

Page 1 of 2

Hardwood flooring installation guidelines, provided by the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) are recommended.

The installer should visually inspect flooring prior to installation. If a defect is encountered, it should be hidden, trimmed, or not installed. A waste range of 5 – 10% should be considered.

Installation should be performed from several boxes at the same time to randomize natural character.

Augusta Flooring Pre-finished Solid Hardwood Flooring Installation and Care

Job Site Preparation

Environmental Conditions and Acclimation

- Building humidity and temperature should resemble conditions encountered after occupancy.
- All “wet” work should be completed prior to the arrival of flooring (drywall, painting, etc.).
- Prior to installation, flooring must be allowed to acclimate (reach equilibrium moisture content). Acclimation should occur until moisture content differential between subfloor and hardwood flooring is less than 4% on strip flooring (2 ¼”) and 2% on plank flooring (wider than 2 ¼”).
- Solid Hardwood Flooring should not be installed below grade, in full bathrooms, or over radiant heating systems.

Subfloor

- The proper thickness of subflooring, as well as subfloor fastener type depends on panel material, joist spacing, and local building codes.
- Flooring is not intended to provide additional strength or stiffness to subflooring.
- Installation of a vapor retarder, designed for use in floor systems, over subflooring can reduce potential for movement caused by changes in subfloor moisture content. However, vapor retarders do not guarantee freedom from moisture content issues. Vapor retarders should be overlapped by at least 4 inches on every seam.
- Concrete subfloors should be flat (3/16” tolerance over 10’ span).
- Concrete subfloors must be dry such that wood moisture content (MC) is maintained within delivered equilibrium MC range (refer to ASTM F710 for moisture tolerance).



www.augusta-flooring.com

Page 2 of 2

It is important to maintain consistent humidity and temperature conditions to minimize movement. The recommended temperature range is 60 – 80 degrees F, and relative humidity between 30% and 50%.

Fastening

- The longest wall with perpendicular to joist orientation should be used as the installation starting point.
- At least $\frac{3}{4}$ " spacing is recommended between flooring and walls around the installed floor perimeter.
- For best appearance, make sure end joints are staggered at least 4-6", and avoid repeated patterns.
- Nail-down installation is recommended. Fasten the first run by face nailing and then nailing through the tongue. Face nail with 6d-8d finish nails spaced roughly 10" apart and 1-3" from ends.
- Each additional run should be nailed using 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " – 2" fasteners spaced 6"-8" apart and 1" – 3" from ends.
- An adhesive designed for solid wood flooring installation must be used in glue-down applications.
- Lengthwise crooked boards, which may be used for nail-down, might not be suitable for glue-down; installer must ensure proper fit can be maintained between boards before glue application
- Always follow adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for substrate preparation, spread rate, open time and trowel specification.

Flooring Care

Cleaning

- Floor should be swept regularly to remove aggregate dirt, grit, and dust. Buildup of dirt and grit can cause damage to the floor finish.
- Placing mats at entry ways can help reduce tracking of dirt and grit across the floor (do not use rubber mats).
- Flooring should not be wet mopped.
- Spills should be cleaned and dried immediately (do not allow moisture to pool and rest on your solid hardwood floor).
- Use only a cleaner designed for use on finished wood floors.
- Some finish dulling can be expected with use over time; proper care will minimize dulling.



www.augusta-flooring.com