

**Engineered Hardwood Wood HDF Flooring Installation Instructions**  
**35 Year Limited Finished Surface Wear Layer Residential Warranty**

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION.**

**IMPROPER INSTALLATION WILL VOID WARRANTY.**

**Attention: Installer/Owner Responsibility**

Inspect ALL materials carefully BEFORE installation. Wood is a natural product containing variations in color, tone and graining. Some variation in color is to be expected in a natural wood floor. Even though our product goes through many inspections before it leaves the plant, it is the customer and installer's responsibility for final inspection prior to installation. The installer must be selective, and discard or cut off pieces with defects, whatever the source of the defect may be. The use of stain, filler, or putty to correct defects during installation is normal procedure. The flooring warranty **DOES NOT** cover materials with visible defects once they are installed. All claims must be made before installation. We are not responsible for shipping or installation costs. When ordering flooring, add 5%–10% to the actual square footage required to allow for cutting, waste and/or manufacturing defects.

Your engineered hardwood flooring **MUST** be allowed to acclimate to the environment of the installation area. Open package(s), remove boards and spread out as much as possible. Leave in horizontal position in the room for 48 hours prior to installation. Preferable temperature should be approximately 65-75 degrees with a relative humidity of 35-55%.

Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping. **Diagram 1.** If existing baseboard mouldings are difficult to remove, they may be left in place. Quarter round moulding is all that is needed to cover the expansion space between flooring and baseboard.

**Tools and Supplies Required**

Foam underlay, pressure sensitive polypropylene adhesive, spacers, saw, hammer, utility knife, pencil, tape measure, ruler.

**If installing over a crawlspace or on a concrete floor, you must also install a 4-6 mil polyethylene vapor retarder. Do not tape seams when installing over a wood subfloor. Use of a 2-n-1 underlayment with attached polyethylene film is acceptable substitute.**

**Suitable Types of Subfloors and Floor Preparation**

The underfloor or subfloor must be thoroughly even, dry, clean and solid. Carpet staples or glue residue must be removed and floor must be clean to ensure proper installation.

To check for evenness, hammer a nail into the center of the floor. Tie a string to the nail and push the knot against the floor. Pull the string tight to the farthest corner of the room and examine the floor at eye level for any gaps between the string and floor. Move the string around the perimeter of the room noting any gaps larger than 3/16" (4.8 mm). Any floor unevenness of more than 3/16-in. (4.8 mm) per 10-ft. (3 m) must be sanded down or filled in with an appropriate filler.

Floors must be carefully checked for moisture problems. Any moisture problems need to be solved before installation. New concrete needs to cure for at least 60 days before installation.

- Test wood sub floors and wood flooring for moisture content using a pin-type moisture meter. Take readings of the subfloor – minimum of 20 readings per 1000 sq. ft. and average the results. In most regions, a "dry" subfloor that is ready to work on has a moisture content of 12% or less and the wood should be within 4% of the subfloor moisture content.

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- The moisture content for concrete subfloors registered after a calcium chloride test should not be greater than 3 pounds per 1000 square feet of area. If it exceeds these limits, DO NOT install the flooring.

**THIS PRODUCT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DAMP ROOMS SUCH AS BATH- ROOMS, SAUNAS, AND ROOMS WITH DAMP CONCRETE, ROOMS WITH FLOOR DRAINS OR ROOMS THAT COULD POTENTIALLY FLOOD.**

**CAUTION:WOOD DUST**

**The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified wood dust as a nasal carcinogen. The sawing, sanding, and/or machining of wood products can produce wood dust that can cause respiratory, eye, and skin irritations.** Equipment should be equipped with a dust collector to reduce airborne wood dust. Wear an appropriate NIOSH designated dust mask to reduce exposure to airborne wood dust. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes. In cases of severe irritation; seek immediate medical attention. For further technical or installation questions or to request a Product Specification Data Sheet contact the manufacturer.

