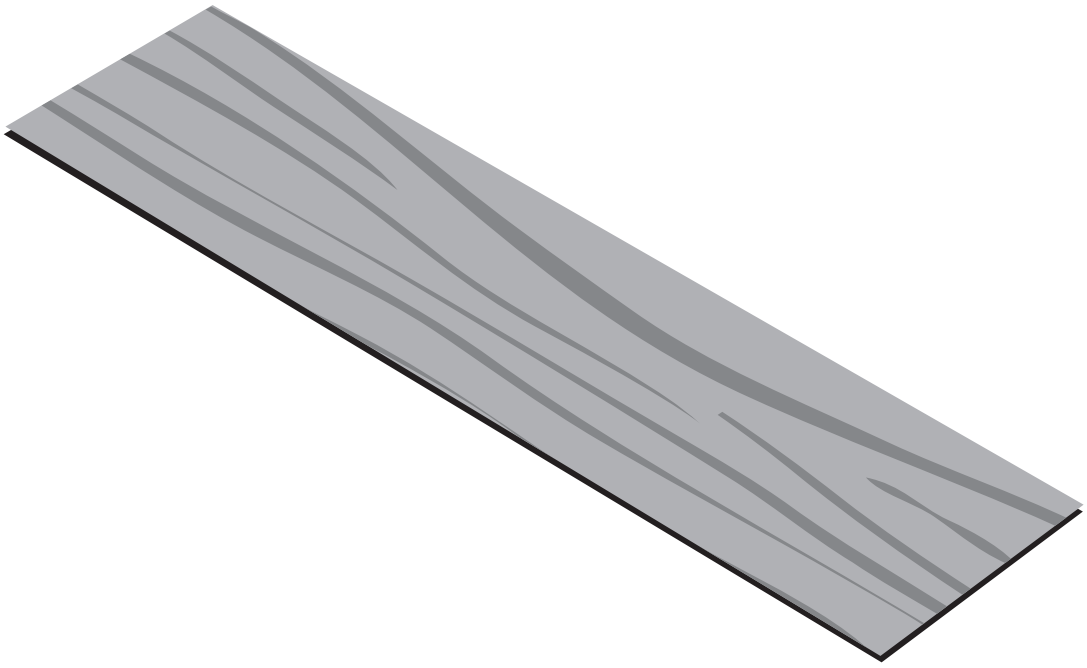
HOME DECORATORS COLLECTION®

USE AND CARE GUIDE

CLICK LOCK WOOD FLOORING



**Questions, problems, missing parts? Before returning to the store,
call Home Decorators Collection Customer Service
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., EST, Monday - Friday**

1-844-498-0341

HOMEDEPOT.COM/HOMEDECORATORS

THANK YOU

We appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in Home Decorators Collection through the purchase of this glue/floating wood flooring. We strive to continually create quality products designed to enhance your home. Visit us online to see our full line of products available for your home improvement needs. Thank you for choosing Home Decorators Collection!

CLICK WOOD FLOOR INSTALLATION

3/8” CLICK - LOCK: FLOAT

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Safety Information

SAFETY AND HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE FOR MINNESOTA RESIDENTS:

SOME OF THE BUILDING MATERIALS USED IN THIS HOME (OR THESE BUILDING MATERIALS) EMIT FORMALDEHYDE. EYE, NOSE, AND THROAT IRRITATION, HEADACHE, NAUSEA AND A VARIETY OF ASTHMA-LIKE SYMPTOMS, INCLUDING SHORTNESS OF BREATH, HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS A RESULT OF FORMALDEHYDE EXPOSURE. ELDERLY PERSONS AND YOUNG CHILDREN, AS WELL AS ANYONE WITH A HISTORY OF ASTHMA, ALLERGIES, OR LUNG PROBLEMS, MAY BE AT GREATER RISK. RESEARCH IS CONTINUING ON THE POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO FORMALDEHYDE.

