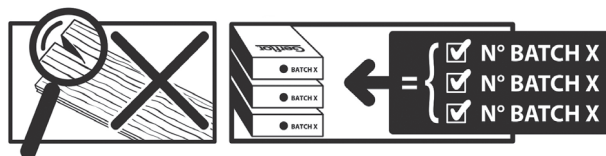



## [312] INSTALLATION GUIDELINES: TOPSILENCE DESIGN

All floor and wall coverings should be examined prior to installation for any visible defects. If there are any visible defects, please notify GERFLOR and do not begin installation without its prior approval.




For any information on product properties and usages, please refer to its technical datasheet: [www.gerflor.fr](http://www.gerflor.fr)

### 1. AREAS OF APPLICATION

LOOSE-LAY CONDITIONS	Laying a PE underlayer is required for all installations. Each enclosed room must be considered separately. Leave a 10 mm edge gap between walls, elements such as doors, pipes, etc. and the planks / tiles. Increase to 15 mm if the surface is more than 11 x 5 m and between each room.
LAYING TEMPERATURE	Floor covering installed in temperature-regulated premises TEMPERATURE BETWEEN 18 & 22 °C and ambient moisture content (50 - 60 % RH).
VERANDA / CONSERVATORY 	<b>Prohibited</b>

### SUBSTRATES

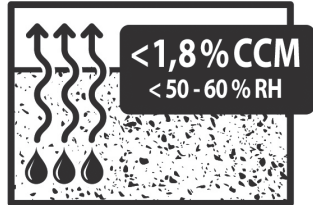
TILES	On tiles with unevenness of not more than 1 mm, and joints not wider than 6 mm and not recessed. Otherwise, fill them with a grouting product or levelling compound over the entire surface, so that the grouting joints are not visible (no telegraphing).
CONCRETE FLOOR, PAINTED CONCRETE, LEVELLING CONCRETE, LIQUID CEMENT SCREEDS	Bonded or floating screeds are laid according to NF P 14-201-1 (Ref. DTU 26.2). Mortar or concrete tiles and floors are laid according to NF P 18-201 (Ref. DTU 21). Anhydrite screeds are laid according to the relevant technical reports. If necessary, apply a levelling compound to eliminate any surface irregularities. Sand, dust off. After any surface preparation of old floor coverings (tiles, stone tiles, etc.), a PE film at least 0.2 mm thick or an equivalent vapour barrier must be laid by making a 20 cm overlap and a 2 cm upstand along the walls (lining).
SOUNDPROOFING PVC FLOOR COVERINGS IN COMPACT TILES AND ROLLS	If the substrate requirements are met and more than 90% of the room's surface is in a good condition, remove the defective tiles, fill the gaps with levelling compound, and then lay the planks after the substrate has dried. Otherwise, the entire floor covering will have to be taken up and the substrate prepared from scratch. If there is a PVC floor covering, a PE film at least 0.2 mm thick or an equivalent vapour barrier must be laid by making a 20 cm overlap and a 2 cm upstand along the walls (lining).
TEXTILE FLOOR COVERING (CARPET) 	<b>Prohibited, remove then prepare the substrate again.</b>
LAYING ON FLOORBOARDS AND WOOD-BASED PANELS	Floorboards or wood-based panels are laid in accordance with NF P63-203-1 (Ref. DTU 51.3). Regardless of the preparation adapted to each type of substrate, it is recommended to ensure the ventilation of the load-bearing structure. Basically, floorboards or wood-based panels should not be covered tightly with underlayers making the structure airtight.
GLUED PARQUET	<b>Complete removal</b>
PARQUET NAILED ONTO BATTENS SPACED NO MORE THAN 0.30 M APART, WITH VENTILATION OF THE INSIDE FACING	Allowed
FLOATING PARQUET OR PANEL	<b>Complete removal</b>
LAMINATED FLOOR	<b>Complete removal</b>
OSB BOARD	<b>Complete removal or lining boards</b>
UNDERFLOOR HEATING	
UNDERFLOOR HEATING WITH CIRCULATING HOT WATER AT MAXIMUM 27°	When laying laminate floor covering elements suitable for the underfloor heating system. Ensure the heating system is fully commissioned prior to installation. This heating must be turned on 24 h before and restart 24 h after.
LOW TEMPERATURE WATER REVERSIBLE UNDERFLOOR HEATING	
RADIANT ELECTRIC UNDERFLOOR HEATING THE REGULATIONS REQUIRE $\leq 0,15 \text{ m}^2 \times \text{Kelvin} / \text{Watt}$	<b>Prohibited</b>
<b>If the substrate is not in this list: please contact us.</b>	

