

1. GENERAL INFORMATION/ BEFORE YOU START / IMPORTANT NOTICE/ OWNER OR INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU BEGIN INSTALLATION

Carefully inspect ALL material prior to installation for defects. Materials installed with visible defects are not covered under warranty. Wood is a natural product containing variations in color, grain, and natural characteristics that vary from plank to plank. We do not warrant against these natural variations from plank to plank or variations from sample to plank. Remember - If you are not satisfied with the flooring prior to installation, contact Floor & Decor - **DO NOT INSTALL** the flooring. Accepting or rejecting the material must be done on full shipment of quantities only, not carton by carton or plank by plank. Material is manufactured to exceed industry standards (*ANSI/HPVA EF 2009*).

- Homeowner / Installer is the final inspector to inspect the flooring for proper color, finish, style and quality PRIOR to installation. Please verify that the flooring is the correct material. The manufacturer declines responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been installed.
- Any installation guidelines are not intended to supersede federal, state, or local regulations which may require modifying the existing installation, materials, or structural components. The owner assumes responsibility for compliance with all building codes, including maintaining the required distance from heat sources such as fireplaces, gas logs, wood burning stoves, etc.
- Care should be taken at this time to remove or repair characteristics you do not desire. The use of stain, filler, or putty sticks for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- A 5%-10% cutting allowance, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (*Diagonal, herringbone, or bordered installations will require a higher percentage*)
- Install cabinets prior to flooring to prevent damage to the floors. The manufacturer is not responsible for removal of cabinets in the event of a claim.
- All "wet" work - i.e. - paint, drywall, concrete, masonry, plumbing must be complete and dry well in advance of delivery of hardwood flooring.
 - Exterior doors and windows need to be installed for the flooring to be installed.
- Gutters and downspouts should be in place and the exterior grade complete to allow for proper drainage of water away from the building's exterior perimeter.
- Flooring should not be exposed to extreme humidity of moisture.
- Permanent HVAC should be on and operational a minimum of 5 days and maintained between 65°F - 75°F (18°C - 24°C) with a relative humidity of 35% - 55% prior to delivery, during, and after installation of the flooring. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping.
- For the best results, make sure to always work from 2-3 cartons at a time and mix the planks during installation, this will result in a more natural-looking floor.
- If existing baseboards or moldings are difficult to remove, they may be left in place. Quarter round molding is all that is needed to cover the expansion space between flooring and baseboard.

2. SITE & SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

It is the installer/owners' responsibility to ensure that the jobsite conditions and jobsite subfloor are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to the installation of any hardwood flooring. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of hardwood flooring resulting from or related to sub-floor, sub-surface, or job-site environmental conditions. All substrates must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.

- Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt, curing compounds, sealers, drywall mud, paint, wax, grease, urethane, or other materials that may affect the integrity of the flooring material or adhesives used to install the flooring.
- All subfloors and subfloor systems must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance of a hardwood floor. Whenever possible install the planks perpendicular to the floor joists for maximum stability. Our warranties **DO NOT** cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of substructures.
- Test wood subfloors 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.
 - **ASTM F-2170: in-situ relative humidity of 85% relative humidity or less is acceptable.**
 - **ASTM 1869: 5.0 lbs. or less is acceptable.**
 - **Readings greater than 85% RH or 5.0 lbs. require the use of a proper vapor retarder or adhesive/moisture abatement system.**
- For concrete subfloors, before moisture testing begins, the slab must be cured for a minimum of 30 days.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6-mil polyethylene vapor retarder is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist to be no less than 18".
- The perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
- The subfloor must be flat, meeting a minimum of 3/16" within 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

Concrete/Wood subfloors - Grind high spots or use of gypsum-based patching and/or leveling compounds which contain Portland or high alumina cement and meet or exceed the compressive strength of 3,000 psi are acceptable. Follow the leveling compound manufacturer's instruction. Leveling compounds must be allowed to thoroughly cure and dry prior to installation of wood flooring.

RECOMMEND SUBFLOOR SURFACES

Concrete Subfloor Guidelines

Concrete slabs should be of high compressive strength and constructed to prevent groundwater from permeating the concrete. Engineered hardwood flooring can be installed on, above, or below-grade. In addition, it can be installed above-ground, with suspended concrete floors. The suspended concrete must be a minimum of 1-1/2" thick and must be structurally sound. The exception to this is lightweight concrete (which usually contains high amounts of gypsum) having a density of 100 lbs. or less per cubic foot. Test lightweight concrete by using a nail to scratch the surface of the concrete. If the concrete crumbles or turns to powder, it is not sound, and you should **NOT** install the hardwood flooring.

