18 - maintain the maximum water temperature.
  Day 19 - floor curing test – CM measurement (continued heating is required if excessive residual moisture is detected).
  Day 19-21 - lower the water temperature by 10° C daily until a water temperature of 25° C is reached.
  Installation of the flooring elements can commence once a surface temperature of 18° C is reached for the concrete floor.
  During and 3 days after installation, maintain the temperature specified above.
  At the end of 3 days, the water temperature can be increased slowly if required.

INSTALLATION SUB-FLOORS/PREPARATIONS PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

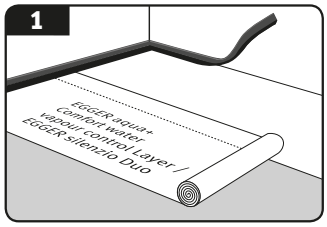
ATTENTION! The surface temperature should not exceed 28° C. When installing on mineral sub-floors, it is absolutely necessary to install the EGGER aqua⁺ ALUFLEX or a moisture protection film with an SD value › 75 m as vapour barrier prior to the relevant insulation underlay, and to seal it off with the EGGER aqua⁺ ALUTAPE extending up the wall. When using insulating layers which are not part of the EGGER accessories range, floating installation on concrete floors with in-floor heating systems voids all warranties in regards to compliance with the effective, maximum allowable thermal transfer resistance of the overall structure.

NATURAL STONE AND CERAMIC TILES

Possible residual moisture in the sub-floor may rise to the surface (see section: **ATTENTION!** Underlay materials) the EGGER aqua⁺ ALUFLEX or a moisture protection film with an SD value ‹ 75 m must therefore be installed before the system-specific underlay as vapour barrier over the entire surface, and sealed off with the EGGER aqua⁺ ALUTAPE extending up the wall.

ATTENTION! UNDERLAY MATERIALS

A system-specific EGGER silenzio underlay should be used with EGGER aqua⁺ laminate flooring. Alternative underlays are available at www.egger.com/flooring-information.
No separate underlay is required for soundproofing for EGGER aqua⁺ laminate flooring with integrated underlay (silenzio). However, on mineral sub-floors, aqua⁺ ALUFLEX or a moisture protection film with an SD value › 75 m must be installed on the entire surface as vapour barrier and sealed off with the EGGER aqua⁺ ALUTAPE extending up the wall. (see Figure 1)
Exception: When using EGGER silenzio DUO as underlay (impact sound mat with integrated moisture protection), no separate vapour barrier is necessary. Furthermore, in this case, the area of the wall juncture must be sealed off with EGGER aqua⁺ ALUTAPE extending up the wall. (see Figure 1)



3. PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

ACCLIMATISING THE PANELS

The laminate flooring has to be stored/acclimatised in the room where it will be installed or in a room with the same climate conditions before starting the installation. and acclimatised within the following guidelines:

- packaged
- for a period of at least 48 hours
- in flat position with a minimum distance of 50 cm from all the walls
- at an air temperature of at least 18° C
- at a floor surface temperature of at least 15° C
- at a relative air humidity between 40 % and 70 %

DIRECTION OF INSTALLATION

It is advised to install laminate flooring with the panels parallel to the direction of the light. However, a binding specification for the installation direction does not apply to the installation sub-floors listed in section 2.

PLANNING THE FIRST ROW

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

ATTENTION! The panels should be cut longitudinally starting from the tongue side (blue strip).

PLANNING OF EXPANSION GAPS

Since laminate flooring from EGGER is made of organic materials, it is subject to a certain movement behaviour (shrinkage/expansion) due to changes in climate conditions. Movement of the finished, installed floor will not occur if allowance is made by using expansion joints to all fixed objects.

Expansion gaps 8 mm to 10 mm wide to all fixed objects such as walls, door frames, pipes, pillars, stairs etc. should be observed.

PLANNING OF SKIRTINGS

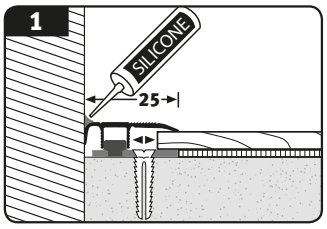
Only the system-specific aqua+ plastic skirtings shall be used. The joint between the laminate floor and the skirting must be sealed with the integrated "rubber sealing lip" or waterproofed with an acrylic sealant (silicon).