REDUCED VENTILATION MAY ALLOW FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS TO ACCUMULATE IN THE INDOOR AIR. HIGH INDOOR TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY RAISE FORMALDEHYDE LEVELS. WHEN A HOME IS TO BE LOCATED IN AREAS SUBJECT TO EXTREME SUMMER TEMPERATURES, AN AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM CAN BE USED TO CONTROL INDOOR TEMPERATURE LEVELS. OTHER MEANS OF CONTROLLED MECHANICAL VENTILATION CAN BE USED TO REDUCE LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER INDOOR AIR CONTAMINANTS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF FORMALDEHYDE, CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

⚠ **WARNING**: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to **www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood**

Product and core compliant with CARB ATCM Phase II & TSCA Title VI

Power tools can be dangerous. Operate in strict accordance with manufacturer’s operating instructions and safety precautions. Unsafe and improper use can cause serious injuries. Avoid inhalation and exposure to airborne particles by wearing personal protective equipment, including: NIOSH or OSHA approved dust masks, safety goggles and work gloves.

PLEASE READ ALL OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION.

PRE-INSTALLATION PLANNING

Owner/Installer Checklist & Responsibility
The owner/installer assumes all responsibility for the final inspection of the product. Check flooring BEFORE installation and immediately contact your dealer or retailer if you feel the material is not acceptable. Warranties do NOT cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.

Real wood floors are a natural product and every plank is unique. These features can include (but are not limited to) natural color variation, knots, worm holes, distinctive grain, etc. and are not flaws. Our hardwood floors are manufactured to accepted industry standards which permit natural and/or manufacturing grading defects not to exceed 5%.

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the job site subfloor and conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for wood flooring installation. Manufacturer is not responsible for wood floor failure resulting from or connected with subfloor, subsurface, job site damage or deficiencies after the flooring has been installed.

The installer must document all site tests (subfloor and planks' moisture levels, room temperature, home's relative humidity) at the time of installation and these should be retained. These records, along with the original proof of purchase (itemized sales receipt or customer agreement) will be needed if a warranty claim is ever filed.

Visit the National Wood Flooring Association's (NWFA) website at www.woodfloors.org for installation and care tips.

Job Site Must Be Ready
The structure must be completely enclosed. All plumbing and dry wall work should be complete. The heat and air conditioning systems must be operating at 60-80 degrees F and the relative humidity (RH) should be normal (35-55%) for 14 days prior to the flooring installation. These temperature and RH levels must be maintained during and after the installation.

The use of a dehumidifier or humidifier may be required in some areas of the country to maintain these levels. Cupping, gapping, etc. can occur if a proper environment is not maintained.

Check basements and crawl spaces to insure they are dry and well ventilated. Earthen crawl spaces must have a minimum of 6 mil black polyurethane film with seams overlapped and taped.

Installation Methods
The floor is milled with a locking profile that enables the floor to be clicked together and floated without the use of glue or fasteners. A floating floor expands and contracts with environmental changes such as temperature and relative humidity so it is imperative that an expansion space equal to the thickness of the flooring planks be left around the perimeter of the room and around all vertical features (such as cabinets, stairways, etc.).

The floor may also be fully glued directly to an acceptable sub-floor but due to the locking profile, installer must work with smaller sections for the glue down application.

The floor is not designed to be stapled or nailed down.

Installation Locations
May be installed on any level: on, above or below grade (basements).

Not warranted for installation in full bathrooms due to the potential for excessive moisture.

May be installed by floating installation method on most any clean, dry, flat and structurally sound subfloor including flooring grade plywood, OSB, particle board, lightweight concrete, concrete or existing floors that are secured. If plywood is used over an existing floor, the combined thickness of the plywood and existing floor must be at least ¾" thick. If installing by fully gluing to the subfloor, refer to separate glue down instructions.

Installing with Floor Heating Systems
Only Oak species are approved to install over subfloor radiant heating systems.

Closely follow the heating regulation recommendations given by the system supplier.

The subfloor temperature should never exceed 80 degrees F.

Floating floor foam underlayment that is a maximum of 1/8" thick must be used on top of subfloors with radiant heat systems.

Flooring Acclimation and Storage
Store the unopened cartons of flooring in a climate-controlled area between 60-80 degrees F and a relative humidity (RH) of 35-55%.

Flooring should be left in cartons, stored flat and raised off of the subfloor.

Allow the flooring to acclimate/condition in the climate-controlled area where it will be installed for a minimum of 48 hours before installing.

