



Installation guide

Engineered Flooring

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Following these instructions carefully will greatly impact the life of your floors and whether or not you can take full advantage of the warranty.

IMPORTANT - BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Wood is a living material. It reacts to different variations in relative humidity. The wood shrinks in winter and expands in summer. In order to minimize the expansion or shrinkage of your floor, it is important to maintain the relative humidity level in your home between 40 and 55% year round. It is recommended that the wood acclimatize to the relative humidity of the house for a period of 72 hours (minimum 48 hours) before laying it, stacking the boxes in a checkerboard pattern and not opening them.

- INSTALL THE FLOOR LAST DURING RENOVATIONS
- HEAT (20 / 22OC) THE RESIDENCE AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE INSTALLATION
- KEEP THE SUB-FLOOR DRY AND THE BASEMENT WELL VENTILATED
- MAINTAIN THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY RATE BETWEEN 40% AND 55%

When ordering the flooring, provide an additional supply of 4 to 6% of the surface to be covered to compensate for the loss caused by the cuts.

Installation on a radiant heating system:

- TO MAXIMIZE HEAT EXCHANGE, THE FLOOR MUST BE GLUED
- WHEN INSTALLING THE FLOOR, THE HEATING SYSTEM MUST BE CLOSED
- THE FLOOR SHOULD NOT BE LAID DIRECTLY ON THE PIPES, A LAYER (SOLID: PLYWOOD) AT LEAST 2/5" (10MM) THICK IS RECOMMENDED IN ORDER TO DISTRIBUTE THE HEAT EVENLY.
- HICKORY FLOORS SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED OVER RADIANT FLOORS

PREPARATION

ADVICE :

Keep a few planks of your floor in reserve (between 5 and 6 planks) for warranty purposes and / or if you wish to repair your floor or order additional quantity.

1. SUBFLOOR: PLYWOOD OR OSB AND HUMIDITY LEVEL

Sub-floors: Engineered flooring is installed over two types of sub-floor, either a wood sub-floor: plywood or OSB, or directly on a concrete floor.

WOOD SUB-FLOOR:

Plywood: For joists spaced 12" (30.5cm) or 16" (40.6cm) apart, use minimum 5/8" (16mm) plywood; for joists spaced 19" and longer (48.3cm), use a 3/4" (19mm) thick plywood board.

OSB («oriented strand board», «Aspenite» or «pressed wood»): for joists spaced 12" 30.5cm) to 16" (40.6cm) apart, use a minimum 3/4" (19mm) OSB; for joists spaced 19" (48.3 cm) apart, use 3/4" plywood; **OSB IS NOT RECOMMENDED.**

DO NOT INSTALL YOUR FLOOR OVER PANELS MADE OF PRESSED WOOD OR GLUED PARTICLES (« MDF » or « K3 »).

Humidity level :

With a wood moisture tester, check that the moisture content of the subfloor is between 6% and 12%. For floors 3 1/2" and larger, do not install the floor boards if there is a moisture difference of more than 2% between the subfloor and the floor boards. If the subfloor contains a high level of moisture, determine the source and correct the problem. If necessary, delay the installation of the floor, ventilate and heat more. It is the sole responsibility of the installer and owner to check the humidity level of the sub-floor and to make sure that it is and remains within recommended limits.

CONCRETE FLOOR:

The concrete floor should be clean and dry. It must have dried for more than 30 days before laying the floor. We even recommend 45 to 90 days.

Humidity level :

Using a measuring device suitable for testing the humidity of the concrete, make sure that the rate does not exceed 3.5%. If not, perform a calcium chloride test and make sure the concrete sub-floor does not exceed 3lb per 1000 sq. ft. over 24 hours. If the sub-floor exceeds this 3lb value, you must install a waterproofing sealer over the concrete floor.

2. CHECK THE GOOD CONDITIONS OF THE SUB-FLOOR

Check and correct if necessary the solidity of the sub-floor. Since it should be flat, if applicable, sand the elevations with # 20 sandpaper or fill the drops with leveling compound. The sub-floor should be screwed every 6 inches to reduce squeaking.

3. CLEAN THE SUB-FLOOR

The sub-floor must be clean and free from contaminants.

