

## CLICK-LOCK FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### INTRODUCTION

This product uses the click-lock system, meaning that it is suggested to be installed as floating floors. The edges, attached with a self-locking mechanism, offers a simple installation without using any glue or nails. It can be installed successfully on, above or below grade level and can directly be installed over concrete or wood subfloor. Please read all the information and guidelines below before proceeding the installation.

### ABOUT FLOATING INSTALLATION

Floating installation is generally fast, inexpensive and DIY friendly. Unlike a nail or glue down installation, floated floors act as an entire unit because each plank interlocks edge-to-edge to form a single mat-like surface and the flooring material is not secured to the subfloor or underlayment. There are some crucial details that you should know before installation. Please read carefully and follow the below points for a successful project.

As all hardwoods are hygroscopic and they expand and contract with the change of season...

- 1) Always leave 1/2" expansion space around all perimeters, vertical and unmovable objects. If your installation length exceeds 30', more expansion space is required, approximately 1/16" per each extra 10'.
- 2) Use expansion shims spaced every 12" along all walls to help prevent avoidable movement during remainder of installation.
- 3) Install T-moldings in every doorway, archway, hallway and opening between rooms for proper expansion space to be maintained so that the rooms can expand or contract independently.
- 4) Never install cabinet or other permanent fixtures on top of the floor. The weight of the cabinets or heavy objects will obstruct the space for expansion or contraction and this can cause the flooring to buckle and damage the flooring's locking system.

### PRE-INSTALLATION WARRANTY

To make sure you are receiving the right floor, please inspect ALL flooring carefully BEFORE installation. If during inspection the installer or buyer feels the flooring is the wrong color, improperly manufactured, has finished problems, is off-grade or is the wrong gloss level, do NOT install the flooring. Please immediately contact the retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claim will be accepted for flooring which is visually defective if such flooring is installed, the installed flooring is deemed to be acceptable. Since wood is a product of nature, standard industry practice allows for up to 5% of flooring shipped to have milling, handling, finish and/or grade defects. This warranty applies only to material that is in excess of this 5%.

**NOTE:** Warranty coverage may be lost due to failure to strictly follow all installation instructions and recommendations and/or the use of improper materials or tools. While the floating method offers some advantages, there are some things of which you should be aware: (1) The floor may have a hollow sound when walking on it. (2) The wood rests on the subfloor with its own weight, which may cause the floor to have slight vertical movement. (3) A damaged plank cannot be replaced as simply as in a staple down, nail down, or full glue down installation.

### JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

**1) All work involving water or moisture should be complete before installing hardwood flooring.**

For any new construction or remodeling project, hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed. The job site should be monitored for consistent, normal room temperature of 68 deg. F (16 deg. C) in winter and 74 deg. F (22 deg. C) in summer, and relative humidity of 40~60% for at least one week before installation. This flooring should be kept in the shrink-wrapped boxes until immediately before installation. DO NOT

remove from packaging and acclimate like solid hardwood floors! This can make the flooring very difficult to install. Tolerances between female and male are so exact that any expansion of the joints due to acclimation might make the click-lock fit too tight for easy installation. DO NOT install in areas subject to moisture, such as bathrooms or laundry rooms.

### 2) All subfloors should be flat and clean

The subfloor surfaces must be level to within 1/8" in an 8' radius and the maximum level tolerance is 3/16" per 10'. Check this by using a 6 foot or longer straight edge to find high and/or low spots. If necessary, flatten out any irregularities using #20 grit paper and fill any low spots with leveling compound.

### 3) Wood subfloors must be

Dry and well secured, with a moisture content under 12%. The bottom side, if facing outside (like a crawl space) must be under 15% MC and a 6-mil Polyfilm placed over the dirt in the crawl space. Adequate ventilation must exist, with clearance of 18" to 24". Leave 1/8" gap around perimeter. Leveled by sanding or grinding down high spots and filling in low spots with an underlayment patch as necessary. Preferred subfloor: 3/4" CDX grade Plywood subfloor / underlayment (Exposure 1), 4' x 8' sheets or 3/4" OSB subfloor / underlayment grade, PS2 rated, sealed side down, with joist spacing of 19.2" on center or less.

### 4) Concrete subfloor must be

Fully cured for at least 60 days. Installed properly with minimum 6-mil Polyfilm between concrete and ground. Dry all year round. DO NOT install over concrete if you are not sure it will remain dry. Tested for moisture by using calcium chloride test.

### PREPARATION

Set the unboxed floors aside for at least 48 hours before installation. This allows the moisture content of the wood floors to equilibrate with the surrounding environment. Make sure your subfloors match the regulations above. Once all requirements are met, you may open each box of floors carefully and inspect each planks visually before installation. Please note that the boards are considered accepted by the installer and the homeowner once installed.