Subfloor Preparation
Subfloors must be flat to within 3/16" in a 10' radius. Use a straight edge to determine flatness throughout. Subfloor irregularities may cause any wood flooring installation to develop hollow spots between the floor and subfloor. Irregularities should be corrected before proceeding with the installation. If the floor flexes, it may cause squeaking or over time the locking system may weaken.

Clean the subfloor by removing any paint, wax, plaster, sheetrock, mud, etc. Sweep or vacuum thoroughly.

The subfloor and flooring plank moisture must be checked. If excess moisture is present, then the moisture issues must be addressed (utilizing sealants or other remedies) and the subfloor moisture retested. Do not install the floor until the moisture requirements are met.

Wood subfloors should be checked in multiple locations using a probe style moisture meter. In general, wood subfloors should not exceed 14% MC (moisture content) and the MC variance between the sub-floor and the new wood flooring that will be installed should not exceed 4%.

Concrete subfloors should be tested in multiple locations utilizing one of these methods:

- Electrical Impedance Test and Electrical Resistance Resistance Test (Concrete Moisture Meters). Follow the manufacturer's instructions and do not install the floor if the meter shows there is excess moisture.
- Relative Humidity Test (standard test method for determining relative humidity on concrete slabs is utilizing Situ Probes). If test shows over 80%, a vapor retarder must be used or wait for further curing.
- Calcium Chloride Test (ASTM F-1869). Reading over 5 lbs. are unacceptable and must be corrected prior to installation.
- New concrete subfloors should be at least 30 days old.

As part of your subfloor prep, remove any existing quarter round, shoe molding or doorway thresholds. They can be replaced after installation in such a way as to allow the required expansion space around the perimeter of the room. All door casings should be undercut to allow room for the required expansion space and to avoid difficult scribe cuts. Use a piece of the new flooring on the subfloor as a height guide for your handsaw or jamb saw.

CLICK LOCK INSTALLATION

Tools Needed for Floating Installation

- Foam underlayment
- 6-mil Polyethylene Film (if installing over concrete and your foam underlayment does not have an integrated 6-mil poly film)
- Tongue and groove adhesive or wood glue
- Chalk line and chalk
- 3/8" thick wood or plastic spacers
- Straight Edge
- Tapping block
- Pencil
- Tape measure
- Safety glasses
- Dust mask
- Circular/rip saw-80 tooth blade
- Jamb saw
- Putty / Stain repair pen
- Pull Bar
- Soft Faced Hammer

Plan Your Installation

Measure the installation area and decide which direction the planks will run. If possible, install the planks perpendicular to the flooring joists. Planks will be better highlighted if they can run parallel to the main light source.

A floating floor expands and contracts with environmental changes such as temperature and relative humidity so it is imperative that an expansion space equal to the thickness of the flooring planks be left around the perimeter of the room and around all vertical features (such as cabinets, stairways, etc.). For example, if you are installing a 3/8" thick floor, leave a 3/8" expansion space.

Extra expansion space is required for larger spaces measuring more than 24 linear feet. Use a spacer (equal to the thickness of the floor) between the left wall and the plank. The spacers between the long sides and the wall will be added after three rows have been installed. Either use t-molding or use an additional 1/4" expansion space for each additional 12 linear feet. For doorways less than 4' in width, a t-mold is required.

The floor must not be restricted in any way that will prevent it from being able to float freely. Do not put any fasteners through the floor (nails, screws, etc.) or pinch the floor in doorways, etc. Nail quarter round through the base board, not the floor or expansion space. The floor can pull apart or buckle if it is restricted.

It is best to pre-plan your flooring layout based upon the floor width. Normally one row of planks must be ripped lengthwise in order to fit. You may elect to rip both the first and last rows of flooring to balance the appearance. **Regardless of the width of the planks used in the first row, the short ends will not "lock" together tightly and must be glued together, weighted and allowed to dry. Once the long sides are engaged with the second row, the floor will be locked together securely.** If planks are ripped to a width of less than 2" wide, also use wood glue to affix the ripped planks lengthwise along the long sides to the abutting row of planks.

Install planks from several cartons of flooring at the same time so that you can balance dark and light boards, plank lengths, plus other variations in a pleasing manner.

Since both moldings and the floors are made from real wood, they can sometimes vary in appearance. It is best to identify a flooring plank that coordinates closely with the molding. Plan to install the complementary flooring plank next to the molding.