**Attention California Installers & Consumers**

**WARNING**

**Installation of this product and wood product may create wood dust, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer.**

**Basic Installation**

For installation on concrete floors or any floors over a crawl space a vapor retarder or 2- in-1 underlayment **MUST** be laid down first. Use 4 mil poly. Run the poly 2 in. (5 cm) up walls and overlap seams 18 in. (45 cm). Tape seams when installing over concrete. Do not tape seams over any wood subfloor.

All flooring installations require foam underlay. Run the foam underlay in the same direction as the panels. Underlay should be butted side by side with no overlap. Tape seams together. Or use a 2-n-1 type underlayment. **Diagram 2.**

You will need to remove the tongue, on the long side of the panels that face the wall, from the appropriate amount of panels for your first row. This is to ensure that the decorative surface is well under the finished trim when installed. Use a utility knife to score through the tongue several times until it easily snaps off.

**Diagram 3.**

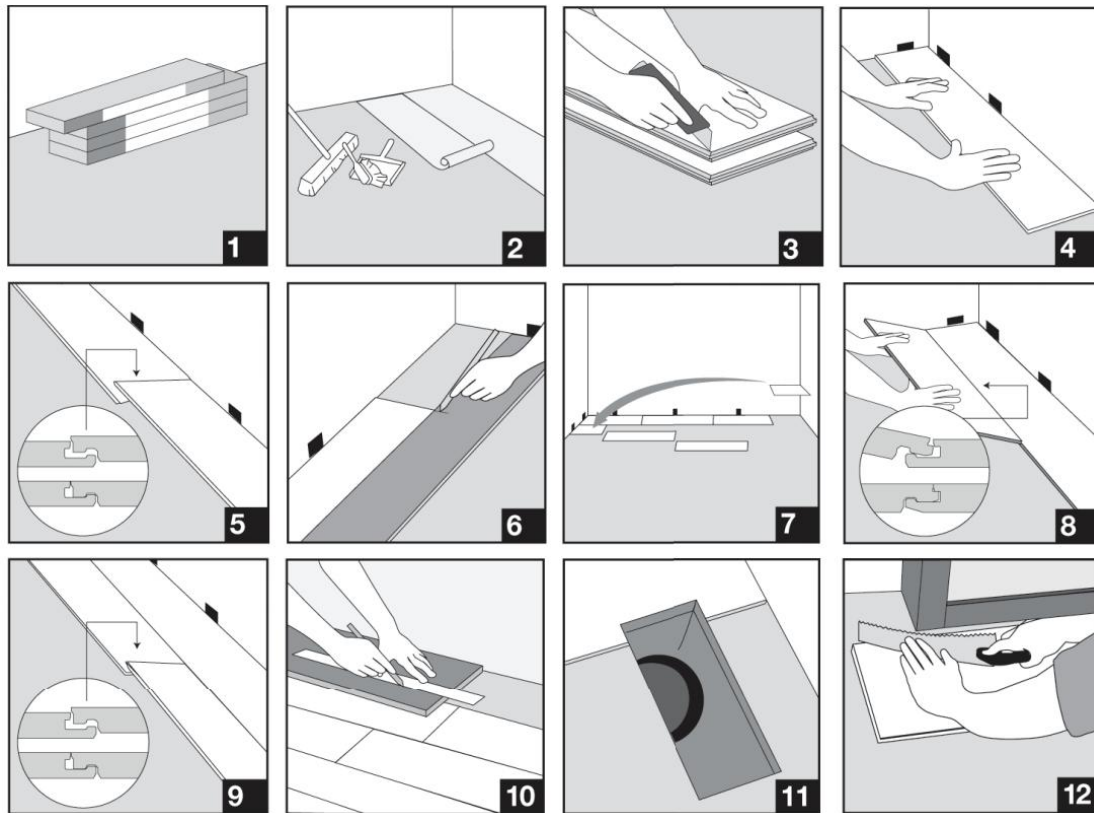
Start in a corner by placing the first panel with its trimmed side facing the wall. Use spacers along each wall to maintain an expansion space of ½ in. (12 mm) between the wall and the flooring. **Diagram 4.**