**IMPORTANT:** As an installer, it is your responsibility to be aware of the grade, Relative Humidity of the room, and moisture content of the subfloor. You should check that each plank is free of damage or manufacturing defects. Any unusable boards should not be used, and any boards that you find visibly objectionable should either be used in an inconspicuous place or not used at all.

### TOOLS YOU MAY NEED

- Tape Measure
- Chalk Line
- Hammer
- Knocking Block
- Expansion Shims
- Floor Protectors
- Router Bit
- Splines

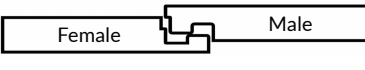
### ABOUT CLICK-LOCK SYSTEM

#### \* Angle Drop Click Installation

Long side - Angle in



Short Side - Drop in



- 1) Place the male of the long side against the wall and connect the long side first at an angle



- 2) Slide and fold down



- 3) Press to lock

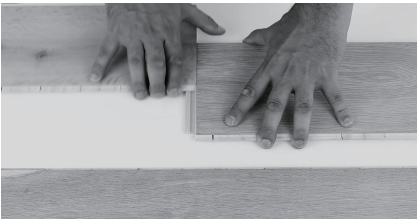
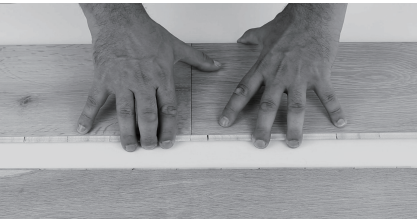


#### \* How To Disengage

- 1) Lift up the entire row at an angle



- 2) Slide the planks in opposite directions



### START INSTALLATION

- Make sure the subfloor is level and clean.
- Use rated floating underlayment if necessary.
- Begin a floating floor installation with the male of long side against the wall!
- Leave expansion space at all walls and all vertical obstructions, e.g. (fireplace, doorjambs, etc.)

#### Step 1: First Row

Use the starter row as an alignment guide, leave space in between planks. The numbers of planks use should correspond to the size of the space. You may remove the starter row when the third row is completed. Shift the floors toward the wall against the spacers and proceed the installation.



#### Step 2: Subsequent Rows

2-1. Start each subsequent row with cut off end of last board from previous row. Such cut off piece must be longer than 12 inches. Beginning at left, stagger end joints by minimum 6" (8" is preferred).  
2-2. Procedure for installing each board: Set cut-off board from previous row, as described in Step 2.1. Remember to allow for expansion gap and shim accordingly. Work from left to right.  
(Optional: If needed, use glue hammer to ensure the male and the female stay properly engaged as well.) 2-3. At end of row, cut board to appropriate length (allowing for expansion gap).

### AFTER INSTALLATION

- Use wood filler or putty to correct minor flooring damage that might occur during installation.
- Retain excess planks for future repairs.

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### AFTER INSTALLATION

- ◆ If nailed, the newly installed floor is complete and can be walked on immediately.
- ◆ If glued, allow the newly installed floor to fully cure based on adhesive recommendations before allowing foot traffic or moving furniture on the floor.
- ◆ Remove any adhesive from the surface of the flooring (smudges, fingerprints, etc.) before it dries.
- ◆ Use wood filler or putty to correct minor flooring damage that might occur during installation.
- ◆ Retain excess planks for future repairs.

### General Installation Instructions (see NWFA at [www.nwfa.org](http://www.nwfa.org) for more details)

- ◆ Flooring should be laid at right angles to the floor joists and, if possible, in the direction of the longest dimension of the room.
- ◆ All products have a UV-cured factory finish. It is important to make sure that the nail gun face plate will not damage the surface finish.
- ◆ Keep face plate clean - scratching caused by abrasive material on nailer face are not warranted.
- ◆ End joints of plank : These should be staggered to achieve the best appearance in the finished floor. (minimum 6")
- ◆ Nailing schedule for flooring: Nail on 6" to 8" centers in the tongue, also nail within 2" of each end joint. The last few rows might require hand nailing and/or face nailing, countersinking, and filling with putty.

### Important Notes

- ◆ Baseboards should be installed so that their lower edge is slightly above the level of the finished floor but not nailed into the floor.
- ◆ DO NOT install any product with visible defects.
- ◆ To avoid movement in hardwood floor, relative humidity should be maintained year round at 40%~60% Relative Humidity.



