

# ENGAGE

Solid Clic LVT by METROFLOR™

## Installation Manual

100% WATERPROOF  
FLOATING LUXURY VINYL FLOOR

**Revised 09/28/22**

Note: This document supersedes all printed and electronic Installation and Technical Guides previously distributed for Engage™.

DROPLOCK  
100™



# Get To Know Engage

- Engage is intended for interior use only and is suitable for above-grade, on-grade and below-grade applications. However, Engage should not be installed in locations where the substrate beneath the building structure is exposed to the elements..
- Engage is a floating floor and should be allowed to expand and contract freely. It must not be nailed, or fastened through the flooring and into the subfloor. Seal expansion spaces around potentially wet areas with premium waterproof 100% silicone sealant. Always remove standing water, pet urine and other liquids promptly.
- Direct sunlight may cause Engage to fade or the joints to separate. Protect Engage from direct sunlight using window treatments or UV tinting on windows. Engage is not recommended for use in sunrooms.
- Engage is a waterproof floating floor, but it should not be used to seal an existing floor from moisture. Engage cannot inhibit the growth of mold or prevent structural problems associated with, or caused by flooding, excessive moisture, alkalis in the subfloor, or conditions arising from hydrostatic pressure. Moisture issues should be addressed and corrected at the job site prior to installation.



## PRE-INSTALLATION ESSENTIALS

*Your job will be smooth, fast and easy when you follow the essentials every time you install Engage.*

### EVALUATE THE PREMISES

#### Exterior

Damage caused by water and high humidity should be addressed prior to installing Engage.

- Examine the driveway and landscaping surrounding the building. Be sure that they slope and direct water away from the foundation.
- Inspect gutters, down spouts and drains for blockage. Remove clogs caused by leaves, dirt and debris, allowing runoff to flow freely away from the foundation.
- Check crawl spaces for cross-ventilation air vents equaling at least 1.5% per 100 square feet of floor space. Crawl spaces should measure a minimum of 18 inches high and should be insulated according to the latest building code requirements. The ground should be covered with a minimum 6-mil vapor barrier.

#### Interior

Moisture issues should be identified and corrected at the job site prior to installation.

- Examine the installation site for leaky plumbing, including leaks from water heaters, dishwashers, washing machines, or any other water-bearing fixtures or pipes.
- Inspect substrates for level. They must be sturdy, sound, and flat within  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch within a 10-foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction.
- Metroflor® Corp. recommends testing concrete substrates for relative humidity, moisture and pH before installing Engage. Test results should not exceed 85% relative humidity (RH). The Calcium Chloride Test for moisture should be no more than 8lbs per one-thousand square feet in 24 hours MVER, (Moisture Vapor Emission Rating) and pH tests for alkalinity levels should register between 7 and 9.
- Metroflor Corp. recommends checking wood substrates for moisture. Obvious signs of moisture issues include warping, peaking, degradation of the integrity of the substrate, rusted fasteners, and rusted floor registers. Even if obvious signs are not present, the material should be tested using an invasive moisture meter and moisture levels should not exceed 14%.

ATTENTION: Mold and mildew grow only in the presence of moisture. Moisture issues should be addressed and corrected at the job site prior to installation. Please visit [www.epa.gov/mold](http://www.epa.gov/mold) for information about safely preventing and removing mold, mildew and other biological pollutants.

### IDENTIFY YOUR SUBSTRATE

Engage is suitable for use over a wide variety of substrates.

#### Concrete

**General Conditions:** All Engage is waterproof, but moisture issues should be corrected at the jobsite before installation begins to prevent serious damage to the subfloor and surrounding structure, and to discourage the growth of mold and mildew. Concrete substrates should be prepared in accordance to the most current version of ASTM F710 (Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring). Concrete substrates must be sturdy, sound, and flat within  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch within a 10-foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction. Moisture and alkalinity tests should be performed on all concrete substrates regardless of grade level or age of slab. Perform either ASTM F2170 In-Situ Relative Humidity (RH) test or ASTM F1869 Calcium Chloride Moisture Test (MVER: Moisture Vapor Emission Rating). Perform pH test per ASTM F710 to determine alkalinity of the slab. RH Test results should not exceed 85% relative humidity. The Calcium Chloride Test for moisture should measure no more than 8lbs per one-thousand square feet in 24 hours MVER, and pH tests for alkalinity levels should register between 7 and 9. Electronic meter testing is not considered a replacement for a Calcium Chloride Test or Relative Humidity Test. All moisture tests should be conducted several days prior to installation to be sure that moisture is at recommended levels. Follow current ASTM F710 guidelines. Metroflor Corp. highly recommends that substrate moisture and pH testing is conducted by an ICRI (International Concrete Repair Institute) tier 2 certified third party.