REMEMBER THAT THIS PRODUCT IS PRIMARILY WOOD AND NEEDS ROOM TO EXPAND AND CONTRACT. AT NO POINT SHOULD YOU ATTACH THE FLOOR TO ANY SURFACE. ALSO, FLOOR SHOULD NOT RUN FOR MORE THAN 26 ft. (8 METERS) IN WIDTH BY 40 ft. (12 METERS) IN LENGTH. FLOOR EXCEEDING THESE DIMENSIONS NEEDS TO BE SEPARATED IN AREAS SMALLER THAN 8 X 12 METERS USING T MOULDING. ROOMS SEPARATED BY AN OPENING OF 36 in. (91.5 cm) OR LESS SHOULD BE SEPARATED BY A T MOULDING AT THE DOOR OPENING.

To attach your second panel, lower and lock the end tongue of the second panel into the end groove of the first panel. Make sure the end channels are free from debris to ensure a close, tight fit. Line up edges carefully. The panels should be flat to the floor. **Diagram 5.**

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Continue connecting the first row until you reach the last full panel. Fit the last panel by rotating the panel 180° with the pattern side upward, place beside row, mark and then saw off excess. Attach as described above. **Diagram 6**



When using a handsaw cut on the decorative surface. If you are using a jig or circular saw, cut with the decorative side down to avoid chipping. Begin the next row with the off cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 8 in. (20 cm) long and joint offset should be at least 16 in. (40 cm). **Diagram 7.**

To start your second row, tilt and push the side tongue of the panel into the side groove of the very first panel at about 30°. When lowered, the plank will click into place. **Diagram 8.**

Attach the second panel of the new row first on the long side. Tilt and push this panel as close as possible to the previous row at 30°. Make sure edges are lined up. Lower panel to the floor, locking the end tongue into the end groove of the first panel. Continue laying remaining panels in this manner.

**Diagram 9.**

To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, lay another panel upside down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Don't forget to allow room for spacers. Cut the panel and attach into position. **Diagram 10.**

Door frames and heating vents also require expansion room. First cut the panel to the correct length. Then place the cut panel next to its actual position and use a ruler to measure the areas to be cut out and mark them. Cut out the marked points allowing the necessary expansion distance on each side.

**Diagram 11.**

You can trim door frames by turning a panel upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that panels slide easily under the frames. **Diagram 12.**

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**Finishing Moulding**

Reducer moulding is used to finish flooring when the adjoining surface is lower than the flooring or when the flooring meets carpet. Position the U track 1.4 in. (7 mm) between each edge of the flooring. Screw, nail or glue down the track directly to the subfloor and then insert the reducing strip into the track.

T-moulding is used to finish flooring when two level surfaces meet in doorways or for expansion joints. Install same as above. If your room is more than 26 ft. (8 m) wide you will need to allow for an expansion joint. Same requirement is applied when room is longer than 40 ft. (12 meters). Landing moulding is used to finish flooring on landings or stair edges. Moulding need to be glued and screwed down to the sub-floor for safety and stability. Color fill should be used to cover countersunk screws.

To finish the perimeter of the room, install quarter round moulding using finishing nails. Quarter round moulding is nailed directly into the baseboard.

**Maintenance and Cleaning**

Our Engineered Hardwood Floors are very easily maintained. No wax, no mess. Simply use a floor cleaner recommended for hardwood flooring and a specialty terry cloth flooring mop available from flooring retailers.

**Step 1:** Sweep or vacuum your floor to remove any particles that could scratch your floor.

**DO NOT** use vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head as they can damage your wood floor.

**Step 2:** Apply the cleaner directly to the terry cloth flooring mop, not to the floor!

**Step 3:** Use a back and forth motion with the mop. When the terry cloth becomes soiled, simply replace it with a clean one. Cleaning the floor with a soiled cover could cause streaking. Many covers are re-usable so depending on the cover either throw away the cover or wash and dry it as you would any towel.

