



WHITE PAPER

Laminate Flooring Water Performance

Introduction:

Laminate flooring's unique design provides superior water performance. NALFA's Surface Swell - Assembled Joint test method is a reliable means to evaluate the floor's performance. There are four fundamental ways laminate flooring achieves this performance: through its top surface, a tight locking system, treatment of the bevels and edges, and with an enhanced core board technology. As consumers look for flooring solutions that can withstand normal everyday household spills and water challenges, the Laminate flooring industry has responded with high performance engineered innovations.



Photo provided by Kaindl Flooring GmbH

1. “Waterproof” and “Water-Resistant”

Waterproof and water-resistant are terms often used interchangeably when it comes to laminate flooring. Both terms refer to the ability of laminate flooring to resist surface water exposure. The degree of protection may vary from product to product, and it's important to follow the manufacturers' installation, maintenance, and warranty guidelines.

2. The NALFA Surface Swell - Assembled Joint Test Method:

Thankfully, NALFA offers a standardized approach to assess laminate flooring's water protection performance. This test simulates common spills and surface water exposure.



3. How a Laminate Floor Gets NALFA Certified: NALFA requires independent third-party product testing for certification. Manufacturers use several innovative design methods to ensure water resistance that meets the testing criteria.

a. Top Surface

The top of each laminate plank is already protected as part of the design and production.

b. Tight Locking System:

Many laminate floors use a tight lock system to prevent or reduce surface water from passing through the joints or getting under the floor.

c. Treated Bevels and Edges:

Manufacturers may treat the edge of each plank using different methods to further repel water.

d. Enhanced Core Board:

The enhanced core board is crafted to achieve an optimal water resistance, creating a substrate that is more resistant to water penetration.

Conclusion:

NALFA certified laminate floors provide assurance that the challenges posed by common everyday spills and water exposure are met. Look for the NALFA Certification seal below for guaranteed performance.





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