



European Producers of Laminate Flooring

*Our most demanding testers are  
sharing house with you.*

A safe bet for better dwelling:  
**The new European standard for laminate flooring.**





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*Helping you to make  
the right decisions.*

EPLF - Association of European Producers of Laminate Flooring

Laminate flooring is ranking ever higher in the popularity ratings. Hardly any other kind of flooring can compete in terms of ease of maintenance and durability, offering so much room for creativity whilst providing that home-sweet-home ambience in which one simply cannot help feeling at home.

To provide effective assistance to prospective customers, sales staff and fitters in making the right choice from a broad range of products, the majority of European laminate flooring manufacturers have joined forces in a trade association.

The EPLF (Association of European Producers of Laminate Flooring) set out back in 1995 to regularly provide information to both the trade and consumers on product properties and developments in the field of laminate flooring. It has since engaged in an in-depth exchange of experience with experts and test institutes, is strongly committed to research and has already brought its influence to bear in establishing meaningful quality differentiation features which are now reflected in a new European standard.

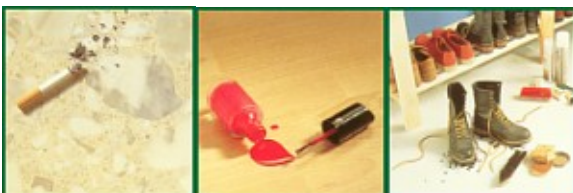
*We want you to feel  
good all around.*

Laminate floors - Prepared for the rough and tumble of everyday life

Today, more than ever, our home is our castle - a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Laminate flooring offers almost limitless opportunities to translate your design visions into practice. The sheer multiplicity of decors and accessories will help you design your very own dream floor.

More than that, laminate flooring is most forgiving when it comes to warding off mishaps. Compared with many other floorings, laminate floors are extremely durable, impact-resistant, castor-proof and largely impervious to cigarette burns and stains. Even marks left by felt-tip or ballpoint pens or nail varnish are easily removed thanks to the pore free surface of the material, allowing quick and easy cleaning.

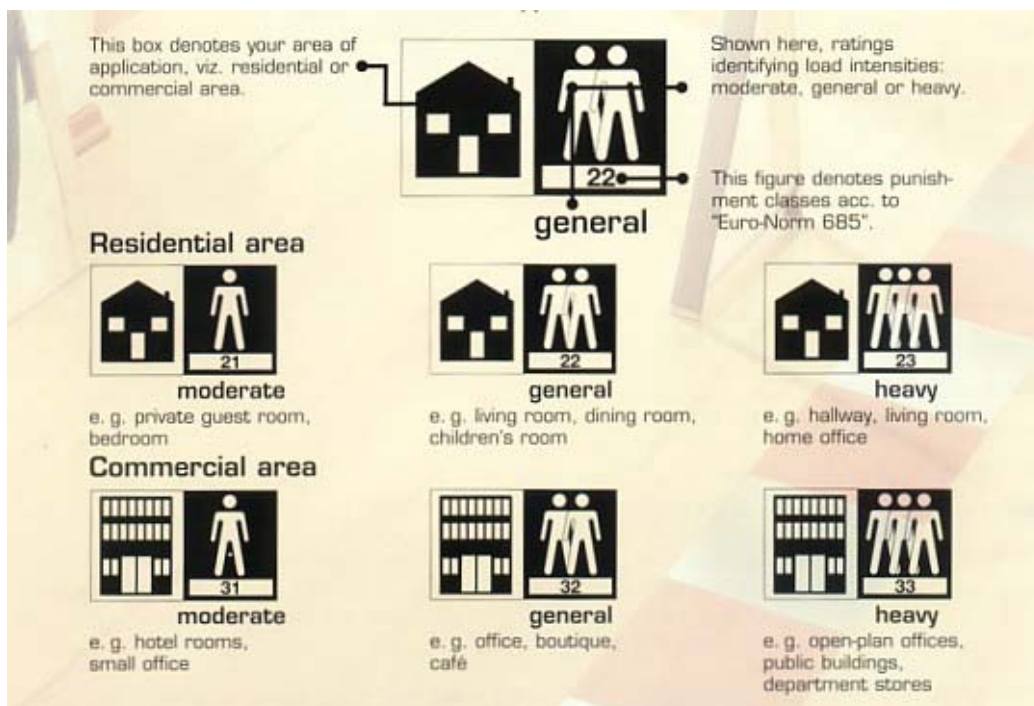
In testing laminate flooring, the new European standard now takes into account various degrees of wear and exposure. EPLF has made an essential contribution to identifying such levels of use, implementing symbols to help the consumer specify the product for the job. With the aid of the pictographs and explanations shown here, you can now choose the type of laminate flooring that best suits your personal requirements.



## *Performance and quality.*

How to choose the type of laminate flooring to match your needs

The labelling requirements contained in the new European standard provide greater detail on which to base your choice of laminate flooring and will give you a better understanding of which laminate flooring products best suit the various requirements in domestic and commercial applications.



The different levels of use not only take abrasion into account, as was the case in the past, but also include more specific requirements, such as impact resistance, resistance to staining and cigarette burns, the effects of furniture legs or castors and thickness swelling along element edges.

Even if a product fails to comply with only one single rating, approval for the level of use in question is denied. Furthermore, the procedure to test abrasion resistance has been standardised on the basis of more stringent criteria.



## *Enjoy your laminate floor for many years to come.*

### The ten most important rules on the proper installation of laminate flooring

1. Consult your dealer when choosing laminate flooring, and consider right from the start the application to which it will be put. The pictographs will help you make up your mind.
2. Installation instructions describe in detail how a professional fitter would set to work.
3. The right tools for the job are essential in achieving excellent results. Professional fitters, of course, have all the necessary tools at their disposal.
4. First check on whether the foundation is level enough and sufficiently dry (cf. fitting instructions). A vapour barrier is generally required over a cast plaster floor.
5. Next, lay the type of underlay material best suited to the conditions in hand to improve footfall sound insulation.
6. Prior to installation work, inspect each individual flooring element closely for surface blemishes, as complaints cannot be accepted after installation.
7. Instructions on how best to apply glue to the tongues and/or grooves are included in a leaflet enclosed with each package.
8. Next fit the first two rows of elements without glue and align them with the shape of the room. Once glue has been applied, it is important to ensure that the joints fit tightly and that the rows are perfectly straight and correctly aligned. Only then should you proceed with further rows.
9. Start the way you mean to go on! The rules that apply on how to treat your laminate floor during installation are equally relevant later: Protect your new floor by using floor mats or scatter rugs in the hallway to clean feet as a room or building is entered.  
To clean your new floor, simply use a broom, a vacuum cleaner or a slightly damp mop.
10. Make full use of expert advice. Your dealer will be glad to answer any questions you may have after the floor has been installed and to give you further tips on how to get the most out of your laminate floor for a long time to come.