



## INSTALLING YOUR IN-OUT UNICLIC FLOOR

### 1) General

The In-Out Uniclic system: the click system that allows you to replace a damaged panel in the middle of your room painlessly, without forcing you to pull up the whole floor. Uniclic has always been a revolutionary system for installing laminate flooring without glue. The ingenious tongue and groove design means the panels click together. With In-Out Uniclic the long side joint has been modified slightly to make installing easier, under doorframes or in hard to reach places for example. It's even possible to replace a damaged panel in the middle of the room without having to pull up half the floor. Naturally, all the benefits of the Uniclic joint have been preserved.

#### There are two ways to click together panels with the IN-OUT UNICLIC system

**A** The panels can be angled together tongue in groove or groove on tongue. Tongue in groove is easiest and that's the one that is usually described here. The groove on tongue method is only necessary in a small number of special situations. Place the panel at a 20-30° angle to an already installed panel. Move the former gently up and down while exerting forward pressure. The panels will click together by design (figure 1A)

**B** In some cases it's not possible to angle the panels together. In that case the panels can be fitted together laying flat. PLEASE NOTE! You will need a hammer and the SPECIAL UNICLIC TAPPING BLOCK. NEVER USE ANY OTHER TAPPING BLOCK. This may damage the panels. The In-Out Uniclic joint will not click together with a single tap. You'll need to tap the short side several times before the whole joint clicks together. For the long sides the process is a gradual one. Start at the corner of a panel with light taps until the panels click together there. Repeat the process at 30 cm (11,81") intervals until the whole long side of the panel has firmly clicked into place (figure 1B) For the best result it's essential that you follow the installation instructions to the letter and USE ONLY UNICLIC ACCESSORIES:

**A.** UNICLIC INSTALLATION KIT (spacers, Uniclic tapping block and crowbar),

**B.** Uniclic combi-floor system. (If the underfloor comes attached to the floor panels, you need only install Uniscreen 150 µ PE foil).

**C.** UNICLIC MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS

- *Uniclic is not suitable for use in damp spaces like bathrooms and saunas.*
- *Check the panels in every pack before and during installation. Defective panels must never be used. Always check the panels in daylight, never in the evening or under artificial light.*

### 2) Tools for installing the floor

Besides the traditional tools used for installing laminate flooring, such as a hammer, saw, crowbar or a pinchbar with a protruding edge to use the hammer on, and spacers (1-8 mm (0.039"-0,315")), it is essential that you use the UNICLIC TAPPING BLOCK. Use any other tapping block and you are sure

to damage the panels during installation. Use a fine-toothed handsaw, a jigsaw or a crosscut saw to saw the panels. To achieve a clean cut the pattern side should face down when you use a jigsaw and up when you use a handsaw or a crosscut saw (figure 2).

### 3) The best preparation

The floor should preferably be installed parallel to how the light falls. The ideal conditions are 15-20°C (59-68°F) at a relative humidity of 50-60%. Check whether:

- doors can still open and close after placement of the floor and underfloor (minimum + 1 cm (3/8"))
- doorframes need to be modified so that the floor can be installed under them
- old skirtings can be removed.

### 4) The base floor

The base floor must be perfectly clean before installation. It also needs to be sufficiently level. Any unevenness greater than 2 mm/m (1/12" / 39"1/2) must be smoothed out. Depending on the situation, remember the following:

#### CONCRETE

##### New building

- The moisture content of the concrete must be less than 2.5% (CM method). Newly poured screed must be given at least one week to dry for every centimetre of thickness up to 4 cm (1"1/2) , and 2 weeks for every centimetre (3/8") of thickness over 4 cm (1"1/2), with sufficient ventilation (6 cm (2"1/2)) screed therefore needs at least 8 weeks to dry).

- If there is underfloor heating, the moisture content must be less than 1.5% (CM method). You do need to follow special installation instructions. Please ask your dealer for more information.