PLANNING OF MOVEMENT PROFILES

Movement profiles must always be incorporated in the following size/area ranges due to the specific movement of the laminate flooring:

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

Only transition, adjustment, and end profiles made of aluminium shall be used. The joint between profile and wall must be waterproofed with an acrylic sealant (silicon). (see Figure 1)

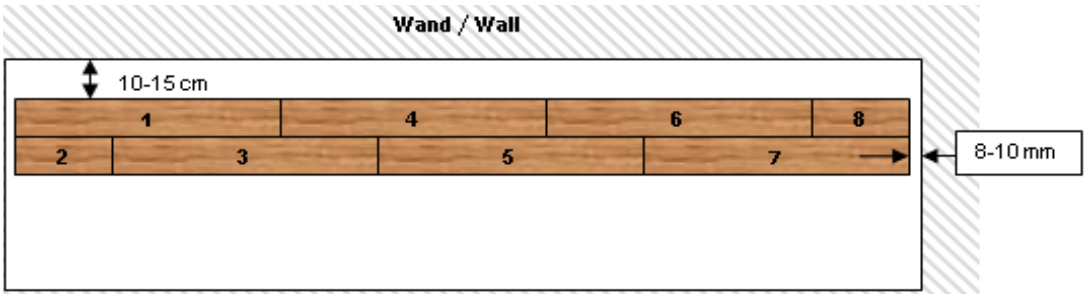


In all edge/wall areas where skirtings or floor profiles cannot be installed, the expansion joint must be waterproofed with an acrylic sealant (silicon).

4. INSTALLATION

- Check the panels for visible damage before and during installation. Ensure you understand the difference between the tongue and the groove on the panel (Figure 1/Figure 2).
- Start laying the first two rows in the left-hand corner of the room with both tongue sides of the first panel facing the wall and both grooved sides facing the installer (Figure 1/Figure 2).

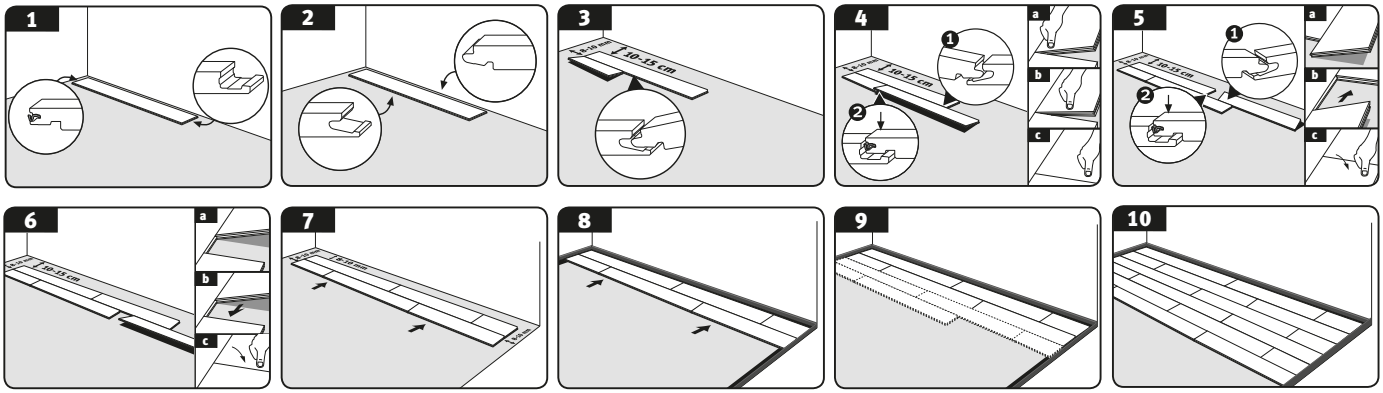
The boards of the first two rows may be installed simultaneously, that is, in constant alternation while observing the minimum offset of the short ends are at 20 cm, as represented and described below.