#### Radiant Heat

Radiant heating systems must be cast  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch below the surface of the concrete slab, and should be operating at least 2 weeks before installing Engage. Set the temperature of the radiant heating system to 68°F 48 hours before, during, and 72 hours after installation. The temperature of the radiant heat floor may be increased gradually 72 hours after installation, but the surface temperature should never exceed 85°F. Contact the manufacturer of your radiant heating system for further recommendations.

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## Plywood, OSB, Particleboard & Chipboard

Wood substrates must be A.P.A. approved with a minimum grade of “BB” or “CC”. They must be sturdy, sound, and flat within  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch within a 10-foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction. Metroflor Corp. recommends performing moisture tests prior to installation to prevent serious damage to the subfloor and surrounding structure, and to discourage the growth of mold and mildew. Moisture readings should never exceed 14% for plywood, OSB, particleboard and chipboard substrates. If moisture readings exceed 14%, it is advisable to correct moisture issues at the jobsite before installing Engage.

## Tile, Terrazzo, Asbestos Tile, Resilient Tile, Non-Cushion Sheet Vinyl, & Metal

Existing floors must be firmly attached to the structural floor. They must be sturdy, sound, and flat within  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch within a 10-foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction. Fill in grout lines on ceramic tiles, terrazzo, quarry tiles and similar floors with cementitious leveling and patching compound.

## UNAPPROVED SUBSTRATES

Remove the floors noted below and remove old adhesive before installing Engage. Encapsulate adhesive and cutback..

- Parquet Over Concrete
- Hardwood Over Concrete
- Cushion Back Sheet Vinyl
- Engineered Hardwood Over Concrete
- Carpeting/Carpet Pad
- Floating Floors
- Sleeper Substrates

**NOTE:** Various Federal, State and Local government agencies have regulations governing the removal of in-place asbestos-containing material. If you contemplate the removal of a resilient floor covering structure that contains (or is presumed to contain) asbestos, you must review and comply with all applicable regulations. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphalt “cut-back” adhesive, or other adhesive. These products may contain asbestos fibers and/or crystalline silica. Avoid creating dust. Inhalation of such dust is a cancer and respiratory tract hazard. Smoking by individuals exposed to asbestos fibers greatly increases the risk of bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is a non-asbestos containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content. The RFCI’s Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Covering are a defined set of instructions addressed to the task of removing all resilient floor covering structures. For further information, visit the Resilient Floor Covering Institute website at [www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com).

**ATTENTION:** Mold and mildew grow only in the presence of moisture. Moisture issues must be addressed and corrected at the job site prior to installation. Please visit [www.epa.gov/mold](http://www.epa.gov/mold) for information about safely preventing and removing mold, mildew and other biological pollutants.

## PREPARE THE JOB SITE

Careful preparation is the key to outstanding results. **All trades must finish before installing Engage.**