4.REMOVE THE BASEBOARDS AND DOOR SILLS**5. SAW OFF THE BOTTOM OF THE DOOR FRAMES BY 2 CM (3/4") IN ORDER TO INSERT A BOARD.****6. TAKE CARE NOT TO DAMAGE THE FINISH.**

Use a protective surface to place tools and floor hammer during installation. For stapled or nailed flooring (page 7), check the nailer for oil leaks. Vacuum regularly during installation to remove abrasives and sawdust.

7. MAKE A SKETCH OF THE INSTALLATION

Establish the wall or the starting point (if to of the stairs, start where there is a stair nosing) and determine in which direction the flooring will be installed. They should be installed perpendicular to joists or at 45 degrees.

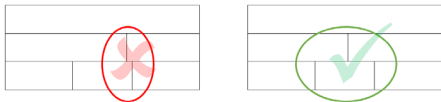
8. TAKE THE MEASUREMENTS OF THE ROOM

Measure the room exactly, to make sure the new floor is installed square and evenly. Note that the corners are not always at a 90 degree angle.

9. OPEN A FEW BOXES AND ARRANGE THE FLOORING AS THEY WILL BE INSTALLED

To create the best possible appearance, spread the flooring throughout the room as they will be installed to ensure a mix of colors and shades. Remove or move unwanted boards. Choose the boards that best match the transition moldings that will be installed.

The junctions between the planks must be spaced at least the width of your board with the row next to it in order to ensure maximum strength to your floor (See examples below)



TIPS: PAY ATTENTION TO THE PATTERNS CREATED BY VARIATIONS IN THE COLOURS OF THE WOOD. RESERVE THE LESS AESTHETIC BOARD FOR AREAS OF THE ROOM THAT WILL BE LESS VISIBLE.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

The principle of the floating installation consists of gluing the boards together without the floor being fixed in any way to the ground or to the walls. The floor thus holds in place thanks to its own weight and friction.

VERY IMPORTANT: THE INSTALLER IS THE LAST INSPECTOR ON SITE AND ANY BOARD DEEMED UNACCEPTABLE FOR THE GRADE SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED.

THE 7 1/2" WIDE ENGINEERED FLOOR SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED AS A FLOATING.

1. TO START

Engineered flooring can be laid this way over most existing rigid floors, whether wood, PVC or concrete. The floor should be clean and flat. This type of installation is recommended for radiant floors.

FLOATING INSTALLATION ON A WOODEN SUB-FLOOR:

The wood sub-floor must be dry and its humidity must not exceed 6 to 12%. Each plank of wood should be securely fastened and should not show sagging or squeaking. It must therefore be flat.

FLOATING ON A CONCRETE FLOOR:

Like all other sub-floors, this one must be clean and dry. The use of a waterproof membrane (vapor barrier) of 6 millimeters is necessary and the joints should be glued with waterproof tape.

NOTE: THE INSTALLATION OF A MEMBRANE IS RECOMMENDED ON ALL TYPES OF SUB-FLOORS DURING A FLOATING INSTALLATION. THIS MUST BE INSTALLED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION TO THE FLOORBOARDS (PERPENDICULARLY).

2.FLOOR EXPANSION

Before starting the installation, you must leave a space of 1/2" (13 mm) all around the floor, whether against walls or against various obstacles. This is to prevent the floor from cupling afterwards. A 3/4" (19mm) spacing joint is recommended for surfaces over 39 feet (12 meters) wide and 78 feet (24 meters) long.

NOTE: T-MOLDINGS CAN BE USED IF THE SPACING NEEDS TO BE GREATER.

3. INSTALLATION STEPS

1- Lay the first row without gluing it by placing the side of the tongue on the guide line and the side of the groove facing the starting wall. Remember to place your wedges against the wall to keep the space between the floor and the wall. Preferably use long boards for this step. Then prepare your second row to get an idea of how to place it. Then, cut the boards from each end of the first row to the desired dimensions of the length of the board.

2- To start, we put the board 2.1 of row 2 with the board 1.1 of row 1 (see example figure below). To do this, use a glue applicator at the bottom of the groove of the board 2.1 of the second row (DO NOT FILL THE GROOVES THOROUGHLY). Then fit the plank together with the first row, then wipe off the excess glue with a clean, dry cloth if necessary. It is recommended to use a hammer with the impact block to perfectly join the two boards.

