

GALLO IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

**C**HANGING the look and flooring of your lounge or bedroom is child's play with Cashbuild's range of laminated flooring products. Simply follow the five easy steps described here. The flooring costs from R128,25 a sq m and comes in oak, wild almond and yellowwood (SA only). Cashbuild offers a quality guarantee for up to 20 years on its laminated flooring.

**Tools**

Jig saw with laminated saw blade, hammer, expansion spacers, tape measure, scissors or knife, pencil, ruler, mounting adhesive, parquet sealant, water-resistant tape, wood chisel, adhesive, painter's tape, soft cloth, T-mouldings (for large areas).

**Prepare for installation**

- Allow space for the doors to open and close after the floor and underlay have been installed. Make sure the base floor is level. Unevenness of less than 2 mm over a metre can be corrected with the underlay.
- A new concrete floor must dry out for at least a week for each four centimetres of thickness.
- Remove damp, porous floor coverings such as carpets. Ensure the floor is clean and dry.
- For underfloor heating the temperature needs to be limited to 28,8 °C. The moisture level must be less than 1,5 per cent.
- Leave the planks to acclimatise for 48 hours before installation.
- When measuring the area to be covered add 10 per cent for wastage.
- In the case of floor areas longer than 10 continuous metres planks must be joined by a T-moulding to allow for

expansion. T-mouldings are visible once the floor is completed. Keep this in mind when planning the floor space.

**STEP 1**

Roll out the underlay from the doorway to the opposite wall. Use water-resistant tape to secure all the sides of the underlay to the floor and if you need to join pieces. Install the panels – in the same direction as the longest wall. Mix planks from 4 or 5 boxes. If the floor area is longer than 10 continuous metres, join planks with a T-moulding (see Prepare for Installation).

**STEP 2**

Lay the floor from the far left-hand corner of the room (from the doorway) and move towards the right. The groove of the planks must face away from the wall where you start. Leave a gap of 8-10 mm between the boards and walls or other verti-



cal obstructions such as cupboards. Use spacers to maintain the expansion space until installation is complete.

**STEP 3**

Slide the front edge of the second plank into the first by using the tongue-and-groove method. Continue until the row is completed. At the end of each row, cut the planks as required to fit into the remaining space.

**TIP:** Saw laminate planks with the decorated side facing down to prevent damage to the surface.

**STEP 4**

When installing the last row you need full-width scrap plank/s and 8 mm spacer/s. To mark the

last row for cutting, place the full row of planks that will be used directly on top of the last installed planks (keeping the tongue in the same direction as the installed planks). Place a scrap piece of plank along the wall with an 8 mm spacer between it and the wall. Use a pencil to trace a line along the edge of the scrap plank – this will mark the contour of the wall. Cut the planks on the pencil line and install the last row.

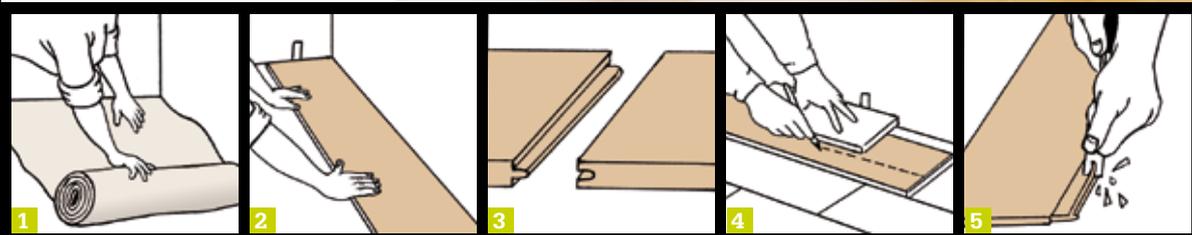
**STEP 5**

Where planks can't be angled to lock into place use a wood chisel to remove the locking ridge from the bottom of the plank groove. Apply a thin line of adhesive to the bottom groove and tap the plank into place using a hammer. Apply strips of painter's tape across the seam to hold it in place until the adhesive sets. Use a clean, soft cloth to clean off any excess adhesive on the surface of the planks. □

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**PERFECT** flooring



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