- **Install Permanent Exterior Doors and Windows**
- **Turn on HVAC at Least One Week Prior to Installation** Room temperature should be maintained between 65°F and 85°F at least 48 hours prior to installation.
- **Allow all other Trades to Finish**
- **Perform Recommended Moisture and pH Tests** See the “Identify Your Substrate” section of this manual for further information about suggested tests.
- **Level Uneven Surfaces** Fill large cracks and voids with cementitious leveling and patching compound. Substrates must be sturdy, sound, and flat within  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch within a 10-foot radius. The substrate should not slope more than 1 inch per 6 feet in any direction.
- **Remove Floor Moldings** Quarter round and wall base should be carefully removed before installation begins. It will be used to conceal the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch expansion space once the job is finished.
- **Fill Grout Lines** Skim coat grout lines on ceramic tile, terrazzo, quarry tile and similar surfaces using cementitious leveling and patching compound.
- **Remove Unapproved Substrates**
- **Remove or Encapsulate Old Adhesive** Old carpet and vinyl adhesives should be scraped up, skim coated or encapsulated using Prevail 1000 Primer-Sealer.
- **Undercut Wood Door Casings** Wood door casings should be undercut so that Engage will fit neatly beneath them, concealing the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch expansion space. Position a plank on the substrate against the door casing. Lay the handsaw flat against the scrap plank and carefully cut the door casing to the height of the plank. If installing over Prevail Floating Floor Underlayment, place a piece of the underlayment beneath a 6-inch piece of plank before undercutting the door casing to the proper height.

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## CHECK RUN NUMBERS AND MANUFACTURE DATE

Locate the run number on the short end of each carton and verify that all of the material for your job is from the same run. Minor shade variations within the same run number contribute to the natural look of Engage. To avoid noticeable shade variations, do not install material from different runs across large expanses.

To determine manufacture date, locate the run number on the short end of the carton. It is the eight-digit number separated by decimal points beginning with the two-digit day, then the two-digit month, and finally the four-digit year.

### Run Number/Manufacture Date

**29.10.2013**  
**DAY.MONTH.YEAR**

## ACCLIMATE THE PRODUCT

Correct acclimation prevents Engage from expanding and contracting excessively after installation.

- Move Engage to the job site and allow to acclimate at least 48 hours prior to installation.
- Spread unopened cartons no more than 3 cartons high and at least 4 inches apart. Cartons should be stacked away from heating and cooling ducts and direct sunlight.
- Maintain a constant room temperature between 65°F and 85°F before, during and after installation.
- Maintain ambient relative humidity between 35% and 85% at all times.

**ATTENTION:** *Only installation techniques described in this installation guide are warranted. Metroflor Corp. does not warrant Engage installations involving custom cutting, such as 45-degree mitered corners and serpentine edges. Please refer to the Engage with Uniclic warranty for complete warranty details and exclusions.*

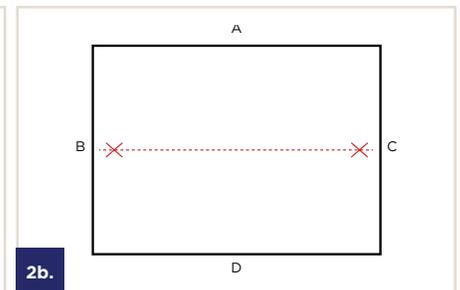
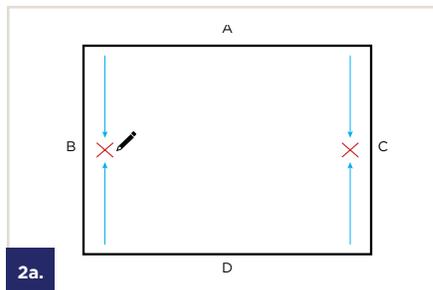
## INSTALLATION OF ENGAGE

### Understanding the Edge Profiles:

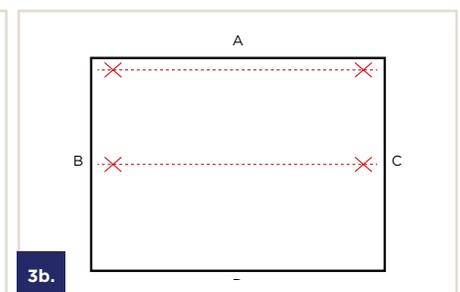
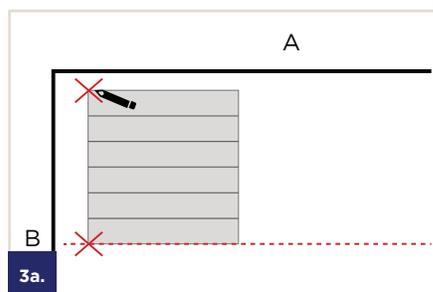


- 1. Layout:** The project layout should be discussed with and approved by the architect, designer, general contractor, end-user, and/or homeowner prior to installation of material.

