

# FLOORING TIPS FROM *Windsor Plywood*

## Installing Laminate Flooring over Radiant Heating

Good quality laminate flooring can be installed over hot water radiant heating systems. It has favourable thermal resistance for the efficient operation of your radiant heating system (see technical specifications). Due to the natural thermal conductivity and uniform heat dispersion of laminate flooring, the radiant heating can be turned off much earlier during transition periods for increased energy savings.

The cement subfloor must have completely cured and be free from humidity or hydrostatic pressure. To test the subfloor for humidity, cut several pieces of PE film in squares of approximately 50 cm x 50 cm / 20" x 20". Tape PE film squares to the subfloor ensuring the edges are completely sealed. Leave the squares down for 48 hours then remove and check for condensation on the film. If no signs of condensation are present then the installation can proceed normally. If possible, this test should be performed at different time periods before installing the flooring.

The radiant heating system must be put into operation for approximately 2 weeks prior to installing the laminate flooring. The initial system output should be set at its minimum level then increased incrementally on a daily basis until maximum output is reached. Please ensure sufficient ventilation for the area when initializing radiant heating systems.

When maximum output is reached, run at this level for a 72 hour period (time period will vary depending on the type of subfloor: cement = 1 day per cm thickness of subfloor).

Turn off the radiant heating system 1 to 2 days prior to installing the laminate flooring. A subfloor temperature of 64° F / 18° C to 72° F / 21° C should be maintained at all times during the installation.

Please note: It is absolutely essential that a non-porous vapour barrier (PE film) with a minimum thickness of 0.2 mm be installed over the cement subfloors. Overlay the seams of the film by a minimum of 8" / 20 cm when installing. The thermal and acoustic insulation underlayment (i.e. 3/32" / 2.5 mm PE foam) should then be installed directly over the PE film.

Quietwalk underlayment is highly recommended for its excellent heat dispersion characteristics.

The installation of the laminate flooring can now begin. Please follow the laying instructions precisely.

After a drying period of 24 hours, **run the radiant heating up to the required heating output in increments of 18° F / 8° C per day.**

Note: This applies for the beginning of each heating period.

**Note: Room temperature should not exceed 79° F / 26° C. An ideal room climate during the heating period would be a temperature of 68° F / 20° C to 72° F / 22° C and a relative humidity level of 50-60%**

The instructions and information given in this section meet current published industry standards and are given for informative purposes only. These instructions are not binding and cannot be presented as proof in the case of a product claim.

**The *experts* you  
need to know!**

**Windsor Plywood**