Wood Subfloors Guidelines

Subfloor panels should conform to U.S. Voluntary Product Standard PS1-07, Construction and Industrial Plywood and/or US Voluntary PS 2-04 and/or Canadian performance standard CAN/CSA 0325.0-92 Construction Sheathing. Other CSA standards also apply.

Acceptable Panel Subfloors: Truss/joist spacing will determine the minimum acceptable thickness of the panel subflooring.

- On truss/joist spacing of 16" o/c or less the industry standard for single panel subflooring is minimum 5/8" 19/32", 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4' x 8' sheets.
- On truss/joist spacing of more than 16", up to 19.2" (488mm) o/c, the standard is nominal 3/4" (23/32", 18.3 mm) T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1) or nominal 3/4" 23/32", (18.3mm) OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4' x 8' sheets, glued and mechanically fastened.
- Truss/joist systems spaced over more than 19.2" (488mm) o/c up to a maximum of 24" (610mm) require minimum 7/8" T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1), or minimum 7/8" OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4' x 8' sheets glued and mechanically fastened – or two layers of subflooring or brace between the truss/joist in accordance with the truss/joist manufacturer's recommendations and with local building codes. Some truss /joist systems cannot be cross-braced and still maintain stability.
- For existing wood floors install new flooring at right angles to the existing flooring.
- Do not glue down hardwood flooring over particle board.
- Do not install over existing glue down hardwood floors.
- **Ceramic tile and terrazzo:** All wax and sealers must be removed with an appropriate cleaner/stripper. Ceramic tile and terrazzo should be abraded to allow for proper adhesion. Check for loose tiles by tapping and re-adhering. Fill grout lines with a cementitious latex fortified leveling compound.
- **Resilient tile, resilient sheet vinyl:** Material must be full spread and secured to the subfloor. Do not install over perimeter glued floors. Do not install over more than one layer that exceeds 1/8" in thickness.
- **Glue Down Only** – Do not install over more than one layer that exceeds 1/8" in thickness. Clean the flooring with an appropriate cleaner and allow it too thoroughly dry. If necessary de-gloss the floor using an abrasive pad to enhance the bonding of the adhesive, if wax or other coatings are present, completely remove the material with a quality stripper, rinse the floor and allow to dry. Always check for proper adhesion bond prior to installation.

CAUTION: DO NOT SAND any existing resilient tile, sheet vinyl flooring, or flooring felt as if they may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Inhalation of asbestos dust can cause serious bodily harm. Check local, state, and federal laws for handling hazardous material before attempting the removal of these floors.

Acoustic Cork Underlayment: (Glue Down Only) – Install the cork underlayment according to the manufacturer's instructions. The cork underlayment must be fully adhered to the subfloor. The cork underlayment should be of pure granulated cork combined with a polyurethane binder with a minimum density of 11.4 lbs. per cubic foot and not to exceed 13 lbs. per cubic foot.

3. PRE-INSTALLATION / JOB PREPARATION

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

Inspect the Flooring: Inspect material for color, finish, milling, and grade. Hold out pieces that may not be acceptable once installed. **PLEASE NOTE: We do not accept responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been permanently installed.**

Undercut Door Casings: Undercut all door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. To do this, use a scrap piece of flooring as a guide. Lay it on the substrate and cut the casing with a handsaw or use a power jamb saw set at the correct height.

Blending of Cartons: To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we highly recommend that you open and work from several cartons at a time and dry lay the flooring, mixing the planks from several cartons. This will allow you to blend the planks for maximum aesthetic appearance. Make certain the room is well lit to ensure color is consistent and that any visual defects can be seen and removed.

Match Transition Moldings: For best appearance blend all transitions and moldings to planks that have similar color and graining. Set them aside for use as needed.

Layout of Flooring: “Racking the Floor” is essential to achieve a random appearance. Start by either using random-length planks found in the carton or by cutting four or five planks in random lengths, differing by at least 6”. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a 6” minimum between end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance. Never waste materials; the end cuts from starter rows should be used at the opposite side of the room to complete rows or used to start the next row.

Expansion space: Expansion space around the perimeter is required and should be equal to the thickness of the flooring material. For commercial installations use a minimum of ½” expansion.

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

For wet areas, such as a bathroom, caulk the perimeter of the floor with a silicon caulk.