##### Renovation

- The IN-OUT UNICLIC floor panels can be placed on top of damp-proof floor covering (PVC, linoleum, etc).
- Remove any damp-open floor covering (carpet, needle felt, etc) first.

#### PLANK FLOOR

- Remove any floor covering first.
- Ensure that the plank floor is sufficiently stable. Nail down any loose parts and install a levelling floor if necessary.
- The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%.
- The crawl space under the plank floor must be sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and provide sufficient ventilation (minimum 4 cm<sup>2</sup> (0,6 sq.inch) of total ventilation holes per m<sup>2</sup> (10,76 sq.ft) of floor).
- Install the new panels at ninety degrees to the planks.

### 5) The underfloor: The UNICLIC UNDERFLOOR SYSTEM

It is vital that you use a levelling underfloor to smooth away any unevenness in the base floor. Always use the Uniclic combi-floor system (figure 5). (If the underfloor is already attached to the floor panels you only need to install Uniscreen 150 µ PE foil with the adhesive tape provided). Let the plastic foil extend up the wall. You'll attach the skirting here before trimming the foil. If the Uniscreen plastic foil is not large enough to install in one piece, you can lay several pieces, always ensuring there's a 20 cm (8") overlap, which must be fixed together with the watertight adhesive tape provided.

## 6) Correct placement

Wood is the primary constituent of an In-Out Uniclic panel. Room humidity can vary according to season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. The floor may expand up to 2 mm per metre (1/12" per 3,28 ft). Obviously, the larger the surface area, the larger the play required. The floor has to be able to expand or contract in ANY direction. To allow this, the expansion gap at walls needs to be at least 8 mm to 10 mm. This gap is also necessary wherever there is a through pipe or a threshold. Larger surface areas require a wider gap (under double walls for example). Remember that the floor may move in one direction. Provide expansion joints under doors etc wherever possible. These gaps are covered with a profile attached to the base floor rather than the laminate. You should preferably install the panels in the direction of the longest wall, the way the light falls, as it looks more attractive. You can start to install the floor in a corner or in the middle of the room. You can work from right to left or vice versa. Always remember that the easiest way to install the floor is by clicking the tongue into the groove (figure 6).

## 7) The first three rows (see figure 7)

### 8) The last row

There must also be a 10 mm (3/8") expansion joint between the last row and the wall. Keep this in mind when sawing the long sides of the last row. Place these panels one by one next to the panels in the last row but one and tap the long sides together with the crowbar and hammer. Tap the short sides together with the Uniclic tapping block (figure 8).

### 9) Through pipes

In rows where there is a through pipe, ensure that the pipe is exactly in line with the cross joint of two panels. Take a drill bit measuring the diameter of the pipe plus 20 mm (3/4") for the expansion. Click the panels together on the short side and drill a hole centred on the joint between the two panels. Now you are ready to install the panels in the floor (see figure 9).

### 10) Under doorframes

When sawing the panels ensure that the expansion joint after installation is at least 10 mm (3/8"). If you are unable to angle the panel, use a crowbar or tapping block and hammer to tap the panels together.

### 11) Finishing

You can walk on your floor as soon as it's installed for immediate finishing. That's one of the Uniclic system's major benefits.

- Remove all spacers.
- Place the skirtings against the plastic foil projecting upwards from the floor. Never attach the skirtings directly to the floor or the floor will not be able to expand and contract properly under the skirting.
- For a perfect finish around pipes, use rosettes or elastic paste.
- In places where profiles and skirtings cannot be placed, fill expansion gaps with elastic paste.

### 12) Precautions

- Use felt or plastic caps to protect furniture and chair legs.
- Use a doormat or set up a sluice zone to avoid bringing in dirt, water and sand.

- Use wheelchairs with soft rollers suitable for laminate flooring.
- Ensure that humidity in the room is always at least 50%. Use a humidifier if you need to.