- 2. Balance the Room:** Balance the layout by measuring and marking the center-point on both sides of the room (2a.). Connect the marks using a chalk line to create the centerline of the area. (2b.) (For tile format installations, an additional perpendicular centerline may be necessary to ensure the room is properly balanced on all four sides.)



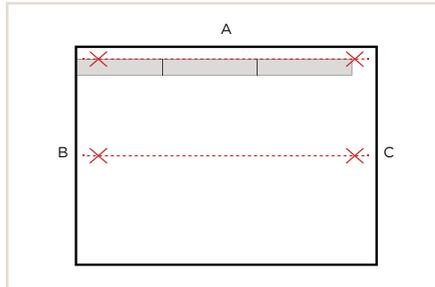
- 3. Establish the Starting Line:** Starting at the centerline, assemble a column of material working toward the starting wall (wall A); continue until no additional full-width pieces can be laid. Place a mark on the substrate along the long edge of the last full-width piece, closest to the starting wall. (3a) Snap an additional chalk line at this location while ensuring that it is perfectly parallel to the centerline. (3b) (Note: If the perimeter pieces are less than half the width of a piece, offset the starting line by shifting away from the starting wall by a distance equal to half the width of a piece.)



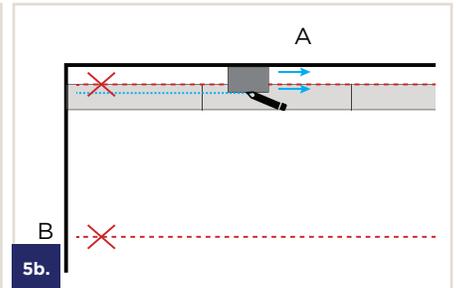
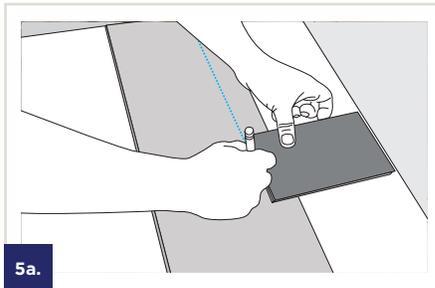
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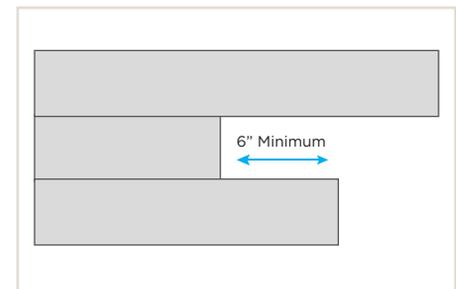
- 4. Position the First Row:** Place full pieces end-to-end along the starting-line with the long tongue-edge facing the starting wall, without engaging the short joints.



- 5. Mark and Cut First Row:** To transfer the contours of the starting wall onto the first row, a “scribing block” will be necessary. To create a scribing block, first determine the size needed by measuring the width of the flooring (excluding the locking profiles) plus an additional 1/4” for a residential project or 3/8” for a commercial project. Cut a piece of scrap flooring, plywood, or similar material to this measurement. Place the scribing block against the wall; mark a line at the edge of the scribing block. Slide the scribing block along the starting wall while continuing to mark. Carefully cut the marked material on the line, these pieces will be used for row #1.



- 6. Determine Proper Staggering:** Maintain a minimum 6” short-joint stagger from row-to-row throughout the entire installation. (Tile format installations should be staggered in a brick-laid pattern with stagger equal to half of a tile.)