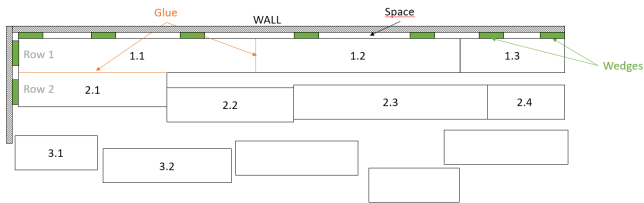
3- Then glue the board 1.1 of row 1 with the board 1.2 of row 1. To do this, use the same method as before but with the groove located at the end of the board. Repeat this step with plank 2.2 from row 2 on plank 1.2 from row 1, and continue like this until the end of your row and for all the other rows.

NOTE: THE STARTING BOARDS CAN BE THE CUT-OFF STRIP AT THE END OF THE PREVIOUS ROW, AS LONG AS THE ROW IS A MINIMUM OF 6" (152 MM).

4- When laying the last row, leave a space between the wall for the expansion joint of at least 1/2" (13mm)

5- Obstacles: Leave a space of 1/2" (13mm) between the floor and the obstacle, whatever it is.

6- Wait 12 hours before removing the blocks and walking on the floor.



NAIL / STAPLE INSTALLATION

VERY IMPORTANT: THE INSTALLER IS THE LAST INSPECTOR ON SITE AND ANY PLANKS DEEMED UNACCEPTABLE FOR THE GRADE SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED.

1. DRAW A LINE TO PROPERLY ALIGN THE FIRST ROW

Using a chalk line, draw a guide line parallel to the established starting wall, taking into account the width of the strip chosen and adding the thickness of your floor (1/2" (13 mm), 5/8" (16 mm) or 3/4" (19 mm)). This dimension corresponds to the space reserved for the expansion joint and the tongue. For example, if you have chosen 3 1/2" (88.9 mm) and 1/2" (13mm) thick, mark the line 4" (101.6 mm) from the starting wall. This guide line should be perpendicular to the adjacent wall. It is really important to start square.

TIP: CHOOSE THE LONGEST AND STRAIGHTEST BOARD FOR THE FIRST ROW.

2. PLACE, DRILL AND NAIL THE FIRST ROWS BY HAND

The first rows of boards should be nailed together by hand using a hammer, a nail set and finishing nails, given the wall preventing the use of the nail gun.

Install the first strip with the tongue side on the guide line and the groove side facing the starting wall. Install from right to left, leaving 1/4" (6 mm) between the right perpendicular wall and the end of the board. Drill and nail the board on top, as close to the wall as possible, about every 4" (10.16 cm) apart. Bottom wall moldings or baseboards will hide nail heads. Install the next planks by moving to the left until you have to cut the last plank to finish the row. Leave 1/4" (6 mm) between the wall and the end of the last board in each row.

3. RE-USE THE CUT-OFF STRIPS TO START THE NEXT ROW

The strip chosen to finish the first row should be long enough to start the second row with the remaining end. This will minimize the losses caused by the cut. Start the second row with the remaining end which should be at least 6" (152 mm) longer or shorter than the board used in the first row. This will prevent an alignment effect of the joints.

4. USE THE NAIL GUN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Subsequent rows are installed the same way, but using the nailer.

- THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE NAILS MUST BE ABOUT 6 TO 8" (152 TO 200 MM) FROM EACH OTHER FOR 3 ½", 5 ½" AND 7 ½" BOARDS, AND MUST BE OVER 3" (75 MM) AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF EACH BOARD.
- FOR 1/2" THICK (12 OR 13 MM) FLOORING, PREFERABLY USE 1 ½" (38 MM), 16 OR 18 GAUGE STAPLES OR NAILS.
- FOR 5/8" (16 MM) OR 3/4" THICK (19 MM) FLOORING, PREFERABLY USE 2" (50 MM) 15.5 OR 16 GAUGE STAPLES OR NAILS.
- CONSIDER MIXING THE WOOD IN A HALF-RANDOM, HALF-SELECTION WAY TO GET A BETTER APPEARANCE ON YOUR ENTIRE FLOOR.

NOTES :

- SERRATED NAILS ARE MUCH PREFERABLE TO STAPLES, WHICH CAUSE THE PLUG (TONGUE) TO BREAK WHEN THE FLOOR EXPANDS OR SHRINKS DURING THE CHANGING SEASONS.
- PERFORM TESTS ON A BOARD TO ADJUST THE PRESSURE OF THE NAIL GUN, THE NAIL SHOULD BE FLUSH WITH THE TONGUE WITHOUT PROTRUDING OR SINKING TOO FAR INTO THE WOOD.

