



iconic international

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Our engineered prefinished hardwood floors are crafted to meet the industry's highest quality standards and are carefully manufactured to ensure they are free of defects. Each board is meticulously inspected before and after the finishing process to make sure it complies with our strict standards. All our engineered hardwood floors are covered by a limited residential warranty as described in this document. Additional information can also be found at www.nwfa.org, the National Wood Flooring Association's (NWFA) website.

Sub-Floor Preparations:

The sub floor must be completely dry.

1. All concrete floors are to measure a maximum of 5 or less on the Tramex concrete encounter.
2. Use of an 18"X18" 6 mil poly film taped securely to the concrete for a period of no less than 48 hours should show no change in the color of the concrete. Use of a heavy rubber mat laying flat to the concrete will accomplish the same result.
3. The concrete slab will usually take from 90 to 150 days to dry thoroughly depending on the size of the slab and weather conditions.
4. The sub floor must be free from any type of paints, oil, greases, dust, and all other types of residues.
5. The sub floor should be level in general, however, it must be level within 1/4" over a 10 foot radius, any direction.
6. If plywood is used as a sub floor, the moisture content difference should be no more than a 4% between the engineered wood floor and the plywood, and there should be no more than a 2% difference between the solid wood and the plywood. All plywood must be exterior grade CDX, and plywood size for sub floor is suggested to be no larger than 3/4" by 48"X 48" and an expansion gap of no less than 1/4" between sheets, and installed in an alternate pattern. (not straight rows).
7. A suggested moisture barrier for install solid wood floor on a concrete floor is a layer of plastic moisture barrier sheeting, then nail down the plywood to the sub floor every 1 foot along the outside edge, and the same throughout the interior.

INSTALLATION

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

Make sure sub-floor is tested for moisture content first and is properly prepared.

On concrete sub-floors, which are on or above grade (ground level), always assume the worst even if they measure dry. We recommend taking the following installation steps to ensure a trouble-free installation:

- Testing and documenting moisture content prior to installation
- Applying a sealer to the sub-floor as needed
- Follow adhesive Manufacturer's instructions for proper trowel size, minimum temperature, adhesive set time

and open times before beginning installation of flooring.

- Once the spread adhesive has setup sufficiently per adhesive Manufacturer's instructions, lay the first row of flooring with groove facing the wall, and continue laying flooring. Always check your working lines to be sure the floor is still aligned. Use tapping block to fit planks together but be careful not to let installed floor move on the wet adhesive while you are working. Always leave at least a 3/8" expansion space between flooring and all walls or thickness of the plank and vertical objects (such as pipes and cabinets). Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space. Remember to stagger end joints from row to row at least 8" apart.
- When first section is finished, continue to spread adhesive and lay flooring section by section until installation is complete. Use a damp cloth to IMMEDIATELY REMOVE ANY ADHESIVE that gets on the flooring surface. If adhesive cannot be completely removed with a damp cloth, use the Manufacturer's recommended adhesive remover.
- Never let flooring adhesive dry completely on the finished surface. Walk each section of flooring in order to make sure it is well bonded to the sub-floor with the adhesive working time. Flooring planks on the perimeter of the room may require weight on them until adhesive cures enough to hold them down.

NAIL DOWN (WITH GLUE ASSIST) INSTALLATION:

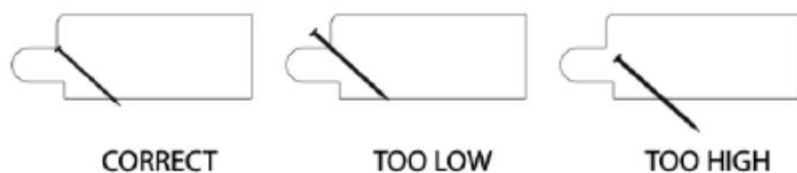
Installation Tools

NAIL DOWN Tape measure, pencil, chalk line, table saw, cut-off saw, jamb saw, tapping block, pull bar, spacers, hammer, safety glasses, hearing protection, utility knife, wall spacers, straight edge, broom, speedy square, hardwood floor cleaner, pin/finish nails, glue, air compressor, and shop vacuum.

CAUTION: Do not strike the finished edge or surface of the plank. Flooring mallets are intended to activate the nail gun. Striking the edge of the plank with flooring mallets, hammers, or rubber mallets can damage the edge of the planks.

Proper placement of fasteners is critical to the performance of the floor. Overshooting the fastener weakens the tongue and the damage can telegraph to the surface. Care must be taken not to damage the edge of the plank with mallets or the edge of the nail gun. Improper placement will create a noisy floor.

Air Pressure Settings



Glue Assist

You must account for moisture in any installation. In the event the sub-floor is not within acceptable moisture tolerance range. Two suggested ways to provide a moisture vapor retarder is to install an underlayment paper. Cut a 1/2" channel, in the paper perpendicular to the direction of the floor to be laid, every 12" on center. A second option is to roll a coat of moisture barrier over the entire sub-floor to create a moisture retarder.