Element 1 = Installation in left-hand corner of the room
Element 2 = Angling the long side of this board which has been cut to length. For this purpose, place the longitudinal tongue at a slight angle from above into the longitudinal groove of element 1 and lower element 2 until it is in a flat position. (see Figure 3)
Element 3 = Angling the long side & pressing in the short side. To begin with, return the longitudinal tongue at a slight angle from above into the longitudinal groove of element 1. Now push element 3 in this slanted position towards the front of element 2, until the short sides of both panels push against each other in perfect fit. Once again lock the longitudinal connection by lowering and at the same time the frontal connection by pushing until you can feel them snap into place. (see Figure 4)
Element 4 = Opposite angling of the long side and pressing of the short side as above. Place the longitudinal groove at a slight angle under the longitudinal tongue of element 3. Push element 4 in this slanted position towards the front of element 1, until the short sides of both elements push against each other in perfect fit. Now once again lock the longitudinal connection by lowering and at the same time the frontal connection by pushing until you can feel them snap into place. (see Figure 5)
Element 5 = Angling the long side and pressing in the short side (see element 3)
Element 6 = Angling the long side and pressing in the short side (see element 4)
Element 7 = Angling the long side and pressing in the short side (see element 3)
Element 8 = Angling the long side and pressing in the short side (see element 4)

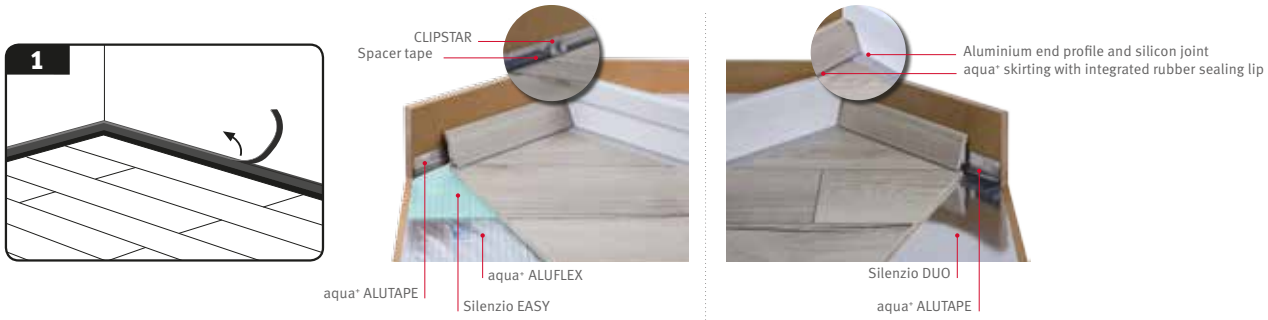
Install all remaining panels for the first and the second row as described above. The last panels are cut to length. (see Figure 6)

Finally, orientate the first two rows to face the walls, as required. The spacer tape integrated in the EGGER aqua+ tape ensures that the necessary wall distance of 8-10 mm is maintained. (Figure 7 to Figure 10)



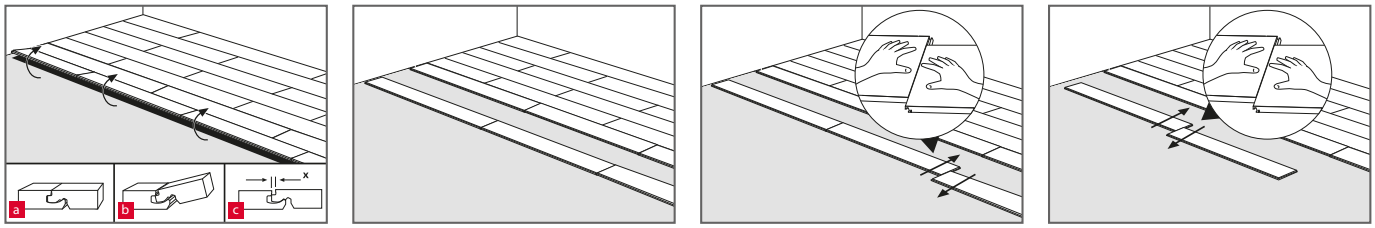
ATTENTION! Make sure that the short ends are staggered by at least 200 mm. In case of products supplied with the bevel and/or with a special pattern (e.g., a tiled decor), ensure the offset is even according to the bevel and/or pattern.