## 2. SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

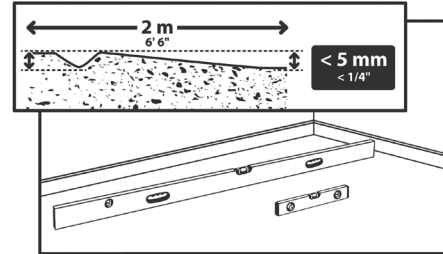
### 2.1. SUBSTRATE REQUIREMENTS



The flooring must be laid on a flat, clean, sound, dry and solid substrate.



The moisture content must not exceed 1.8% with a carbide bomb test (Control Carbide Moisture), and 0.5% CCM for anhydrite screed.



Evenness must be  $< 5 \text{ mm}$  under the 2 m rule. The floor must not have any uneven areas  $> 1 \text{ mm}$  every 20 cm in order to limit walking noise. The substrate should be smooth and dust-free.

#### 2.1.1 Tiled substrate

The dividing joint or grouting joint must not have a gap  $> 6 \text{ mm}$ .

### 2.2. PREPARATORY WORK ON NEW CONCRETE SUBSTRATES

The surfaces should be prepared with care so as to remove any soiling, laitance, curing compounds or any other foreign bodies. If the substrate does not meet the requirements, a substrate preparation must be carried out.

#### • Crack treatment:

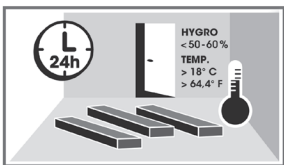
Treat cracks before applying a patching compound if the uneven area is  $> 1 \text{ mm}$  or there is a gap of  $> 4 \text{ mm}$ .

#### • Joint treatment:

- Contraction joints: Treat joints before applying a patching compound if the unevenness is  $> 1 \text{ mm}$  or there is a gap of  $> 4 \text{ mm}$ .
- Construction joints: Similar to cracks, same treatment.

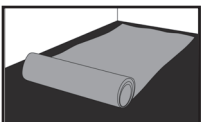
## 3. INSTALLATION

### 3.1. LAYING CONDITIONS



The planks / tiles must be stored in their packaging in the room in which they are going to be laid for at least 24 hours before installation. To avoid major colour differences, mix the planks / tiles from several different boxes from the same series. The room temperature at the time of installation must be between 18 and 22°C.

### 3.2. LAYING A PE UNDERLAYER (REQUIRED FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS)



Anti-moisture, PE min. 0.2 mm (1.2 mm if cellulose-free), minimum overlap of 20 cm between 2 rolls, minimum 2 cm of upstand on walls. If necessary, additional sound insulation, max. 3 mm.

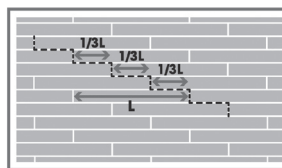
### 3.3. LAYOUT

Unless otherwise specified in Market-Specific Documents, the arrangement of planks/tiles must follow these principles:

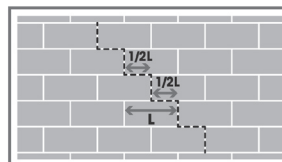
- Each enclosed room must be considered separately.
- The planks/tiles used in a room must be from the same batch.