Boards that are slightly bowed (curved) are normal in engineered flooring. They are not defective and can be installed by using your left hand to apply slight downward pressure while rotating the plank down. Next, gently use a tapping block to engage the long sides of the boards completely. Refer to Fig. 11 in these instructions.

Boards must be staggered so that there is a minimum of 9" between the short ends of planks in adjoining rows. Avoid repeating end joint locations visually across the installed floor.

Use a pull bar to tighten boards / remove gaps along outside edges.

Roll out underlayment and abut the edges per the manufacturer's instructions. If installing over concrete, install a 6-mil poly film first (unless the underlayment you are using includes a 6-mil poly layer).

Determine if your room is square by taking several measurements. If the room is not square, you will need to cut the boards in the first row to the contours of the wall to insure you are working from a straight line.

Snap a chalk line equal to the width of the first two rows to be installed (minus the locking groove) plus the required expansion space. This will give you a straight line to work from.

The joints of the short ends of all planks in the first and last rows should be glued together, weighted and allowed to dry. This provides a stable foundation for installing all of the rows.

Once the Flooring Installation is Complete

Remove the spacers along the walls once the installation is complete.

Install any necessary moldings taking care that they do not impede the floor's ability to expand and contract. Baseboards or quarter round should be held off the floor a minumum of 1/8" so as not to hold the flooring in place.

Utilize putty and/or a stain pen as needed.

If a protective paper or cloth covering is being utilized, tape this covering to itself rather than taping it directly to the hardwood floor. Note - do not let it sit on the floor for more than 7 days.

Care and Maintenance for Your New Floor

Regularly sweep or vacuum up loose dirt that can dull your finish. Ensure your vacuum is designed and safe for hardwood floors.

Periodically use a spray floor cleaner specifically designed for hard wood floors. Do not use liquid/paste wax, oil soap, silicone, ammonia based cleaners as they can permanently dull or cloud the finish.

Floors should not be wet mopped. Do not use power scrubbers or steam cleaners.

Use felt protectors under furniture legs.

Hard castors can dent the floor.

Spike heels, sport cleats can damage the floor.

Protect the floor when dragging heavy furniture or appliances over it.

Keep pets' nails trimmed.

Use door mats to catch dirt and grit.

Maintain a normal temperature of 60-80 degrees F and a relative humidity of 35-55%. The use of a dehumidifier or humidifier may be required in some areas of the country to maintain these levels. Cupping, gapping, etc. can occur if a proper environment is not maintained.

Installing the Floor

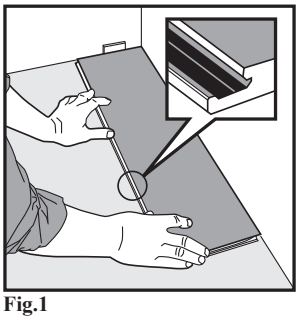


Fig.1
First plank, first row. Start in the left-hand corner of the room with the groove side of the locking profile facing you. Use a spacer (equal to the thickness of the floor) between the left wall and the plank. The spacers between the long sides and the wall will be added after three rows have been installed.

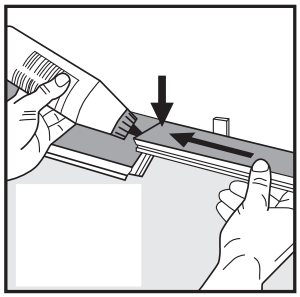


Fig.2
Glue all of the short end joints in the first and last rows only. Use wood glue and weight down until glue has dried. **Important: Short ends do NOT lock together tightly. The ends in the first row MUST be glued together to establish a stable foundational row. Once the long sides are engaged with the second row, the floor will be locked together securely.**

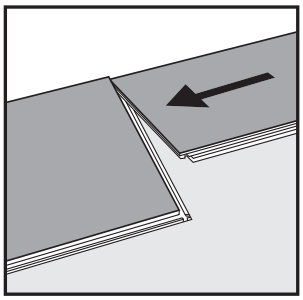


Fig.3
Second plank, first row. Place next plank tight to the short end of the first plank.