5. NAIL THE LAST ROWS BY HAND

The last four or five rows will need to be installed using the same method as the first rows due to the proximity to the wall. You may have to narrow the strips that run along the wall to leave the 1/2" (12 mm), 5/8" (16 mm) or 3/4" (19 mm) needed for the joint. expansion (depending on your floor thickness).

If the last row of planks is less than 1" wide (25mm), use PVA wood glue to glue it together with the previous row.

GLUED INSTALLATION

VERY IMPORTANT: THE INSTALLER IS THE LAST INSPECTOR ON SITE AND ANY PLANKS DEEMED UNACCEPTABLE FOR THE GRADE SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED.

Engineered flooring can be glued directly to a wood, concrete or even ceramic sub-floor. However, the use of a wood or concrete sub-floor is recommended. The floor should be clean and level.

1. INSTALLATION STEPS

1- To start, draw a line parallel to the starting wall at a distance of the width of your floor plus 1/2" (13mm). For example if you have a 5 1/2" (1397 mm) floor, keep a distance of 6" (152 mm) from the starting wall.

2- Where the first row will be installed, and against the starting line, fix with nails a temporary support point to hold your first row (example: guide flooring). This will allow you to lean on this first row to secure the rest of the floor.

3- Make a mixture of several boards of your floor for a nice arrangement and prepare the first 3-4 rows.

4- On the starting line and towards the outer area, apply the glue (in small areas so that the adhesive does not dry) and place your first row of the boards there. The female part (groove) must face you. Use a hammer and a wedge to properly place your boards.

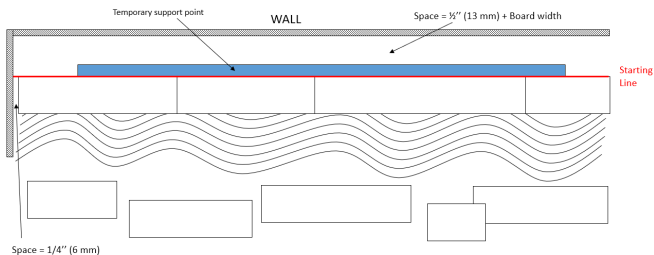
5- At the end of each row, cut the last board but leave a space with the wall of 1/4" (6 mm) for the expansion of the wood.

6- Place the other rows (from left to right or vice versa) and use the wedge and hammer to fit them perfectly.

7- Every 5 rows you can use blue tape (3M) to hold the boards in place. Also, use a 100 to 150 lbs (45 to 68kg) road roller to apply even pressure to the installed sections.

8- Once the entire section is complete, remove the fulcrum boards (guide flooring) and place the last row of flooring instead.

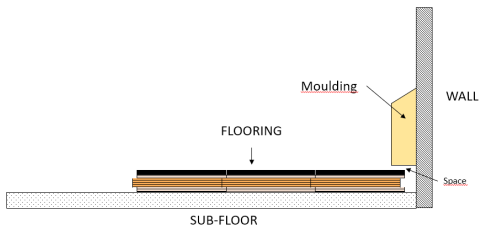
IMPORTANT: IMMEDIATELY CLEAN ANY ADHESIVE THAT DEPOSITS ON THE FLOOR SO AS NOT TO LEAVE A MARK.



FINISHING

1. INSTALL THE BASEBOARDS

Install the floor mouldings as well as the stair nosing and reducer. Re-install the baseboards and the quarter rounds (if needed) by nailing them to the wall, not to the floor, as this will allow the normal movement of the floor to occur. You will, beforehand, have carefully chosen planks in a shade close to that of the moldings to make your rows of floors near the place where the moldings will be installed.



2. CLEAN THE FLOOR

After you have completed the installation, vacuum the floors thoroughly. Spray some water or hardwood cleaner on a cloth-covered duster and wipe the floor dry.

3. INSTALL FELT CUSHIONS UNDERNEATH ALL FURNITURE

Place felt cushions underneath the legs of your kitchen appliances and under furniture to avoid damaging your floors when you move them.

4. LIFT FURNITURE WHEN MOVING IT