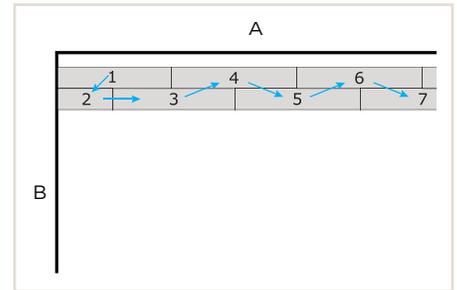


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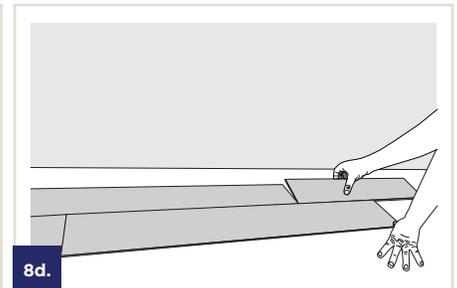
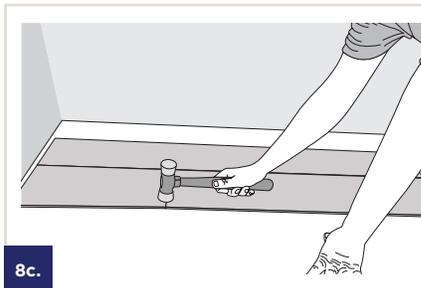
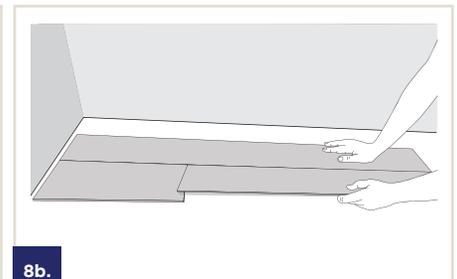
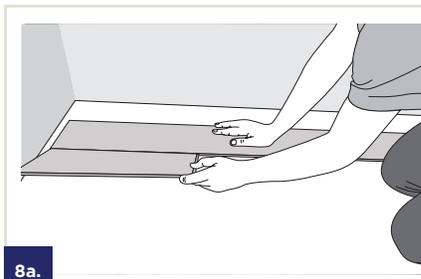
7.

**Sequence of Installation:** Installation will move from left to right, beginning in the left corner while facing the starting wall. The installation will alternate back and forth between rows one and two, for the first two rows only.



8.

**Install Starting Rows:** Place the first piece of row #1 several inches from the starting wall with the long cut edge facing the starting wall. (8a.) Cut the first piece of row #2 to one-third its length. Interlock the long tongue-edge of the first piece of row #2 into the long groove-edge of the first piece of row #1, ensuring that there are no gaps. (8b.) Using a hammer and a Prevail Tapping Block, carefully tap along the long groove-edge to fully engage the joints. Make certain the long joints are engaged before tapping down the short joints using a soft face hammer. (8c) Continue installing rows #1 and #2 until you reach the opposite wall and cannot install another full-length piece.



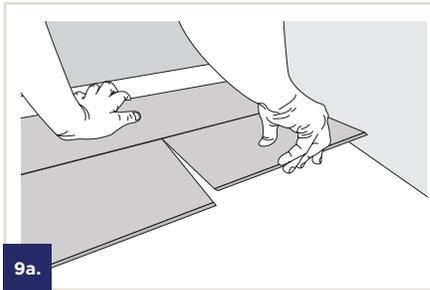
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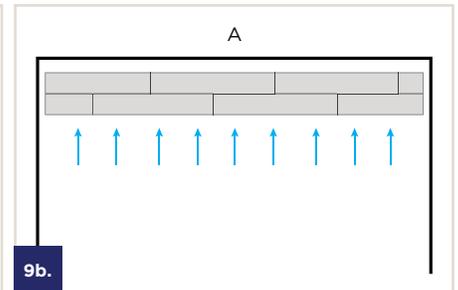
9.

## Install Last Pieces of Rows 1 and 2:

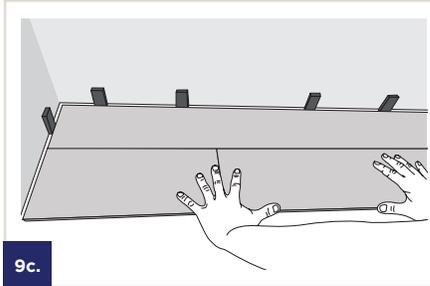
Measure, mark, and cut the final pieces of rows #1 and #2 ensuring both sides of the rows have proper expansion space. Residential projects require a 1/4" expansion space. Place appropriately sized spacers along the left, right, and starting walls. Slide the assembly over and against the spacers along the starting wall.



