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Installing Unilin Flooring over underfloor heating

Edition: 03.2011

All Unilin Flooring products (except Linese) may be installed over underfloor heating provided the conditions listed below are met. The underfloor heating must consist of heating elements with either warm water or electrical resistances embedded in the subfloor. Electrical mats laid on the subfloor are not approved for use at this time.

Adhere to the following guidelines for a successful installation:

- All general installation instructions **must** be followed.
- Unilin-made laminate flooring **must** be installed as a floating floor.
- Underlayment is required. Unilin-made underlayment is recommended. Alternative foam underlayment (maximum 1/8" inch thickness) could be used but its suitability for underfloor heating must be verified independently.
- Choose an underlayment with the plastic moisture barrier film built-in or start with a minimum 6 mil poly/DPM on the base floor. If using separate poly sheeting, try to use a single sheet, or, if more sheets are required, ensure they overlap each other by 1 inch and are securely taped together with waterproof/heatproof tape.
- The maximum allowed heat resistance (R value) of the total floor covering is 0.8517 hr.ft².°F / BTU. Unilin flooring (9.5 mm, 8 mm, and 7mm) in combination with our underlayments are well under this maximum. Unilin-made flooring with attached pad may also be used over radiant heat providing all installation requirements are met.
- Be sure that the expansion gap between the floor and the wall, as well as the expansion gap around pipes, is at least 5/16 inches. **Do not exceed 35 feet in overall length or width.**

Concrete as a base floor:

- The installation of the concrete and the floor heating must be done according to the instructions of the supplier of the floor heating and of the concrete.
- In order to obtain an even temperature all over the floor, the maximum distance between the heating elements is 1 foot. The depth of the pipes is defined by the heating manufacturer.
- The concrete must be sufficiently dry. According to the CM method, the moisture content should be less than 1.5%.
- Start up the heating gradually, 10°F a day, minimum 2 weeks before laying, and minimum 21 days after the installation of the concrete.
 - 50 % of the capacity during 2 weeks.
 - 100 % for the last two days.
- If the concrete is newly laid, please follow the instructions of your heating installer. A heating-up protocol must be available and should be asked for.

Heating in general:

- At the time of installation, the temperature of the floor **may not exceed 64°F.**

- Wait at least 24 hours after installing the laminate before changing the temperature settings. Increase the temperature gradually, a maximum of 5°F a day.
- **Never raise the flooring surface temperature above 82°F for the life of the installation.**
- Throughout the life of the installation, the consumer should only increase or decrease temperature settings 5°F per day, so the laminate can adapt to the temperature changes in a gradual manner. Always change the temperature gradually at the beginning and ending of a heating season.
- Make sure that the atmosphere in the room does not become too dry during the heating season. Use a humidifier if necessary to maintain the relative humidity levels.
- At a temperature of 65-72°F, the relative humidity must be between 45-65 %.
- The end consumer should be aware that minor gapping between planks during the heating season is a normal occurrence with laminate over radiant heated subfloors. Proper humidity controls within the home will help to minimize this type of natural reaction to seasonally changing climate conditions.
- Accumulation of heat under an area rug or because of insufficient ventilation under furniture (example: overstuffed couch with floor drape) must be avoided. Do not use area rugs during the heating season.

For further questions or supplementary information, do not hesitate to contact Unilin US Technical Services:

1 888 387-9882 option 1 or email: technical_specialist@us-unilin.com