INSTALLATION FOR RADIANT HEATED SUBFLOORING (FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION ONLY / Direct glue down is NOT recommended)

- Your engineered hardwood floors can be laid over a radiant sub-floor heating system. Failure to follow the guidelines may produce unsatisfactory results.
- Subfloors Moisture requirements for radiant flooring installation
 - **Concrete Subfloors:** Moisture vapor emission rate (MVER) must not exceed **2.0 lbs. /1,000 sq. ft. /24 hours**, as measured by the **ASTM F1869** calcium chloride test method. **NOTE:** 2.0 lbs. /1,000 sq. ft./24 hours requirement is for Radiant Heated Subflooring only.
 - **Wood Subfloors:** Moisture content must not exceed **12%**, measured using a **pin-type moisture meter**, and must be within **4% of the moisture content of the wood flooring** to be installed.
 - **Curing and Drying:** Concrete must be allowed to **cure and dry for a minimum of four (4) weeks** prior to the initial operation of any radiant heating system.
- The operation of a radiant heat system should be set to run at 2/3 maximum output for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation of flooring to further allow moisture from concrete to dissipate and reach final moisture content. This must be done in both heating and non-heating seasons.
- Prior to installation (4 days) reduce the radiant heat to a temperature of 65°F (18°C).
- Floating installation: Install flooring according to floating floor installation guidelines. Use of a 2-in-1 polyethylene underlayment is required. *(Note: 2-in-1 polyethylene underlayment features a plastic film backing to prevent moisture seepage from subfloors plus the foam cushioning provides additional comfort and protection).*
- When applying wood glue, run a continuous bead of adhesive in the groove of the plank on both the short end and long length of the plank.
- Remove any excess wood glue that seeps out onto the surface of the planks with a clean damp cloth. Change cloths and water periodically to avoid leaving a haze on the surface of the planks.

After Installation and Season Operation

- 48 hours after completion of installation, slowly raise the temperature of the heating system to its preferred operating level over a period of 5 days. Do not allow the surface temperature to exceed 80°F (27°C).
- The humidity level for radiant heat must be maintained between 35%-55% relative humidity.
- Seasonal gapping should be expected.
- Surface checking can be expected if the proper humidity level is not properly maintained between 35-55% relative humidity or if the floor’s surface temperature exceeds 80°F (27°C)

4. TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

Glue Down Installation Guidelines

Mapei Ultrabond Eco 995 Wood Flooring Adhesive (or comparable / equivalent | Adhesive Trowel

Spacers | Saw (Electrical, Hand, Miter, Jamb Saw)

Hammer (Rubber) | Utility Knife | Tape Measure | Straight Edge

Chalk Line & Chalk | Moisture Meter | Pry Bar | Color Wood Fill

Pencil | Eye Protection & Dust Mask | Broom & Dustpan and/or Vacuum

Transitions and wall moldings | Clean Cloths | Mineral Spirits or Urethane Adhesive Remover

5. INSTALLATION METHOD PROCEDURE

NOTE: REFER TO THE ADHESIVE LABEL FOR PROPER TROWEL REQUIRED, SPREAD RATES AND INSTALLATION APPLICATION INFORMATION!

INSTALLATION FOR GLUE DOWN METHOD REQUIRES THE USE OF MAPEI ULTRABOND ECO 995 WOOD FLOORING ADHESIVE (or comparable / equivalent). ADHESIVE MUST BE APPLIED WITH THE PROPER TROWEL AT THE 30-35 SQ. FT SPREAD RATE WHEN INSTALLING OVER CONCRETE SUBFLOORS.

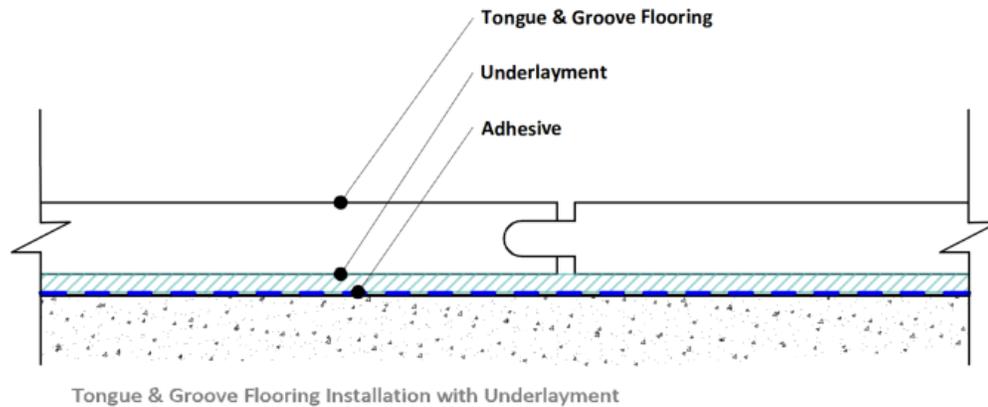
Before you begin using the following instructions, please refer to the Pre-Installation Job Prep information above.