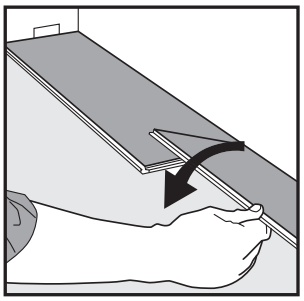


Fig.4
Then fold down in a single action so that the ends lock together. Very Important: Make sure the long sides of the planks are aligned. Complete the entire row in the same manner.

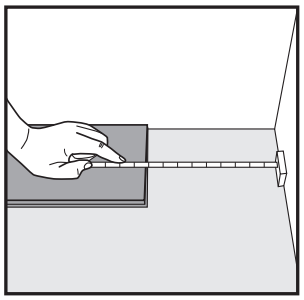


Fig.5
At the end of the first row, put a 3/8" spacer along the wall, measure the length of the last plank to fit.

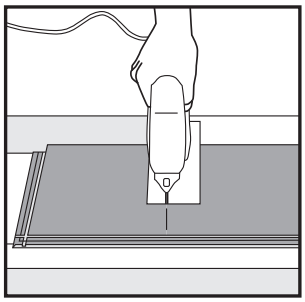


Fig.6
Cut the plank and complete the first row. Allow the glue to dry before continuing.

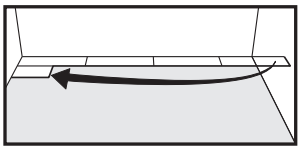


Fig.7
Second row. Utilize the leftover cut piece from the first row if it is 9" on longer. Hold the board at a 45-degree angle to the first board in the first row. Engage the boards' long sides, insuring they are completely engaged before rotating down while pushing it against the first board. If properly engaged, the boards will lie down flat. The gentle use of a tapping block may be helpful. Take care to not damage the locking system.

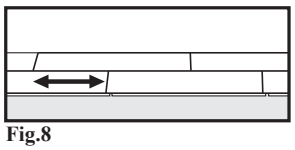


Fig.8
Planks must be staggered. The minimum distance between short ends in adjoining parallel rows should not be less than 9".

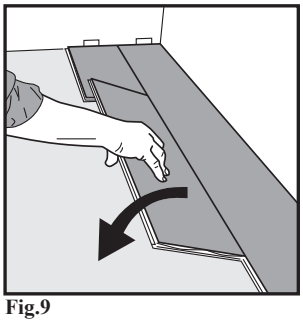


Fig.9
Second row, second plank. Place the plank tight against both the short end of the first plank and repeat the installation steps under Fig 7.

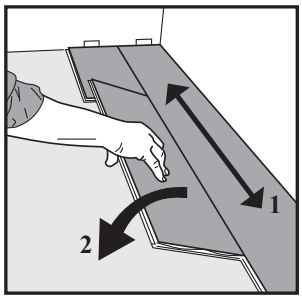


Fig.10
Hint for installing planks. The long sides of planks must be fully aligned before rotating down. You cannot force the boards. If they are not lying flat, the long side is not fully engaged. Start over ensuring the long sides are fully engaged.

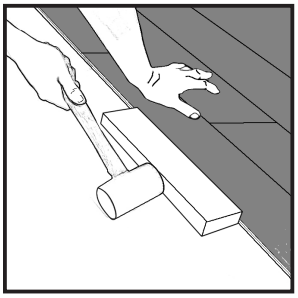


Fig.11
Hint for installing planks. If the board is slightly bowed, use your left hand to apply slight downward pressure and gently using a tapping block in your right hand to engage the long sides of the boards completely. Then rotate down.

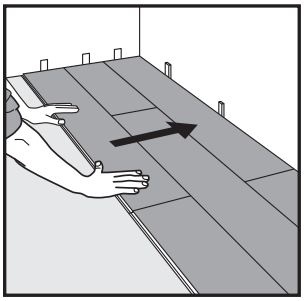


Fig.12
After installing 2 rows, place the spacers along the wall, line up the boards on the chalk line and push the installed flooring rows against the spacers. Continue installing rows.

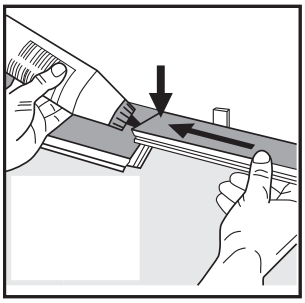


Fig.13
Glue the short end joints in the last row and weight down until dry.