STEPS FOR NAIL/STAPLE & GLUE INSTALLATIONS:

- 1) Before you start, make sure to test the substrate for moisture according to appropriate moisture testing procedures, Moisture Guideline and Vapor Retarders. Excessive/elevated moisture should not be present. The subfloor should be within acceptable moisture content as per adhesive and wood manufacturer's recommendation before installing.
- 2) Choose a starting wall according to the most aesthetically or architecturally important elements in the room, taking into consideration fireplaces, doors, cabinets and transitions, as well as the squareness of the room. The starting wall will often be the longest unbroken wall in the room.
- 3) Expansion space should be left around the perimeter. Measure out from the starting wall the width of one

- flooring plank plus the appropriate expansion space for the thickness of flooring. Mark two points toward each end of the starting wall and snap a chalk line along the full length of the wall through the marks.
- 4) Only use an adhesive approved by the flooring manufacturer. Follow the installation procedure recommended by the adhesive manufacturer, which includes subfloor moisture content, spread rate, trowel size, open time, working time and flash time as necessary.
 - 5) Trowel spread the adhesive on the subfloor along the chalk line wide enough to allow the first row of flooring to be installed, being careful not to cover the line. A proper roller can also be used if recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Before proceeding to the next step, follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for wet lay times.
 - 6) Lay the tongue side of the first row of flooring along the chalk line. Face nail (top nail) the first row of flooring in place. Place the fasteners approximately 3/4" from the wall side (groove side) of the board every 4" to 6". Once the face nails are set, use 6-d finish nails or the pneumatic finish nailer to blind/edge nail along the tongue of the first row, every 4" to 6" and every 1" to 3" from every end joint. Check to make sure the first row is still straight along the chalk line before proceeding.
 - 7) Trowel spread enough adhesive to install 2-3 more rows.
 - 8) Install the second row by sliding the groove side on to the tongue of the first row. Blind/edge nail it in to place, with fasteners every 4" to 6" and 1" to 3" from each end joint. Stagger end joints by at least 8". Distribute lengths, avoiding "H" patterns and other discernible patterns in adjacent runs. Stagger end joints of boards row to row a minimum of 6" for strip flooring, 8" - 10" for 3" to 5" plank, and 10" for plank wider than 5".
 - 9) Continue nailing and gluing 2-3 rows at a time in this manner across the room. Avoid creating "H" patterns (where an end joint is adjacent to another end joint in the second to last row installed). Use cut ends to start the subsequent row, discarding any pieces shorter than 8".
 - 10) Most adhesives require that the Installer clean the adhesive off the flooring boards during the installation. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for this procedure.
 - 11) Trim the last row of flooring to maintain the minimum expansion space at the far wall.
 - 12) At the far (finish) wall, it may be necessary to face-nail the last 2-3 rows due to the angle of the stapler/nailer. The last row or two of flooring may need to be pulled together using a pulling bar.
 - 13) Complete the installation by reinstalling or installing new base moldings.
 - 14) Do not allow foot traffic on the floor for 24 hours after installation is complete.

FLOATING INSTALLATION GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE:

1. Pad/Underlayment
Always use a high quality, firm underlayment pad with a built-in moisture membrane.
2. Lead with Groove
Cut off tongue on very first row to be installed and lead with the groove. This enables the tongue to be partially inserted into groove before coming into contact with the underlayment.
3. Tongue and Groove Adhesive
Place a bead of white PVA / D3 rated tongue and groove glue into the bottom of the groove.
4. Use Tapping Block
When tapping floor together with block start tapping from lead end and work back towards where the two end joints are coming together. Tapping back towards the floor tightens the end-joint.
5. Tape/Strap Starter Rows
After three rows of flooring have been installed, take a 6' level and check the leading edge to be sure floor is on a straight line. Lay the level on its back and glide bottom edge along the tongue. Failure to stay on a straight line will cause irregular gaps in floor on sides and ends. NOTE: It may be necessary to use painter's tape for delicate surfaces during the install to keep planks together. Remove delicate surface painter's tape within 24 hours of application.
6. Trim Last Row
Trim last row to fit and pull into place with pull tool.
Tape last several rows in place to prevent accidental movement and opening of side joints.
7. Install Lip/Over
Transition Moldings CAUTION: Do not attach lip/over moldings directly to the edge of the floor. Fasten transition lip/over moldings to the sub floor only. Attaching the lip/over to the edge of the floor prohibits the free movement

of the floor.

AFTER INSTALLATION

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup and turnover to the owner, use rosin paper. DO NOT use Blue Tape to adhere to the floor (blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. DO NOT USE plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.
- Remove expansion spacers and reinstall base and/or quarter round moldings to cover moldings to cover the expansion space.
- Dust mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, nosing. etc.).
- If using glue-down method, do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on floor for 24 hours.