### 13) Maintenance

- The In-Out Uniclic panel's smooth surface means it never retains dirt or dust.
- NEVER use wax or varnish coating on the floor.
- For dry maintenance, use a duster (flipper) or vacuum cleaner.
- For damp maintenance, wipe with clean water with or without UNICLIC CLEANING PRODUCT. This will get your floor very clean and give it a satin sheen. (Never use other cleaning products or detergents). Always ensure you use a WELL WRUNG OUT CLOTH. ALWAYS WIPE DRY IMMEDIATELY until no moisture is visible on the floor. If you do not dry wipe your floor the Uniclic cleaning product will have virtually no impact.
- WET MAINTENANCE WILL RUIN YOUR FLOOR!
- Remove stubborn stains carefully with a little acetone. Never use scouring products!
- In-Out Uniclic panels are fixed onto a pre-treated watertight glued HDF board. Despite its relatively moisture-resistant qualities, excess water must be removed immediately.

Good luck!

### 14) Replacing a (damaged) panel.

The IN-OUT UNICLIC system now makes it easy to replace a damaged panel in the middle of the room without having to pull up the whole floor. Thanks to the In-Out Uniclic system all you have to do is remove and reinstall a single row, containing the damaged panel.

Just follow the instructions:

1. Remove the skirtings on the A&B sides of the room (figure 14.1).
2. Find the grooved side of the panel you wish to replace. You'll recognise it by the sawn-off sides.
3. Sit on the groove side of the panel you wish to replace (= surface O2) (figure 14.2). Place two suction lifters on the row in front of the row containing the damaged panel, as close to the longside joint as possible. It is easy to take up a row measuring up to 4-5 metres (160 - 200") as described in the following steps. For longer sections it's preferable to work with two people. Make sure that you never place the suction lifters on a joint, as that will diminish the suction power. If at all possible, move all the furniture in the room to the tongue-side of the panel you want to replace (area O1).
4. Hold the suction lifters and describe a gentle rotating motion while pulling the suction lifters towards you. Do this slowly in a single motion. The row containing the damaged panel will click out of the installed surface O1 (figure 14.3). While you use a suction lifter to elevate the rows, you will be able to click the panel you want to replace out of the row (figure 14.4).
5. Now rotate back the row on which you have placed the suction lifters in the installed surface O2 (figure 14.5).
6. You are now ready to insert the panels back between the two installed surfaces O1 and O2, one at a time. Take a new panel to replace the damaged one.

7. Sit on the other side of the open row on surface O1 and click panel X into row Y (figure 14.6).

8. (A) Place a suction lifter on panel X, centrally along the length but as close to the long-side groove as possible. Place a second suction lifter, two rows farther in such a way that the suction lifters are as far apart as possible while remaining within reach (figure 14.7) (B). Now describe a rotating motion with the first suction lifter so that the panel stands at an angle. Hold the panel in this position while you click in the tongue of panel X while pulling the joint firmly together with the second suction lifter. Now release the panel gently and the panels will click together (figure 14.7).

9. Place spacers between the wall and the panel of the row that you are inserting.

10. Place a heavy object on panel X, as close to the wall as possible. This prevents the panel from

clicking loose while you're still busy (figure 14.8).

11. Now click the second panel (Z) into row Y about 1 cm from panel X (figure 14.9) Place the first suction lifter on panel Z, as close as possible to the long-side groove and the traverse position. Place a second suction lifter, two rows farther in such a way that the suction lifters are as far apart as possible while remaining within reach (figure 14.10). Continue with step 8B on panel Z.

12. Now tap firmly together the short-side joint between the two panels using a tapping block and hammer (figure 14.11)

13. Repeat the process until the whole row has been inserted. You will have to use a crowbar and hammer for the last panel to close the short-side joint.

14. Remove the spacers.

15. Put back the skirtings on the A&B sides of the room.