- Install the first panel of the third row by inserting the longitudinal tongue side into the longitudinal groove of the second row at a slight angle from above. Then lower the panel until it is lying flat. To install the second panel of the third row, once again tilt the long edge with the tongue down and slide it into the groove on the long side of the second row. Now push the new panel to be laid in this slanted position towards the front of the first panel of the third row, until the frontal connection systems are above each other in a perfect fit. Once again lock the long edge by lowering the panel and the front by pushing until you can feel it lock.
- Install all remaining panels for the third row as described above. The last panel is once again cut to length.
- All subsequent rows are always started with the last panel in the preceding row, if it is at least 200 mm long.
- You can now continue to lay board after board. In order to prepare the last row of panels for installation, carefully place the panel on the second last row. By means of a residual panel (element width), it is possible to transfer the wall structures to the panel within a selected distance.
  After completing the installation, the spacer tape must be removed. (see Figure 1) The skirtings can then be mounted.



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 ends while they are laying flat. Proceed with due care in order to avoid damaging the tongue and groove.

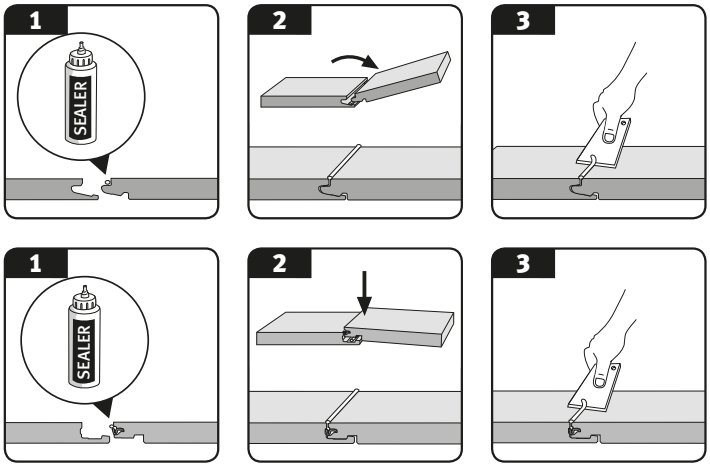


COMMERCIAL AREAS OF CLASS 32

When installing aqua⁺ laminate floors in commercial areas with direct contact to outdoors areas, the entryway must include a clean-off zone of sufficient size lowered into the floor structure (ideally 2 × 2 m). If a clean-off zone is not possible, the elements in the entry area must be sealed off with the system specific aqua⁺ CLIC SEALER. The aqua⁺ CLIC SEALER must be applied on the length and the width of the tongue of the element when newly installed. This is so that, when the panels are joined, it covers the entire seam. Make sure that there is no gap in the flooring joints under the glue which has oozed out. Excess CLIC SEALER is easy to remove from the surface immediately or after a short drying period.

(**ATTENTION!** Due to the profile, the right dosage of aqua⁺ CLIC SEALER must be observed, in particular on the short side).

