

Engineered Hardwood Installation Instructions

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Pre-Installation Requirements

To prevent damage to the finish of your hardwood floor, we recommend that the installation of your hardwood floor be the final step in your construction project.

Environmental Guidelines

1. The room temperature where the hardwood floors are being installed must be between 65°F - 72°F (18°C - 22°C) for at least one week prior to installation. This temperature must also be maintained after the floor is installed.
2. It is important that the subfloor be dry and the basement be well ventilated. Doing so will avoid any moisture-related damage. The maximum moisture level reading for wooden subfloors is 12%, with no more than a 4% differential between the subfloor and wooden planks. If your moisture readings are too high, raise the heat and increase the ventilation in the area.
3. The relative humidity of the installation location must be kept between 40% and 60%.
4. Prior to installation, the wood planks must be acclimatized to the desired indoor conditions. The wood planks **MUST** be kept indoors at the recommended temperature and humidity level for a minimum of 3 days. During the winter months, where humidity levels are usually lower, we recommend extending this time to 5 days.

Subfloor Conditions

1. A subfloor with a minimum 5/8" (16mm) plywood, or 3/4" (19mm) approved OSB chipboard must be installed over 16" (400mm) center-to-center floor joists.
2. The subfloor must be securely fastened to the floor joists to prevent any movement or squeaks. Use screws rather than nails to provide a stronger bond.
3. The subfloor level should differ no more than 3/16" (5mm) per 10' (3m). Should the subfloor be outside of this tolerance, it should be leveled out using a leveling compound. If required, use a coarse grit sandpaper to remove any highpoints of the subfloor.

4. Prior to the installation of the flooring, vacuum the subfloor to remove all debris.

Room Conditions

1. Undercut or remove any baseboards, if required.
2. Undercut all doorjambes and doorstops so that the flooring can be inserted underneath.
3. Pre-select and put aside strips of flooring that are colour matched to transition moldings (which will be installed at end of project).

Nailed Down Installation Instructions

Step 1: Creating guideline

- A. Using a chalk line, create a line parallel to the starting wall and perpendicular to the adjacent one. When creating the guideline, add 1/2" (13mm) to the plank width to account for expansion gap required. As an example, if you were installing 5" (127mm) planks, trace the guideline at 5 1/2" (140mm) away from your starting wall.

Step 2: Plank laying

- A. Carefully select the planks, removing any ones that contain visible imperfections or high colour variation. It is suggested that these less desirable planks be used in less conspicuous areas such as closets.
- B. Line up the first row of floor planks against the guideline. The tongue side must face away from your starting wall. Leave a 1/4" (6mm) gap between the end of the plank and the wall perpendicular to the guideline. Drill and nail through the plank, as close to the wall as possible. The goal is to ensure that the head of these nails are hidden by baseboards and quarter rounds when they are in place (this applies only to the first row).
- C. Select a plank that is long enough for the row end, and also allows enough length for the trimmed piece to be used to start the next row. Make sure to leave a 1/4" (6mm) gap at the end of each row between the plank and wall.
- D. Planks should differentiate at least 4" (101mm) in length to that in the row beside it. This will help prevent the effect of end-joint alignment.
- E. Usually, flooring nailers cannot be used for the first and last few rows of flooring. Instead, drill and nail above the plank tongue, every 4" (100mm). Do not place any nails within 2" (50mm) from the end of each plank.
- F. The following rows must be installed similarly, using a pneumatic nailer (or stapler). Nail (or staple) planks every 8" – 10" (200mm - 250mm). Again, it is important to not place any nails within 2" (50mm) from the end of each plank.
- G. Sometimes, the final row must be rip sawed to allow for the required 1/2" (12mm) gap alongside

the finishing wall.

- H. Carefully store extra planks in an area with similar temperature and humidity as the installation area. They may be useful, should any future repairs be needed.

Step 3: Accessories installation

- A. Where applicable, install transition moldings, stair nosing, and reducers.
- B. Install baseboards and quarter rounds. Make sure that they are nailed only to the wall and not to the floor. This will allow for any necessary for floor movement.

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