Horizontal Installation Tips- installing under cabinet toe kicks, door jambs, etc., where angling is not possible.

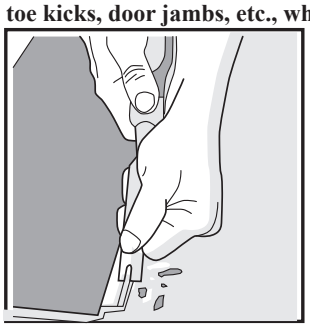


Fig.14
Remove the raised portion of the groove using a chisel.

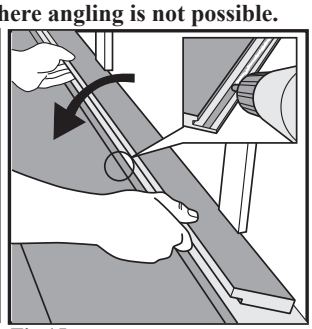


Fig.15
Put glue along the modified locking profile, press the panels together and weight until glue is dry. Use a pull bar to remove any gaps.

Warranty

All warranties are limited to the original purchaser only. Retain your original sales receipt or customer agreement and all initial test documentation (temperature, relative humidity, sub-floor moisture, etc.).

RESIDENTIAL FINISH WARRANTY

Residential Flooring Manufacturer warrants that the finish will not wear through to the wood within a Lifetime as long as the original purchaser owns the floor, whichever is less. Gloss reduction is not considered wear through and is not covered by the warranty. EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS DO APPLY. SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS.

COMMERCIAL FINISH WARRANTY

Flooring Manufacturer warrants that the finish will not wear through to the wood within five (5) Years, or as long as the original purchaser owns the floor, whichever is less. Gloss reduction is not considered wear through and is not covered by the warranty. Warranty only applies to flooring installed in light commercial settings, such as low traffic, boutique retail stores, and restaurant dining areas. Flooring installed in heavy commercial settings such as bank lobbies, beauty salons, commercial kitchens, and high traffic areas is not covered. EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS DO APPLY. SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS.

MATERIAL WARRANTY

Flooring Manufacturer warrants that the products have been manufactured in compliance with the grading rules of flooring manufacturer, and will be free from manufacturing defects for as long as the original purchaser owns the floor. Manufacturing defects do not include natural wood characteristics such as mineral streaks, knots, grain variations, worm holes, normal minor differences between color of samples, photos, the color of installed floors, color variations from board to board, or differences between moldings and flooring. Use of putty or stain pens during installation is considered normal. Minor width variation is to be expected and is not considered a defect. Claimed defects should be visible from a normal standing inspection position and not require reflective or special lighting to detect.

EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

No warranty coverage is provided for flooring that contains obvious defects of any kind that were installed nonetheless. If, before installation, you discover any flooring that has obvious defects, please immediately contact the dealer from whom the flooring was purchased and replacement flooring will be provided at no cost.

These warranties do not cover damage, indentations, scratches, or stains arising from negligence, accidents, abuse, fire or excessive heat, abnormal wear, construction, spike heels, grit, sand or other abrasives, dents, insect infestation after the product has left our factory, domestic animals or tape applied to the floor's surface. Splits and cracks after installation are normally caused by improper home environment rather than manufacturing.

It is critical that all installations are done in compliance with the procedures outlined in the flooring manufacturer's installation instructions, which can be found in each carton of flooring. No damage or defects caused by improper installation or failure to provide a suitable installation environment (including proper acclimation) are covered by this warranty. Failure to install your flooring in accordance with the instructions will void all warranties.

These warranties do not cover damage caused by use of the flooring for purposes other than those for which it was designed; damage caused by disasters such as fire, flood, wind, and lightning; damage during shipment; or any other abuse or misuse by the purchaser.

The flooring should only be cleaned using a good quality cleaner (such as Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner) made specifically for wood flooring. Remove any loose dirt or grit from the floor. The cleaner should not be liberally applied to the flooring, only misted via the floor care system selected if automated or applied directly to the micro-fiber pad. Use of non-approved cleaning and maintenance products including oil soap, liquid/paste wax, oil, silicone or ammonia based products will void all warranties. Do not wet mop or use steam cleaners of any kind on the floor.