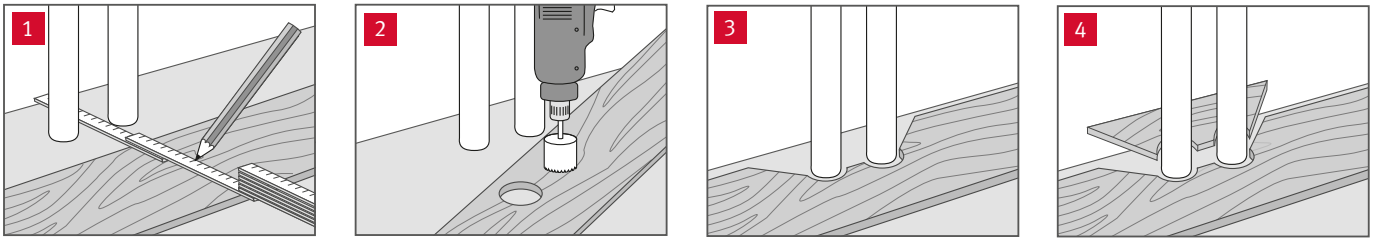
INSTALLATION/CLEANING AND CARE



BUILT-IN KITCHENS/BUILT-IN CABINETS

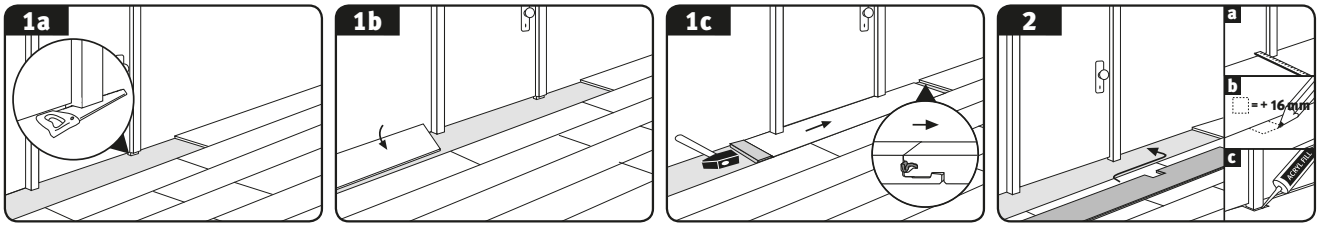
In the case of built-in kitchens and built-in cabinets, it is highly recommended to first assemble them and only install the laminate floor up to the plinth panel.

PIPES



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

DOOR FRAMES



- If you have wooden door frames, we recommend undercutting them - with the approval of the customer - according to the thickness of the flooring and the underlay. (Figure 1a)
- Install the flooring underneath the door frame – leave the necessary expansion gaps. In case the installation takes you up to a door frame, the respective panel can be angled longitudinally and lowered. Finally, the panel laid flat on the floor is pushed under the door frame and the frontal connection is locked through horizontal knocking with a hammer and tapping block. (Figure 1b+1c)
- In the case of door frames that cannot be shortened, for example those made of metal, the built-in walls/expansion gaps must be waterproofed and closed with an acrylic sealant or suitable end profiles. (Figure 2)

PROFILES AND SKIRTINGS

Install the required aluminium profiles and the skirting boards after the aqua⁺ laminate flooring has been properly installed as described above. In the case of EGGER aqua⁺ laminate flooring, only the system specific aqua⁺plastic skirtings may be used for wet room application. The joint between the laminate floor and the skirting and the end profile and the wall must be waterproofed. Simple assembly instructions are enclosed with all the accessories.

ATTENTION! With most profile types, the base (sub-profile) to accept the cover profile must be installed prior to installing the laminate floor.

5. CLEANING AND CARE

- As with any other floor coverings, you should protect your new aqua⁺ laminate flooring from particles of dirt and dirty water (e.g., due to rain water and snow on the shoes) by using adequate mats/clean-off zones. See also the section "Commercial area".
- Always attach felt pads to the feet of chair and table legs, and to the bottom of other pieces of furniture.
- When moving heavy furniture, lift it, do not drag it across the floor.
- For chairs and other pieces of furniture fitted with castors, only use soft castors.
- Do not allow puddles of water, splashes or moisture to lie on the floor, if they dowipe it dry as quickly as possible (within 1 hour).
- aqua⁺ laminate floors can be cleaned with regular steam cleaners without adding additional substances/cleaning products. The steam cleaner must be in constant movement, so that local steam contact of more than 30 seconds is avoided.
- Clean the floor with a damp cloth only.
- Any sanitary cleaners used on the laminate floor must be removed immediately (within 15 minutes). The affected area must then be neutralised with water.
- Never use abrasives or scouring agents on the floor.
- Do not use residue building cleaning products (we recommend our laminate flooring cleaner CLEAN IT from EGGER).
- Waxing and polishing is not necessary and not permitted.
- Sealing the laminated floor after installation is not necessary and not permitted.
- Use a hard floor nozzle when vacuum cleaning.

Detailed care instructions and a guarantee card are available from your stockist.

In the unlikely event of damage to the laminate flooring, slight defects can be repaired with the system-specific EGGER DECOR MIX & FILL repair compound. If the damage is more serious, a professional installer will be able to replace an entire panel. Separate instruction on request. For special installation instructions, for example how to deal with stairs, or other questions, please contact your stockist for expert advice.

*The EGGER laminate flooring guarantee terms apply, which are available from your distributor or to download on the Internet.

www.egger.com

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