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**RESIDENTIAL WARRANTY**  
Manufacturer warrants the original purchaser of its Engineered Hardwood Flooring in North America to the following warranties:

**25 YEAR FINISH and WEAR RESIDENTIAL WARRANTY**  
Manufacturer warrants to the original purchaser that its factory applied finish will not wear through, peel off, or delaminate under normal and ordinary residential use and with proper maintenance and floor care for 25 years. Finish wear through is defined as 100% finish removal over a minimum of 10% of the total installation.

**25 YEAR 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. The accepted industry standard is an allowance of up to 5% of the flooring shipped to contain milling, grading, handling, and occasional finish defects and shall not be considered a structural defect.

Product thought to be defective by the person doing the installation should be returned to your dealer for inspection and possible replacement **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**. Installation implies acceptance. No warranty will be offered for obvious visual defects or appearance related claims such as grade or color once the products are installed.

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Any product designated as "tavern", "economy", "cabin grade", "seconds", "B grade" or "as is" is not covered by any of these warranties.
- ◆ Hardwood flooring being a natural product will continue to expand and contract during seasonal and temperate changes. Product when properly installed may experience slight separation (up to 1/32") between boards. If minor separation or seasonal cracks occur, they are not covered by this warranty.

**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 purchase price of the defective products.

**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 five (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.**

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**CONDITIONS**

Manufacturer will honor claims under this warranty only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) At all times between purchase and installation the flooring must be properly stored according to installation instructions.
- 2) Interior residential construction ONLY.
- 3) Only approved products for use over Radiant Heat.
- 4) The flooring must be installed below grade, on grade or above grade according to the recommended installation instructions and adhesives.
- 5) Environmental conditions below 35% RH or above 55% RH may result in cupping, delamination of veneer from core and may become unusable as a floor.
- 6) Problems caused by failure of the homeowner or installer to evaluate the jobsite and jobsite conditions are not covered.
- 7) This limited warranty applies only where the affected area of the flooring is visible and covers an area greater than 10% of the room.
- 8) A description of the problem, photographs, and a sample that clearly shows the warranty problem must be presented to the retailer/distributor for presentation to the manufacturer.
- 9) The covered person must provide valid proof of purchase for material and labor in the form of a sales receipt or invoice. This must show the date of purchase, original purchase price, and that he/she is the original purchaser
- 10) 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.
- 11) Manufacturer reserves the right to have a manufacturer's designated representative or firm inspect and take samples of the hardwood floor for analysis.
- 12) Manufacturer must be given 60 days following notice to inspect the product to confirm any failure.
- 13) Inspections of the hardwood floors must be performed in accordance with industry standards from a standing position with normal lighting and no glare.
- 14) Written notice and all photographs, samples and other documentation should be sent to the distributor/dealer from which the flooring was originally purchased.

**WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS**

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 normal and natural characteristics 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.
- ◆ 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.

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- ◆ 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. 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.

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**ADDITIONAL WARRANTY LIMITATIONS**

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. IF ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY ARISES UNDER APPLICABLE LAW, THEN ANY AND ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE DURATION OF THIS WRITTEN WARRANTY TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY APPLICABLE LAW. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ANY WARRANTIES IMPLIED BY STATE LAW AS HEREBY LIMITED, THE WARRANTIES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE PURCHASER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES AGAINST MANUFACTURER AND ARE IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, OBLIGATIONS, AND LIABILITIES OF MANUFACTURER, AND ALL RIGHTS, CLAIMS, AND REMEDIES OF PURCHASER AGAINST MANUFACTURER, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO ANY NONCONFORMANCE OR DEFECT IN GOODS PURCHASED BY THE ORIGINAL PURCHASER FROM ANY AUTHORIZED RESELLER OF MANUFACTURER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, (A) ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, (B) ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES ARISING FROM COURSE OF PERFORMANCE, COURSE OF DEALING, OR USAGE OF TRADE, (C) ANY OBLIGATIONS, LIABILITIES, RIGHTS, CLAIMS, OR REMEDIES IN TORT, WHETHER OR NOT ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF MANUFACTURER, ACTUAL OR IMPUTED, AND (D) ANY OBLIGATIONS, LIABILITIES, RIGHTS, CLAIMS, OR REMEDIES FOR ANY OTHER DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. SOME JURISDICTIONS DO NOT ALLOW EXCLUSIONS OR LIMITATIONS OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR EXCLUSIONS OR LIMITATIONS OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES. THEREFORE, THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS. AND YOU MAY ALSO HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH VARY FROM JURISDICTION TO JURISDICTION.

**WARRANTY PROCEDURE**

If you have any questions or wish to make a claim under this limited warranty, please contact retailer for Manufacturer at: Floor and Decor Outlets of America, Inc.