After your floor is installed, it is critical to maintain a normal temperature between 60°-80° F and a relative humidity between 35-55%. Failure to follow these guidelines, especially with regard to humidity range, can result in a performance failure or damage to your floor and will void the warranty. In addition, it is important to maintain your floor in accordance with the flooring manufacturer's maintenance instructions.

These warranties do not cover damage or unsatisfactory performance caused by excessive moisture or moisture vapor including, but not limited to, improper humidity inside the home, excessive ground moisture that migrates into the home for any reason, excessive sub-floor moisture, water leaks caused by broken pipes or appliances, improper cleaning methods such as wet mopping or automated cleaning machines, weather conditions or natural disasters such as flooding or excessive rainfall.

Since wood is a natural product, it will tend to expand and contract as moisture and humidity levels inside the home may change. Accordingly, normal expansion and contraction which results in minor separations between flooring boards are not covered by these warranties.

The limited warranties do not cover color changes to any flooring which results from exposure to UV light. Normal exposure to sunlight will cause changes in the shading of any wood floor, and this is not considered a defect. Area rugs should be moved occasionally, as they block sunlight and may give the appearance of discoloration under the rug.

The sole obligation and liability of the flooring manufacturer under our limited warranties is to repair, replace or refinish the floor at the flooring manufacturer's option. Only floors that were professionally installed will be eligible for labor cost reimbursement. If you installed the floor yourself, we will cover the cost of replacement materials only. (Any and all labor costs must be pre-approved by the flooring manufacturer Claims Department.)

These warranties EXCLUDE and will not pay consequential or incidental damages associated with any warranty claim. Flooring manufacturer will not pay costs associated with relocation during the repair process such as hotel, meals, or moving and storage of furniture. This limitation does not apply to claims for personal injury. Some states do not allow limits on warranties, or on remedies for breach in certain transactions. In such states, the limits in this paragraph may not apply.

Any flooring manufacturer product which is designated as "cabin grade", "tavern grade", "second", or "as is" is not covered by the above warranties.

THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES WHICH EXTEND BEYOND THE DESCRIPTION ON THE FACE HEREOF, OR AS OTHERWISE SET FORTH HEREIN. NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, BY OPERATION OF LAW OR OTHERWISE ARE MADE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL FLOORING MANUFACTURER BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE ARISING FROM THE PURCHASE, USE, OR INABILITY TO USE THIS PRODUCT, FOR ANY SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS, OR THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS. YOU MAY ALSO HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH VARY FROM STATE TO STATE. YOUR RIGHTS AND THE LIMITATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE VARY FROM STATE TO STATE. THUS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RETAIN THIS WARRANTY INFORMATION. NO INSTALLER, RETAILER, DISTRIBUTOR, AGENT, OR EMPLOYEE OF FLOORING MANUFACTURER HAS THE AUTHORITY TO INCREASE OR ALTER THE OBLIGATIONS OR LIMITATIONS OF THIS WARRANTY.

HANDLING OF CLAIMS
UNDER THIS WARRANTY

Claims must be filed within the coverage period, and information verifying the date of purchase and pre-installation testing documentation are required. Flooring manufacturer reserves the right to have a designated flooring manufacturer representative inspect the floors and remove samples for technical analysis.

If you need to file a claim under this warranty, first contact your flooring manufacturer retailer within three months of experiencing a problem. If for some reason, your retailer is unable to satisfy your claim, you may contact us at: Flooring Manufacturer, Claims Department, P.O. Box 3549 Johnson City, Tennessee 37602.

Any and all disputes arising out of the purchase of flooring manufacturer products or this warranty shall be subject to mandatory and binding arbitration in Johnson City, Tennessee, pursuant to the rules of the American Arbitration Association. Any trials by jury are expressly waived.

FLOORING FEATURES

PRODUCT	PAD & RECOAT	SAND & REFINISH *	INSTALL OVER RADIANT HEAT	WHERE TO INSTALL
ENGINEERED	YES*	YES	YES (OAK ONLY)	ON GRADE ABOVE GRADE BELOW GRADE

*If your floor is sanded down to the bare wood and a new finish is applied, all finish warranties must be assumed by the finish manufacturer.
*Engineered flooring with a veneer thickness of 2mm or less cannot be sanded and refinished, only a pad & recoat can be performed.