GETTING STARTED

- Select a starter wall. An outside wall is best: it's most likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from this wall, at each end, the width of two planks including the tongue plus the space needed (3/8" or 1/2") for expansion.
- Snap a chalk line from these points, parallel to that wall.
- Prior to installing the flooring, secure a straight edge inside the chalk line to act as a guide and to prevent the row of planks from shifting during installation. The straightedge could be a straight piece of lumber or piece of flooring. Alternatively, the first row can be face-nailed with finishing nails into the wood subfloor or sprig nailed into a concrete subfloor.

SPREADING THE ADHESIVE

- Using the proper trowel, hold the trowel at a 45° angle to ensure proper spread rate of adhesive. Apply pressure to allow the trowel to leave ridges of adhesive on the substrate with little adhesive left between the ridges. This will help to achieve the proper spread rate of the adhesive. Temperature and air flow across the adhesive can influence the open time of the adhesive. 3x (or urethanes) will have a longer opening time in areas of low humidity and will have a shorter opening time in areas of high humidity. (See Adhesive label for further information).



INSTALLING THE FLOOR – GLUE DOWN APPLICATIONS

- Spread adhesive from the chalk line/straightedge out to approximately the width of two planks. Install the first row of starter planks along the chalk line/straightedge and secure into position with the tongue facing the starter wall. **NOTE:** Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps to appear in proceeding rows of flooring. When you have the starter rows complete, you can begin the next row
- When you are certain the first two starter rows are straight and secure, spread adhesive 2' to 3' wide across the length of the room. As a rule, never spread more adhesive than can be covered in 30 to 45 minutes. If the adhesive has skinned over remove the dried adhesive and trowel new adhesive.
- Continue to install planks and push them into place. Place the tongue of the board into the grooves of installed boards and press into the adhesive. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a 6" minimum space between end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance. **(NOTE: Never strike a rubber mallet or hammer directly on the flooring to engage the tongue-and-groove. This practice can damage the flooring and/or the finish).**
- Remove the adhesive from the surface of the installed flooring as you work – this will help to save time. A damp rag with water or mineral spirits will remove adhesive. Frequently change towels to avoid leaving a haze on the flooring surface. **DO NOT** use water to remove urethane adhesives from the finish.
- As you approach the end wall it may be necessary to cut the width of the last row – be sure to allow for the expansion space along the end wall. Once the final cuts are made, put planks into place.
- After the floor is complete, remove the straight edge and glue down the first two boards.
- Restrict foot traffic for a minimum of 6-8 hours and wait 24 hours before permitting furniture to move onto the floor.
- Clean any wet adhesive from the flooring with a lightly dampened clean cloth. If the adhesive has dried, use mineral spirits on a clean cloth. For urethane adhesive use the recommended urethane adhesive remover.
- If specified in the adhesive instructions roll and cross roll floor with a 100-150 lbs. (45-70 kg) roller at the end of the installation to ensure proper transfer of adhesive.

NAIL OR STAPLE DOWN INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Additional Tools and Material Needed (see previous tool list)

Drill | Tapping Block / Pneumatic Nailer / Stapler
Air Hose | Compressor | In-line Air Regulator | 15 lb. Asphalt Roofers Felt Paper

Before you begin using the following instructions, please refer to the Pre-Installation Job Prep information above.

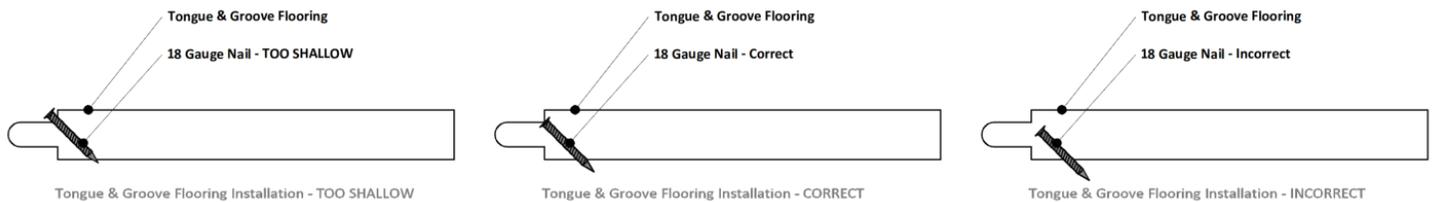
NOTE: Our products are not warranted against squeaking, popping or crackling sounds when using staple-down or nail-down installation methods. Some squeaking, popping or crackling sounds are normal and possible when using staple-down or nail-down installation methods. These symptoms may be aggravated in arid areas or during dry conditions.