- The contractor must carefully analyse the plank/tile layout to meet these requirements:

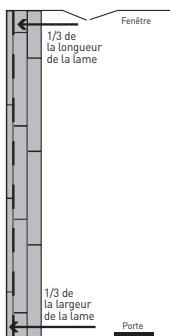
- In rooms, the planks/tiles must be oriented towards the wall with the main window, or lengthwise.
- In corridors, the planks/tiles must be arranged in the direction of traffic.
- The planks/tiles must be installed so that the width of the planks/tiles in standard sections is greater than half a plank/tile.
- At the edges, the width of the planks/tiles must if possible be the same on both sides.



- At the ends of the rows, the length of the planks/tiles must be  $> 25 \text{ cm}$ .
- Planks must be offset by at least 25 cm, ideally  $1/3$ rd of the plank.



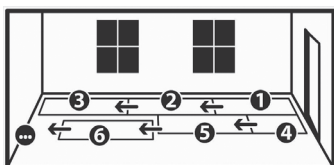
Tiles must be offset by half.



### 3.4. MARKING OUT THE AXIS

- Measure the width of the room then divide it by the width of a plank/tile. Round up the result to the nearest unit.
- If the result is an even number, the axis will be equidistant from the walls (centred axis).
- If the result is an odd number, shift the centred axis by half a plank/tile width (offset axis).
- Move the centre axis or offset axis by a multiple of the plank/tile width so it runs along the starting wall.

### 3.5. EDGES



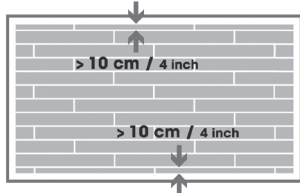
Leave a 10 mm edge gap between walls, elements such as doors, pipes, etc. and the planks / tiles.

- Start laying the planks/tiles in a corner of the room.
- Move backwards as you lay the planks/tiles, with the tongues facing towards you.

*Tongues facing towards you and to the left if you start on the right of the room.*

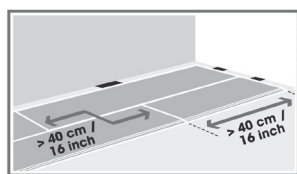
### 3.6. INSTALLATION

There are two possible methods:



#### Method 1:

- Align the joints every three rows. Offset each row by one third of a plank length and by half of a tile length.
- Avoid small cuts at the end of the rows (< 10 cm).



#### Method 2:

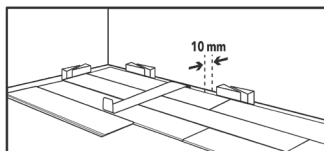
- Laying with "hidden joints". Start the second row with the offset from the last plank/tile of the previous row.
- Planks / tiles must be offset by at least 40 cm.

#### 3.6.1. Expansion clearance

##### Perimeter clearance:

Laminate floor covering elements undergo dimensional changes during climatic changes (expansion / increase in size and contraction / decrease in size).

As a result, an edge expansion clearance of 10 mm and more must be provided as advised by the manufacturer or distributor. The width of the edge clearance is proportional to the surface to be covered.



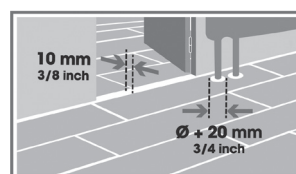
It is essential to maintain a free space between each laminate floor covering element and any fixed point (masonry, skirting, frame, door, pipe, pillar, staircase, fireplace, tiles, etc.). This space or edge clearance must be such that the laminate floor covering elements never come into contact with an obstacle in their expansion-contraction movement.

