

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS for **Solid Hardwood Flooring**

PRODUCT USE:

This floor may be installed:

- with nail down or staple down installation
- over plywood or OSB subfloor
- on or above grade only

This floor should NOT be installed:

- in any location below grade (basements)

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING THE INSTALLATION.

Professional installation is recommended for nail down application.

INSTALLER'S / OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

As a natural product, wood contains inherent variations in color, grain and appearance and other visual imperfections. This flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. These defects may be the result of manufacturing or naturally occurring characteristics of the material. It is recommended that a 5% cutting or grading allowance be added to the total square footage when calculating the quantity of flooring required.

It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all flooring prior to installation. All pieces of flooring should be examined for grade and quality of manufacture. If the product quality is deemed unacceptable, it should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and owner, even if the owner is not present at the time of installation. It is the sole responsibility of the flooring installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor and installation tools and materials meet or exceed all applicable industry standards. The manufacturer of this flooring accepts no responsibility for problems arising from incorrect or improper site preparation or installation procedures. **For further information on installation standards and guidelines, consult the National Wood Flooring Association at www.nwfa.org.**

SITE PREPARATION:

Installation in newly-constructed home

Installation of wood flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing a wood floor, ensure that:

- the building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to house interior
- all concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting and other wet work is complete and thoroughly cured and dry
- basements and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water; crawlspaces must also have a vapor barrier and adequate ventilation in accordance with local building codes.
- gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building
- if heating and/ or air conditioning are to be installed in the new home, these HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home

- subfloor is properly prepared for installation

Installation in existing home (Renovation)

Installation in an existing home must meet the same conditions as a new home. If part of a larger remodeling project, ensure that all wet work (painting, wallpapering, texturing, etc) is completed and thoroughly dry before commencing flooring installation.

Climate control

Conditions at the job site must be maintained with the temperature between 65-75 degrees F (18-24 °C) and humidity at 35-55% before, during and after the installation. Flooring material should not be delivered to job site until these conditions have been met and maintained for two weeks prior to installation. Following installation, these conditions should be maintained at all times to ensure proper performance of the floor. When temperature and humidity have met the conditions detailed above, material may be delivered to the job site. If stacking the flooring, place spacers between layers to ensure adequate air flow.

Subfloor preparation

The installer and customer are jointly and solely responsible for ensuring that the subfloor is suitable for the flooring application and properly prepared for installation. All subfloors must be clean, dry, structurally sound and flat to within 1/8" in 8'. Plywood subfloors must meet local building code requirements (US: minimum 3/4" T&G plywood or 23/32" T&G OSB. Canada: minimum 5/8" T&G plywood or 3/4" T&G OSB). They must be secure to the joists, free of squeaks and protruding fasteners.

Moisture content

All subfloors must be tested for moisture content according to NWFA guidelines, and the moisture content of both subfloor and flooring must be within allowable limits before commencing installation. The moisture content of the subfloor must not exceed 12%. The moisture content of the flooring must be within 4 percentage points of the subfloor for strip flooring and within 2 percentage points for plank flooring.

Color racking

Real wood flooring contains natural variations in color and grain pattern. In order to prevent color "grouping" or repetitive grain patterns in the finished floor, it is recommended that boards be racked (visually sorted) before installation to create a satisfactory and pleasing color arrangement.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLANK (4" and wider) FLOORING

Seasonal distortion (shrinkage/cupping) and/or movement in wide width flooring [4" and over] may be reduced by gluing the flooring to the subfloor, in addition to the use of mechanical fasteners. The installer should be reminded that adhesives used for this purpose will not perform their function when used in conjunction with a moisture retardant underlayment paper. Glue assisted applications will not be satisfactory without direct contact with the subfloor. The glue should be a premium grade urethane construction adhesive (such as PL Premium) applied in a serpentine pattern to the back of the hardwood.