SET UP AND USE OF PNEUMATIC STAPLERS AND NAILERS

Minor occasional noises within the flooring are inherent to all staple/nail-down installations and can change as environmental changes occur. This is not a manufacturing defect and is therefore not covered under our warranties (see warranty brochure for complete warranty coverage). You can help reduce squeaking, popping, and crackling sounds by being sure that the subfloor is structurally sound, does not have any loose decking or joists, plus is both swept and vacuumed before installation. You should also be sure that your pneumatic stapler / nailer is setting the fastener properly, not damaging the planks, and that you are using the correct nailing schedule.

For products greater than 5" in width, it is recommended to use a combination glue down assist when using mechanical fasteners. Apply a urethane-based adhesive to the subfloor prior to installing the planks. Follow the standard fastener schedule. *This installation method doesn't require the use of a traditional vapor retarder, which enables the glue to adhere to the subfloor rather than the paper.

When used improperly, staples or cleats can damage wood flooring. If the tool is not adjusted properly the staples/cleats may not be positioned at the proper angle and cause blistering, peaking, squeaking, or crackling sounds of the floor. Some models may require the use of an adapter to adjust for proper thickness. Test the tool on a piece of scrap material first - set the pneumatic stapler/nailer flush on the tongue side of the plank and install a staple/cleat. Should the staple/cleat penetrate too deeply reduce the air pressure; if the staple/cleat is not deep enough then increase the air pressure using an in-line regulator. The crown of the staple/cleat should sit flush within the nail pocket to prevent damage to the flooring and to reduce squeaking. The flooring manufacturer is not responsible for damage caused by the mechanical fasteners.



IMPORTANT NOTE: Only use manufacturers' recommended staples or cleats.

3/8" PRODUCTS

- For products less than 5" the minimum length staple/cleat is 1"
- For products 5" or wider the minimum length staple/cleat is 1-¼"
- 18-to-20 gauge staple, narrow 3/8" or less crown
- 20-gauge L shaped cleat

½" PRODUCTS

- Minimum length fastener is 1-¼" staple/cleat
- 18-gauge staple or cleat

Fastener Schedule – All Products

- Staples: 1"- 2" from ends and 3"-4" thereafter
- Cleats: 1"- 2" from ends and 4" thereafter

Glue Assist - For products greater than 5" in width, it is recommended to use a combination glue down assist when using mechanical fasteners. Apply urethane-based wood flooring adhesive to the subfloor prior to installing the planks. Follow the standard fastener schedule. *This installation method doesn't require the use of a traditional vapor retarder, which enables the glue to adhere to the subfloor rather than the paper.

Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for complete set-up and operation of equipment.

GETTING STARTED

- After the subfloor has been properly cleaned and prepped, cover the subfloor with 15 lb. asphalt felt paper. This material will help to keep the floor clean and help to retard moisture from below (there is no complete moisture barrier system for staple or nail-down applications). Select a starter wall. An outside wall is best: it's most likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from this wall, at each end, the overall width of the plank (board width + tongue + the space needed (3/8" or ½") for expansion).
- Snap a chalk line from these points, parallel to that wall.
- Install the first row of starter planks along the chalk line/straightedge and secure into position with the tongue facing away from the starter wall (toward you). Drill pilot holes through the face of the plank every 6" (in the dark grain); approximately 1" from the back edge of the board and secure planks with 1" finishing nails. Countersink nails and fill with appropriate colored wood filler – remove excess filler from surface.
- Blind nail at a 45° angle through the tongue 1"-2" from the end joints and every 6" in between along the length of the starter boards (Pre-drill holes to make this easier). Depending on the width of the flooring it may be necessary to do this for the first few rows prior to using a pneumatic stapler/nailer. **NOTE:** Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps to appear in proceeding rows of flooring.

