

# Floor Covering Media

Your Gateway to the Floor Covering Industry

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## The FloorCraft Report: Lam-Hammer, Inc.

### **Lam-Hammer, Inc.:**

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This Chelan, Washington-based supplier invented the useful Lam-Hammer; neither a pry bar nor a pull bar but a laminate flooring installation tool. Its creative way around the challenge of installing the last plank in a row is popular with do-it-yourself consumers; because it helps them avoid awkwardness and potential for damaging such floors. From experience, do-it-yourself consumers and professional installers are acutely aware of how tricky it is to snap in the last piece either against the wall or under a cabinet. Pry bars and pull bars, conventionally used for the installation of laminate flooring, may pose a risk of damaging the drywall or the toe-kick. This tool helps to avoid expensive repairs, which adds to the cost of a flooring project. Using a pry bar or a pull bar, it is tough to put enough power into the hammer strokes without hitting the wall or cabinetry. The Pullbar also makes 100% contact with the new floor. There is an added risk of damaging the floor if sand or grit - caught underneath the pull bar - were to accidentally mar the new surface. With the Lam-Hammer, minimal contact with the new floor is made where the stabilizer ring touches the surface. Using a pry bar for laminate flooring installations can be damaging because it has to have contact with the walls in order to provide leverage, which may lead to broken drywall or popping out the screwheads. The Lam-Hammer requires only 3/16" space between the end of the board and the wall or cupboard. First, lock in the side; then insert the notched end of this tool between the cut end of the board and the wall. Hold the handle with one hand and with the other hand, move the slide handle with moderate force away from the wall. The board should click into place.