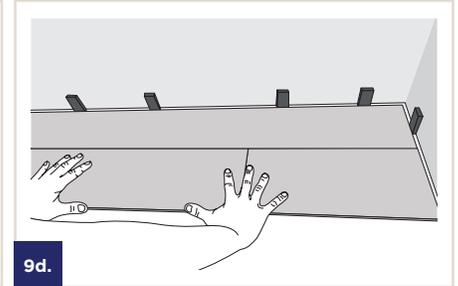
9a.



9b.



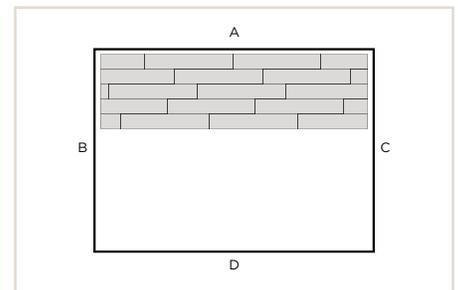
9c.



9d.

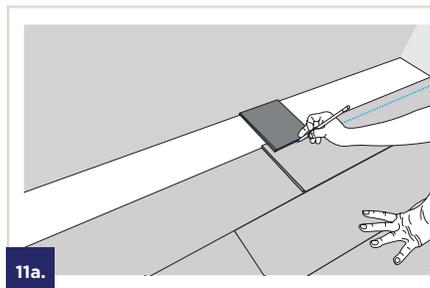
10.

**Install Remaining Rows:** Install the remaining material, one row after another. Always tap the long joint tight using the Prevail Tapping Block before tapping the short joint down using the soft face hammer. Maintain the required stagger throughout the installation.

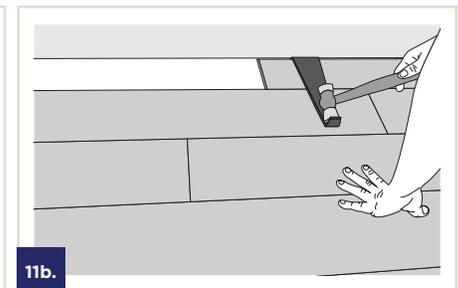


11.

**Install the Final Row:** Using the scribing block; mark, cut, and install the final row. Always ensure proper expansion is provided. Use a pull bar to fully engage the long joints. Do not use the pull bar on the short edges.



11a.



11b.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

### ROUTINE CARE & MAINTENANCE

- Sweep, dust mop or vacuum daily. Do not use vacuums with any type of beater bar assembly.
- Lightly damp mop with Prevail Neutral Cleaner. Remove excess soil by carefully scrubbing with a soft nylon brush or magic eraser sponge and Prevail Neutral Cleaner.
- Remove scuffs using Prevail Black Scuff and Adhesive Remover and a soft nylon brush or magic eraser sponge.
- Heavily soiled floors may require an occasional deep cleaning using Prevail Neutral Cleaner and a low-speed buffer not exceeding 175 RPM. Fit the buffer with a red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor. Remove the dirty residue by damp mopping with clear water. Change mop water often to prevent re-soiling.
- Remove standing water, pet urine and other liquids promptly. Follow with Prevail 1-Step Neutral Cleaner or Prevail Ready to Use Neutral Cleaner.

### PREVENTIVE CARE

- Use walk-off mats at all outside entrances.
- Use flat glides at least 2" in diameter under furniture legs to prevent indentations and scratches.
- Use broad surface non-staining casters at least 2" in diameter on rolling furniture.
- Do not use vinegar, polishes, waxes, oil soaps, abrasive cleaners, harsh detergents, "mop and shine" products or solvents.
- Do not use rubber-backed mats.
- Do not expose to direct sunlight for prolonged periods.
- Do not use steam cleaners.
- Do not flood floor or subject to standing liquids including pet urine.

## WARRANTY REGISTRATION

To register and activate your product warranty, please visit [metroflor.com](http://metroflor.com). The registration information you provide will be used only to register your purchase and for no other purpose.



For further information, please call Metroflor Customer Service at **(888) 235-6672**, or visit our website at **[metroflor.com](http://metroflor.com)**.