**Tips and Warnings**

- Vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Remove spills promptly using appropriate floor cleaner and a clean white cloth.
- Use felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture and chairs.
- Use protective mats at all exterior entrances.
- Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage your floor.
- Never wet or damp mop your wood floors. Water can cause damage to wood flooring.
- Never use oil soaps, wax, liquid or other household products to clean your floor.
- The sun's UV rays can change the color of your floors.
- Keep animal nails trimmed.
- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances.
- Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across flooring
- Preferable temperature should be approximately 62–73 °F (17–23 °C) with a relative humidity of 35%–65%. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping.

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<b>LIMITED RESIDENTIAL WARRANTY</b>
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Manufacturer warrants to the original purchaser of its Engineered Hardwood Flooring in North America the following warranties:

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Manufacturer warrants to the original purchaser that its finished surface wear layer will not wear through, peel off, or delaminate under normal and ordinary residential use and with proper maintenance and floor care for a period of 35 years from the date of purchase.

**35 Year Limited Structural Integrity Residential Warranty**

Manufacturer warrants its products in their original manufactured condition to be free from manufacturing and workmanship defects including delamination (separation between plies), milling, and grading (Up to 5% of industry standard).

These warranties, which begin from the date of purchase, apply only to products used in indoor dry residential applications either below grade, on grade or above grade and are valid only in North America.

These warranties apply only to the original purchaser and the original residential location where the product is installed and are not transferable.

**IF THE ENGINEERED FLOORING SHOULD FAIL TO MEET THE TERMS OF THE WARRANTY, MANUFACTURER, AT ITS OPTION, WILL EITHER:**

- Supply replacement product or parts to repair, refinish, or replace the defective product at the manufacturer's option.
- Refund up to the full price of the defective product.

**THIS WARRANTY IS EXCLUSIVE.** It covers the repair or replacement of defective materials only and does not cover labor costs unless professionally installed by a certified flooring installer. Installation of the replacement products will be at the original purchaser's expense. If professionally installed, the manufacturer will pay the reasonable labor costs to perform the replacement or repair during the first 5 years from the date of the original purchase. Any and all labor costs must be pre-approved by the manufacturer. In the event that the style installed in the home is no longer available, the manufacturer will replace the affected floor with another style of equal value. Under no circumstance will the value of a warranty claim exceed the original purchase price of the product.

**THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REMEDY IS THE ORIGINAL PURCHASER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR CLAIM UNDER THIS LIMITED WARRANTY.**

<b>CONDITIONS</b>
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Manufacturer will honor claims under this warranty only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- At all times between purchase and installation, the flooring must be properly stored

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according to installation instructions.

- Approved interior residential or light commercial installation only.
- This product is not approved for use over Radiant Heat.
- The flooring must be installed below grade, on grade or above grade according to the recommended installation instructions.
- Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 35-55% and a temperature of 62°-73° F throughout the year, to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of wood.
- Problems caused by failure of the homeowner or installer to evaluate the jobsite and jobsite conditions are not covered.
- This limited warranty applies only where the affected area of the flooring is visible and covers an area greater than 10% of the room.
- A description of the problem, photographs, and a sample that clearly shows the warranted problem must be presented to the retailer for presentation to the manufacturer.
- The covered person must provide valid proof of purchase for material and labor in the form of a sales receipts or invoices. This must show the date of purchase, original purchase price, and that he/she is the original purchaser.
- Manufacturer must receive written notice within 30 days after discovery of any claimed defect or failure covered under this warranty, but within the time period applicable to the limited warranty. Contact your retailer to file a warranty claim.
- Manufacturer reserves the right to have a manufacturer's designated representative or firm inspect and take samples of the hardwood floor for analysis.
- Manufacturer must be given 60 days following notice to inspect the product to confirm any failure.
- Inspections of the hardwood floors must be performed in accordance with industry standards from a standing position with normal lighting and no glare.
- Written notice and all photographs, samples and other documentation should be sent to the retailer from which the flooring was originally purchased.

