

# THE GUILD

BY DUCHATEAU

THE GUILD BY DUCHATEAU | KINDRED COLLECTION  
INSTALLATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Intended for indoor residential and commercial use only, The Guild® Kindred Collection is suitable for above-grade, on-grade and below-grade applications. Installations outside these recommendations are NOT warrantable.

The Guild® Kindred Collection is a floating floor and as such, should be allowed to expand and contract freely. It must NOT be glued, nailed or fastened to the substrate in any way. Install permanent cabinets, vanities, island counters and similar items first, then fit The Guild® Kindred Collection products around them, leaving a ¼" space for expansion and contraction.

## FOR BEST VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF YOUR FLOOR

The Guild® Kindred Collection uses high variation print technology with embossed in register designs for an incredibly natural look and feel. For the best visual effect, open several boxes, **mix planks from multiple boxes** and "dry lay" the floor before completely laying the floor.

## BEFORE YOU START

Perform a pre-install product inspection, examining the flooring's color, gloss, finish and quality. Although Duchateau has strict quality manufacturing standards on color consistency regardless of Lot Number, it is recommended that the flooring come from the same Lot Number. Lot Number is indicated on the side label of each box. If you are satisfied with your pre-install product inspection, proceed.

## STORAGE, HANDLING CARE AND PRECAUTIONS

- Protect carton corners from damage.
- Must be stored flat, horizontally and stacked no more than six cartons high at all times to acclimate cartons thoroughly top to bottom.
- Improper storage can result in warping and difficult assembly.
- Storage area and job site should be climate-controlled with temperatures of 65° F - 85° F (20° - 29° C).
- Do not install The Guild Kindred Collection products over carpeting.

## CONDITIONS TO AVOID

Avoid installations in sunrooms, solariums, saunas or any outdoor use. We do not recommend installing this product in rooms that are not temperature controlled. Avoid long-lasting exposure of flooring to direct sunlight. Extreme solar exposure, heat and extreme temperature changes can damage the flooring.

## SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

- All substrates must be structurally sound and free from movement or deflection.
- The substrate must be clean, dry, flat and free of any defects. Carpet staples or glue residue must be removed.
- To support the locking system, the subfloor must be flat within 3/16" per 10' radius.
- Smooth and level all irregularities with a (Portland) cement base or synthetic gypsum patching and leveling compound.

## Concrete

- Prepare concrete substrates in conformance with ASTM F710. New concrete, including lightweight gypsum toppings, should cure for at least 90 days before conducting moisture tests.
- Always execute the most current version of either the RH Test (ASTM F2170) or Calcium Chloride Test (ASTM F1869) and pH Test (ASTM F710) prior to installation. Results for RH Test should not exceed 85% relative humidity.
- Calcium Chloride Moisture Test for moisture should measure no more than 8 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours MVER. The pH Tests for alkalinity levels should register between 7 and 9.
- A 6mil polyethylene moisture barrier is required for all concrete subfloors. Overlap the edges of the barrier by a minimum of 8", and seal the junction with moisture-proof tape to prevent moisture from seeping through.

## Wood

- Suspended wood subfloors shall have a minimum 18" of well-ventilated air space clearance above the ground.
- Allow wood floors to breathe – do not apply sheet plastic over bare wood floors.
- A moisture vapor retarder shall be installed over the crawl space with overlapping widths and lengths.
- Wood subfloors must be constructed according to local building codes and be structurally sound with no deflection.
- Sand or plane down high spots. Repair squeaky floor prior to installation.
- Smooth and level all irregularities with a (Portland) cement base or synthetic gypsum patching and leveling compound.

## Existing Sheet and Tile Flooring

- Existing flooring must be fully adhered and in good condition.
- Existing floating floor must be removed.
- Repair any damaged areas.
- Heavily cushioned vinyl floor or vinyl floor consisting of multiple layers are not suitable as a subfloor.
- Ceramic tile and terrazzo installed must meet flatness requirements. Make smooth by applying a cement overlay, or suitable patching or leveling compound to smooth out surface and grout joints.