INSTALLING THE FLOORING

- Continue to install the flooring making sure to nail/staple 1" - 2" from the ends and every (3" - 4" staples) or (4" cleats) thereafter. Make certain the tool is adjusted properly to ensure that the fastener is at the proper angle and is flush within the nail pocket. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a 6" minimum space between end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance.
- If needed use a tapping block to help engage the boards together until the tongue-and-groove is flush and tight and no gaps are present between adjacent planks. **NOTE:** Never use a rubber mallet or hammer directly on the flooring to engage the tongue-and-groove. This can damage the flooring and/or finish.
- As you approach the end wall it may be necessary to cut the width of the last row – be sure to allow for the expansion along the end wall. Once the final cuts are made, put planks into place.
- The last few rows will need to be fastened by hand. To fasten the final planks into place, you must either manually blind nail and/or face-nail through the surface on the final planks. Drill pilot holes at a 45° angle to the floor and blind nail using 1" finishing nails. Alternatively, drill pilot holes in the face every 6" (try to drill holes in darker portion of the wood) and install with 1" finishing nails. Countersink nails and fill with appropriate colored wood filler – remove excess filler from surface with a clean cloth and proper cleaner.

FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDELINES (PRODUCTS 3" OR WIDER ONLY / MECHANICALLY FASTENED)

Additional tools & material needed

T&G Adhesive | Tapping Block | Spacers | Pry or Pull Bar
2in1 Underlayment | Hardwood Floor Cleaner
Foam Underlayment | 6 Mil Polyethylene vapor retarder

Before you begin using the following instructions, please refer to the Pre-Installation Job Prep information above.

- 6 Mil Polyethylene vapor retarder not required over vinyl, wood, or a wood product sub floor.
- 6 Mil Polyethylene vapor retarder required over concrete type subfloors – on grade or below grade.
- Do not install over carpet.
- If installing over vinyl, ensure that the vinyl is secure to the sub floor. Do not install over perimeter glued vinyl.
- If installing over an existing wood floor, install the flooring at right angles to the wood floor.
- Secure creaking and loose floorboards with screws.
- Do not install over wood flooring glued to a concrete sub floor.
- ½" of expansion space required at all vertical surfaces.

Note: Larger rooms require additional expansion space. Add 1/16" to the width of the expansion space for every 3' the room extends beyond 25'. Dimensions exceeding 40' in length or width – it is recommended to use a T-Molding for proper expansion.

GETTING STARTED

- Remove all doors and shoe moldings. Undercut all door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring and underlayment to be installed. Place a scrap piece of plank and a sheet of underlayment against the door casing to act as a guide and cut the door casing with a hand saw or power jamb saw set to the correct height.
- After determining the direction to run the planks, measure the width of the room (the dimension perpendicular to the direction of the flooring). The last row of the flooring should be no less than 1-½" wide; if it is less, cut the width of the starter row to avoid a narrow last row.
- Select a starter wall. An outside wall is best: it's most likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from the wall, at each end, the overall width of the plank plus ½" for expansion. If the first row requires ripping, then measure from the wall the width of the ripped board plus ½" for expansion.
- Snap a chalk line using a (brightly colored chalk) from these points.
- Install Underlayment: Unroll the 6 mil Polyethylene sheeting overlapping edges 4" and seal seams with clear plastic tape. Allow the poly to run 2" up the wall and trim back after installation of flooring. Install 1/8" foam underlayment. **Note:** Use of a floating floor 2 in 1 underlayment may be used. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application installing the 2 in 1 underlayment.
- Prior to installing the flooring, secure a straight edge (starter board) inside the chalk line to act as a guide and to prevent the row of planks from shifting during installation. The straightedge could be a straight piece of lumber or piece of flooring. This is temporary and will be replaced as the floor is completed.

INSTALLING THE FLOOR

- Insert spacers at walls to maintain the expansion space between the flooring and the wall.
- Before starting to glue planks, dry lay the first two rows of flooring. Working from right to left, install planks so that the groove faces the straight edge (starter board). When reaching the end of the first row, cut the plank as necessary to fit. On the first 4 rows stagger end joints a minimum of 16" and then 8" thereafter.
- Use the remainder of the plank from the first row to start the second row. If the piece is less than 8" long, cut a new plank in half and use that piece to start the second row.
- Lay the remainder of the planks in the second row. Make sure that the rows are straight and no gapping exists on the sides or ends. Once you have dry laid the first two rows, remove all the planks in order. You are ready to begin.
- Begin gluing the boards; Run a continuous bead of adhesive along the groove of the short side (width) and the plank's side groove (length). Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps to appear in proceeding rows of flooring.