<b>WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS</b>
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This limited warranty shall not apply to damage to the hardwood floor or to the finish arising from and specifically excluding any of the following:

- Natural wood characteristics such as mineral streaks, small knots, grain variations, etc., are inherent to wood and shall not be construed as defects. No two pieces of wood are the same and color or other variations will occur. Manufacturer does not guarantee against natural variations, or the normal difference between color samples or photographs and colors of installed floors. New and/or replacement flooring may not match samples and/or existing flooring or warrant a color match to other wood products such as stairs, cabinets, trim, molding, etc.
- Squeaking and cracking of the hardwood by any cause other than mis-manufacturing is not considered a defect. This includes splitting or cupping resulting from exposure to improper environmental conditions.
- Hollow spots between the flooring and the sub floor.
- Expansion and contraction of the hardwood due to seasonal changes in climate shall not be considered defects.

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- Natural color changes due to full or partial exposure to sunlight and weather. Maple, Merbau, Kempas, Pine, Cherry, and Exotic species such as Brazilian Cherry may darken or yellow due to light exposure over time. This is a natural occurrence and is not covered by this warranty.
- Indentations, scratches or damage caused by negligence, water, moisture and saturation, insects, insect infestation after the product has left the factory, animals, pebbles, grit, sand or other abrasives, and high heeled or spiked shoes, or failure to use pads under rolling chairs or other furniture.
- Failure to follow the manufacturer's written installation instructions including protecting the floor from sub floor moisture, storage and handling.
- Failure to follow the manufacturer's written installation instructions on approved adhesives. Damage caused by use of water based adhesive over sheet vapor retarder or sound insulation.
- Excessive or inadequate humidity in the area of use. Relative humidity in the area of use must be within a normal range of 35-55%.
- Stains as a result of negligence, chemical or industrial products, wax or oil soaps for cleaning or standing liquid for a prolonged period of time.
- This warranty does not cover removal or replacement of cabinets, appliances, furniture, or other fixtures.
- Insufficient or improper protection, care or maintenance, or failure to use Manufacturer approved installation and maintenance products.
- Damage from improper cleaning practices. Do not use steam mops or wet mops to clean your floors.
- Misuse or abuse
- Use of flooring for purposes other than for which it was designed.
- Improper alterations of original manufactured product. Alterations or repairs to the manufacturer's original product will void any and all warranties. This includes sanding, top coating, recoating or attempted re-finishing of the factory-applied finish.
- Gloss reduction is not considered surface wear through.
- Freight costs or expenses and any damage occurred during shipping.
- Failure due to structural changes in the sub floor, settling of the building or uneven sub floor that has not been adequately leveled.
- Accidents, negligence, abuse, or misuse. Warranty will be made void if man-made or natural disasters including leaking or broken plumbing, fire, flood, wind, lightening, earthquake, prolonged power outages, or standing water occur during or after installation.

<b>WARRANTY CONTACT</b>
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If you have any questions or wish to make a claim under this limited warranty, please contact the retailer at:

[www.flooranddecor.com](http://www.flooranddecor.com)  
Customer Care: 877-675-0002

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<b>WARRANTY DISCLAIMERS</b>
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THE FOREGOING IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

THE MANUFACTURER DOES NOT GRANT TO ANY PERSON OR ENTITY THE AUTHORITY TO CREATE FOR IT ANY OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FLOORING.

MANUFACTURER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR LOSS OF USE OR ANY OTHER INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL CONSEQUENTIAL COSTS, EXPENSES, LOSS OF INCOME OR PROFITS, OR OTHER SIMILAR DAMAGES INCURRED BY THE ORIGINAL PURCHASER.

SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATION OR EXCLUSION MAY NOT APPLY TO THE PURCHASER. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY ALSO HAVE OTHER RIGHTS, WHICH MAY VARY, FROM STATE TO STATE.