## Radiant Heat

- The Guild Kindred Collection products are suitable for installation over radiant heating systems provided that the heating element is not in direct contact with the flooring.
- New heating systems should be running two weeks before installation to remove residual moisture.
- Lower temperature of heating system to 60° F for one week prior to installation.
- Gradually increase temperature after installation of flooring in increments of 10° F per day to avoid "shock" to the product.
- Surface temperature should neither exceed nor sustain 85° F.

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## CONDITIONING / ACCLIMATION

Acclimate the flooring in unopened box for 48 hours at ideal room temperature range between 65° F - 85° F (20° - 29° C). Conditions in which the floor was acclimated should be maintained for 48 hours pre- and post-installation. Avoid drastic temperature changes as they may cause the product to expand and contract excessively resulting in gaps. Best practice is to keep in-service temperatures as close to the temperature at time of acclimation as possible.

## ROOM PREPARATION

- Remove existing shoe moulding, quarter round and doorway transition mouldings. Old or new mouldings must be of sufficient size to cover the 1/4" expansion area around the perimeter of the floor. For 1/4" expansion spaces that cannot be covered by base moulding, silicone caulking may be used to fill the expansion gap for a more finished appearance. The silicone caulk remains flexible, allowing the floor to continue to expand/contract over the course of its lifetime, while preventing dirt from collecting in the gap.
- Leave at least 1/2" between the surface of the flooring and the bottom of electric baseboard heaters to allow circulation.
- Undercut door mouldings and casings to allow the flooring to fit underneath without restriction. Sweep and/or vacuum substrate to remove all dirt and debris.
- After installation, it may be necessary to trim the bottom of any doors to allow for any change in floor height.
- Do not fit this floor tight against any fixed, vertical objects (ex. walls, pipes, passageways, staircases). Again, a minimum of 1/4" expansion space is required around the perimeter of the room as well as any fixed objects.
- All floating floors require that cabinets be installed before installing the new planks.

## GETTING STARTED

- Determine in which direction the planks will be installed. To make the room appear larger or if installing in very small rooms or hallways, it is preferable to lay the planks parallel to the longest room dimension.
- Carefully measure the room to determine squareness and to determine the width of the last row of planks. If the width of the last row of planks is less than 2" excluding the tongue, cut and adjust the width of first row of planks accordingly.
- Inspect all planks for visible defects and damage before and during installation. Do not install damaged planks. Duchateau will NOT accept responsibility for claims on flooring installed with obvious defects.
- During installation, inspect the groove area for any debris that may prevent proper assembly of planks.

## STAGGERED LAYOUT PREP

To begin a staggered layout, the tongue side of the plank shall face the starting wall, groove-side facing outwards. Begin laying planks on the left side of the starting wall, working to the right. For best overall appearance, use either option (a) or (b):

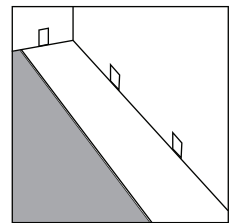
- a. Start with a full plank for the first row, a 1/2 plank for the second row and a 1/3 plank for the third row. Repeat until completion.
- b. Start with a full plank for the first row, a 1/2 plank for the second row and a full plank for the third row. Repeat until completion.

NOTE: For rooms larger than 60' in any direction, a T-Molding is required to account for the normal movement of the floor. When possible, T-Moldings should be utilized in areas such as doorways and archways.

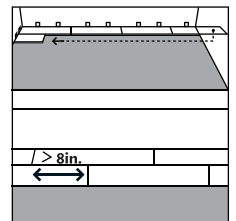
NOTE: The last row of planks may need to be cut lengthwise to obtain the proper width. The width of the last row shall not be less than 2". Align a plank that has been cut to the correct length exactly over the first plank in the previous row. Lay a scrap plank over top of the plank to be cut and mark the distance with a pencil. Cut each plank accordingly. When performing this step, remember to allow for proper spacing between the wall and the last row of planks.