- Install first row of planks with groove facing the straight edge. Work from right to left. Complete the first row. Make sure there are no gaps between the boards. Use a tapping block if needed to close the boards together. Immediately wipe away any excessive adhesive with clean, slightly dampened cloth. **CAUTION:** Adhesive that is allowed to dry on the finish surface can be difficult to remove and may leave a haze.
- At the end wall use an end pry bar, if needed, to pull the ends of the planks tight.
- Continue to install the floor working right to the left, repeating the process until the completion of the floor. Continue to use the spacers on all vertical surfaces to maintain the ½" expansion. **DO NOT USE** laminate straps as they may damage the flooring
- The last row will most likely require cutting to width, but it should be no less than 1-½" wide. To do this, lay the plank face up on top of the last full row installed. Trace the wall contour on the last plank using a scrap piece of plank and a pencil.
- Install cut planks and pull into place with a pry bar. Install spacing wedges between planks and wall.
- Remove the straight edge (starter row) and install the last row using the pry bar.
- Allow floor to dry for a minimum of 12 hours before removing all spacing wedges and allowing foot traffic.
- Install trim and moldings the following day.

6. WALL MOLDINGS / TRANSITIONS

FINISHING / MOLDING

Acclimate moldings 48 hours prior to installation

- **Reducer molding** is used to finish flooring when the adjoining surface is lower than the flooring or when the flooring meets carpet.
- **T-molding** is used to finish flooring when two-level surfaces meet in the doorways or for expansion joints. If your room is more than 26' W (8 m) x 40' L (12m), you will need to allow for an ½" expansion joint.
- **Baby Threshold** is used at exterior doorways between flooring and doorway threshold. It can be used to transition wood floors into different floor types or conceal the expansion space such as a fireplace hearth and sliding glass doors.
- **Stair Nosing** provides the proper transition for stairways or steps with the proper overhang between steps.
- **Quarter round molding** is used to finish the perimeter of the room. A quarter round molding is nailed directly to the baseboard with finishing nails.
- Inspect final floor for nicks and or minor gaps – fill with appropriate color wood putty.
- Unused material should be left with the owner and stored in a dry place in case future repairs are needed.
- **Do not use tape to secure floor protection during construction or renovation.** Use a ram board or like to protect the floor.

Final Inspection: After the floor has been cleaned, inspect the floor for nicks, scratches, gaps or planks that may have moved during installation, as well as any other imperfections that need attention. Touch up nicks and scratches with touch-up products. In typical climates, the new floor can accept foot traffic within 24 hours. In areas where additional curing time is required, more time may be needed.

7. MAINTENANCE (POST / PREVENTATIVE / ROUTINE)

POST CONSTRUCTION

- Dry mop floor to remove any construction dust or exterior soil tracked onto the flooring. Use microfiber dry mop pad. If microfiber dry mop pad gets dirty, replace pad with a clean pad.
- Spray neutral pH cleaner, such as Bona Wood Floor Cleaner (or comparable/ equivalent product), onto the floor in manageable area (spray mist will dry quickly). Work floor in sections. For embossed or textured flooring, use a cylindrical brush scrubber and a neutral pH cleaner applied to the floor to remove the residue film.
- Spray mist water on a microfiber mop pad meant for mist mopping so it is damp (make sure there is no dripping water). Mist mop the floor to remove any remaining residue from the flooring. When microfiber mist mop pad becomes dirty, be sure to replace the pad with a new microfiber mist mop pad.
- Repeat steps #2 and #3, if necessary.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

- Always protect floors from direct exposure of sunlight that can cause the wood or stain to change colors. Warranties do not cover damage from UV exposure.
- Preferable temperature should be approximately 65°F-75°F (17°C – 23°C) with a relative humidity in your home between 35% - 55%. The use of a humidifier during heating seasons may help reduce shrinkage of wood due to low humidity. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gapping.
- Use dollies and protect floors when moving heavy objects to prevent permanent scratches and tears. The use of Ram board (or equivalent) with heavy cardboard are examples of protective barriers. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the flooring.
- Use appropriate wide floor protectors / felt protectors under tables, chairs, and any other heavy home furnishing to avoid permanent damage and reduce dents and scratches. Replace the pads as needed.
 - Make certain furniture casters are clean and operate properly (a minimum 1" wide vinyl surface where it encounters wood is recommended). Clean wheels periodically to remove dirt and debris.
- Walk-off mats should be used at all entrances to absorb soil and moisture. The use of appropriate mats will help avoid scratches and damage to the floor. If mats are placed directly on top of the hardwood floors, use proper indoor mats. Mats that can trap moisture underneath have potential to cause possible discoloration. Latex and rubber backings should not be used.

