



INSTALLATION

GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORS

The following general instructions are provided as a convenience to the installer, but all flooring should be installed in accordance with standards set by the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA).

Installer / Owner Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to make final inspection of the product prior to acclimation and installation. A pre-lay or test-lay (no glue or nails used) of at least four to five boxes at the jobsite to combine a beautiful blend of shading. If the color, variations in grain and shades, natural character marks on wood do not appear to satisfactory after opening a few boxes, do not continue. Contact BuildDirect immediately to arrange a return. The installer also should use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects, whatever the cause. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade or manufacture the installer should not use the piece of flooring or only use it at where the piece needs cut - retain the good part and get rid of the defective part as cutting waste. An industry standard of about five percent (5%) should be added to actual square footage needed as allowance for waste but BuildDirect recommends getting 7%-10% to allow for patterning, extra cuts and corners.

Storage and Handling

Always store flooring in a dry place. Flooring should not be exposed to high humidity or moisture or excessive heat. When jobsite conditions are ready (enclosed and dry), deliver and store flooring in rooms where it will be installed. Always handle the flooring package with care, do not drop, do not damage the packaging, **do not try to lift/carry a box without its outside plastic bending** - such banding is for holding the flooring together within the box, not for standing the weight of the whole flooring package.

Subfloors

Subfloor should be prepared in accordance with the standards published in great detail by NWFA. 3/4" thick flooring is meant for nail down installation only. It is preferred to have plywood (3/4" thick) subfloor laid over wooden joists. Particle board or similar products (MDF or HDF) are not suitable for nailing. If it is a concrete subfloor, it will be necessary to add an approved wooden nailing surface as described in NWFA literature prior to installing the flooring. When done, subfloor should be structurally sound, flat, dry and free from protruding nails.

Acclimation

Acclimation is to allow the moisture content of the wood to adjust to "normal living conditions" at the site. The jobsite should be fully enclosed, with outside doors and windows in place; all concrete, masonry, plastering, and other wet work should be completed and thoroughly dry; all texturing and painting primer coats should be completed; and the interior climate controls should be operating for at least 48 hours to stabilize the moisture conditions of the interior. Do not unpack flooring packaging and do acclimation on a rainy day or excessively humid conditions. The flooring should be removed from packaging and spread (pre-lay) over the subfloor for about seven (7) days before nailing down. Moisture contents of both the flooring and the subfloor must be checked and recorded before any work begins.

Installation

Installation should be done in accordance with approved practices as outlined in NWFA publication on 3/4" nail down installations; in general the following rules are especially noteworthy:

- Remove any existing base, shoe, or other molding present. Under cut any existing door casing as required with a jamsaw/ handsaw
- Be sure to leave 1/2" expansion joint around edges of room for seasonal expansion and contraction
- Be sure and rack the floor so as to space end joints properly so that no twos joints are within 6" of joints on adjoining rows.
- Have at least two nails per board. Space nails every 10" - 12". Do not place nails within 4" of the end of the board
- Hand nail the first two rows of boards after laying your chalkline out from your starting wall. Pre-drill holes and remember to countersink the 8d and 10d nardened nails you use to nail these rows
- Be sure to lay first course groove side to starting wall. To draw planks together, always use a tapping block against the tonque (not the groove edge).



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