## THE FIRST ROW

**Step 1:** When assessing the layout for the first row, dry lay all the full length planks that fit in that row. More than likely, the last plank will need to be cut to complete the row. First, measure the distance between the wall and the surface of the last full plank. Subtract 1/4" from this measurement to allow for the spacer. If this measurement is less than 11", the length of first plank in the row should also be adjusted. This will allow for a longer plank at the end of the row. The first and last plank in each row should be at least 11" in length. With the first row assessed, cut the necessary planks and start by placing 1/4" spacers between the short and long side of the planks and the wall.



**Step 2:** The remaining piece cut off from the last plank in the first row will serve as the starter, or first, plank in the second row provided it is at least 11" long. There must be at least 8" between plank end joints on adjacent rows.



**Step 2:** When laying the first row, interlock the short ends by dropping the tongue into the groove and then pressing firmly on the short end until a sound is heard. Never hit the pieces. If you need to tap to engage the clip system, tap gently with a rubber hammer or mallet on the top of the board ONLY.

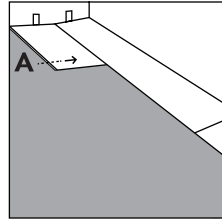
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## SECOND AND CONSECUTIVE ROWS

**Step 3A:** For the First Plank of the second row, position plank with short end-side against the wall and the long side along the first row. Remember to place a 1/4" spacer between the wall and the plank. Lock the long edge of the plank by inserting the tongue into the groove at an angle and drop into place (see a).



**Step 3B:** For each Subsequent Plank in a given row, again lock the long edge of the plank by inserting the tongue into the groove at an angle and drop into place (see a). Ensure that the short end joints are engaged as you drop the plank to the floor. Run your thumb along the short side until you hear a clicking sound. Then repeat Step 2.

**NOTE:** The lock joints cannot be 'lifted' or angled apart when removing or repositioning a plank. To remove a plank joined by the short end, do NOT lift the planks. Slide them horizontally in the opposite direction.

## CUTTING AROUND PIPES

1. Measure the distance from the wall to the center of the pipe. Mark the plank where the hole for the pipe will be drilled. Remember to allow for the 1/4" spacer.
2. Measure the diameter of the pipe. With a utility knife, cut the hole in the plank 1/4" larger than the diameter of the pipe.
3. If the hole for the pipe is located in the center of the plank, make a cut perpendicular to the long side of the plank. The cut should be made going directly through the hole.
4. If the hole for the pipe is located near the edge of the plank, make two 45° angle cuts to the hole from the side of the plank closest to the hole.
5. You can now position the two pieces around the pipe.
6. Fill the expansion space around the perimeter of the pipe completely with a high quality silicone caulking.

## INSTALLING UNDER A DOOR JAMB

Step 1: Undercut space under door jamb to allow plank to slide freely.

Step 2: Under door jambs, there may not be enough clearance to achieve the required angle necessary to engage the sides. The tongue portion of the sides should be cut away using a wood chisel, and the boards glued together using high quality white wood glue.

## FINISHING THE INSTALLATION / FLOOR CARE

- Remove spacers from perimeter of room. For tubs, showers and all wet areas, use a high quality silicone caulking to fill the expansion space to prevent water seepage under the floor.
- Install transition moldings. Do not fasten transitions through the floor.
- Install quarter round or baseboard moulding. Moulding must be sufficient size to cover the 1/4" expansion space. Do not fasten mouldings through the floor. Fasten into the wall. Again, for any 1/4" expansion spaces that cannot be covered by base moulding, silicone caulking may be used to fill the expansion gap for a more finished appearance.
- Use plywood, luan, paneling or masonite when moving furniture or appliances.
- Use coasters or proper floor protectors under the legs of furniture.
- The Guild Kindred Collection products can be maintained by using a dry dust mop (such as a Swiffer®) or cleaned with luxury vinyl tile floor cleaners. Do NOT use abrasive cleaners.
- Scratches are site related, and thus, not warrantable.

**NOTE:** Duchateau does not warrant installers' workmanship. Workmanship errors should be addressed to the contractor who installed the floor. Your floor should be professionally installed by contractors who have demonstrated expertise in installing resilient floors.

For questions regarding the installation of your Duchateau floor, please contact Duchateau at 1.888.DUCHATEAU.