##### Expansion clearance overlapping:

An expansion clearance must be provided according to the shape and total surface of each room, in different places as follows:

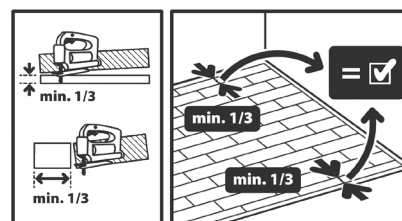
- when the surface laid lengthwise of the laminate floor covering elements exceeds 11 m,
- when the surface laid widthwise of the laminate floor covering elements exceeds 5 m.

At door thresholds and door frame bases:



- in passageways between rooms,
- when the shape on the floor is complex,
- around expansion joints in the substrate or the building.

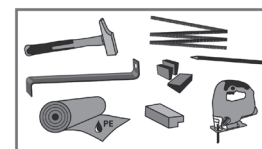
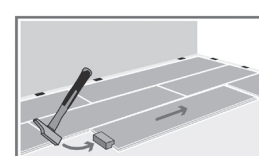
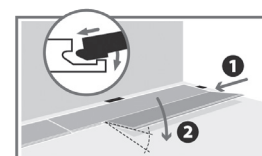
#### 3.6.2. Cutting out (procedure, tools, etc.)



- Scribing is used to cut the edges.
- Cuts are made with a saw.
- Never leave tongues on the perimeter cut planks / tiles.

#### 3.6.3. Interlocking conditions (procedure, tools, etc.)

- Make sure that there are no burrs in the machined section before clipping it together.
- Carefully position the groove opposite the tongue.
- The planks are interlocked.



##### Tools required:

Saw - Tape measure - Metal ruler - Laminate laying kit - Hammer - Tapping block - Pulling bar

## [312] INSTALLATION GUIDELINES: TOPSILENCE DESIGN

## 4. TREATMENT OF SPECIAL FEATURES

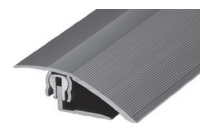
## ■ 4.1. SKIRTING

If the floor covering is laid before the skirting, GERFLOR recommends DESIGN MDF skirtings to finish the junction between floor and wall. Position the skirtings, making sure that they are not applying too much pressure on the planks (to allow for expansion).

If the skirting is already installed, GERFLOR recommends fitting a quadrant onto the wooden skirting to finish the junction between floor and wall. Never fill the peripheral gap with sealant (PU, silicone, acrylic ...)

## ■ 4.2. EXPANSION JOINTS IN SUBSTRATE

Joints with overlay profile: The profile is fitted over the floor covering and is secured on one side only.

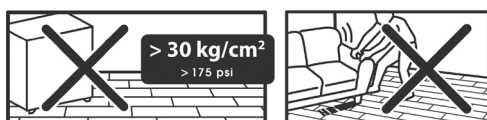


**ROMUS**  
Aluminium Profile  
Ref: 3143

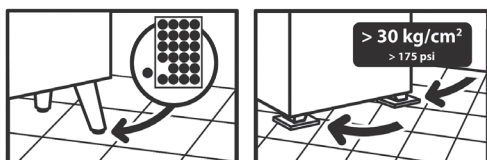
## ■ 4.3. CONNECTION TO ADJACENT ROOMS

To join two rooms with TOPSILENCE planks/tiles, GERFLOR recommends using a door threshold profile with concealed fixings, covering the edges that were left exposed when the flooring was laid. The threshold could be made of wood or metal. Various thresholds are available from manufacturers such as DINAC and ROMUS among others.

## 5. FIRST USE



The flooring can be used as soon as it is laid. Take precautions before use of heavy furniture. Do not use rubber feet on furniture (risk of black stains).



- Ensure that end caps on table and chair feet, castors, etc. are suitable for flexible floor covering (PVC, Linoleum).
- We recommend flat end caps without any pattern and with the surface in full contact with the floor covering (no conical end caps).
- Ensure that office chairs have type H castors compliant with EN 12529.
- Ensure that maximum static load is < 200 kg/support and 30 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

## 6. CARE



The care guides for TOPSILENCE DESIGN are available on the website [www.gerflor.com](http://www.gerflor.com)