- Use of Rug Pad – Fiber pad or PVC rug pad when placing rugs over all hard surface flooring products.
- Rugs are recommended in high traffic and pivot areas.
- Avoid shoes with spiked or damaged heels.
- Keep pets’ paws and nails clean and trimmed.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Visit www.flooranddecor.com for Floor & Décor Wood Flooring Care & Maintenance Guide for Prefinished Solid Hardwood, Engineered Hardwood and Bamboo Flooring.

Additional manufacture’s routine maintenance:

- Daily removal of dirt and dust is important to prevent particles from abrading the floor’s surface. Sweeping, dust mopping, and vacuuming are recommendations to remove soil particles that can result in scratches and worn appearances. **DO NOT** use vacuums with rotating beater bars on hard surfaces.
- Periodic cleaning will be necessary to help maintain the floor’s appearance. Always pre-vacuum or dust mop before any type of cleaning.
- **DO NOT** use abrasive cleaners or cleaning agents that leave dull residues on the surface of the floors.
- **DO NOT** wet-mop, damp-mop, or clean your floor with water or other products. This can severely damage the flooring and void the warranties. Do not use hardwood floor cleaning machines or steam cleaners.
- It is recommended to use a microfiber mist mop pad when cleaning the floor using a neutral pH cleaner, such as Bona Wood Floor Cleaner (or comparable/ equivalent product). **DO NOT** allow excess cleaner to remain on the floor’s surface as this may permanently damage the wood fiber.
- **DO NOT** use oil soaps, liquid or paste wax products, or cleaners with citrus type oils, Tung oils, silicon or ammoniated products as well as 2 in 1 cleaner with polish additives. Problems with this type of products can affect the floor which would **NOT** be considered in the warranty.
- **Spot And Spill Removal:**
 - Remove wet spills promptly by blotting with white paper or cloth towels.
 - Dried spots should be removed by appropriate hardwood floor cleaning agents (neutral pH cleaners) are recommended with gentle agitation from a clean towel or cloth. Always blot dry.
 - Use rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol) with a clean white cloth for spots requiring a solvent type of cleaner that hardwood cleaning agents cannot remove. **PLEASE NOTE:** some stains conditions may become permanent.

8. CAUTION / WARNING (LEGAL)

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.*

WARNING: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to www.p65warnings.ca.gov/products/wood-dust

WARNING! DO NOT SAND, DRY SWEEP, DRY SCRAPE, DRILL, SAW, BEADBLAST OR MECHANICALLY CHIP OR PULVERIZE EXISTING RESILIENT FLOORING, BACKING, LINING FELT, ASPHALTIC “CUTBACK” ADHESIVES OR OTHER ADHESIVES.

These products may contain either 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 serious bodily harm. Unless positively certain that the product is no asbestos-containing material, you must presume it contains asbestos. Regulations may require that the material be tested to determine asbestos content and may govern the removal and disposal of material. See current edition of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) publication “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures. For current information go to www.rfci.com. The products in this carton **DO NOT** contain asbestos or crystalline silica.

MINNESOTA RESIDENTIAL FORMALDEHYDE REGULATION: IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE THESE BUILDING MATERIALS EMIT FORMALDEHYDE, EYE, NOSE, AND THROAT IRRITATION, HEADACHE, NAUSEA AND A VARIETY OF ASTHMA-LIKE SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING SHORTNESS OF BREATH, HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS A RESULT OF FORMALDEHYDE EXPOSURE. ELDERLY PERSONS AND YOUNG CHILDREN, AS WELL AS ANYONE WITH A HISTORY OF ASTHMA, ALLERGIES, OR LUNG PROBLEMS, MAY BE AT GREATER RISK. RESEARCH IS CONTINUING ON THE POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO FORMALDEHYDE. REDUCED VENTILATION MAY ALLOW FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS TO ACCUMULATE IN THE INDOOR AIR. HIGH INDOOR TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY RAISE FORMALDEHYDE LEVELS. WHEN A HOME IS TO BE LOCATED IN AREAS SUBJECT TO EXTREME SUMMER TEMPERATURES, AN AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM CAN BE USED TO CONTROL INDOOR TEMPERATURE LEVELS. OTHER MEANS OF CONTROLLED MECHANICAL VENTILATION CAN BE USED TO REDUCE LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF FORMALDEHYDE, CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.