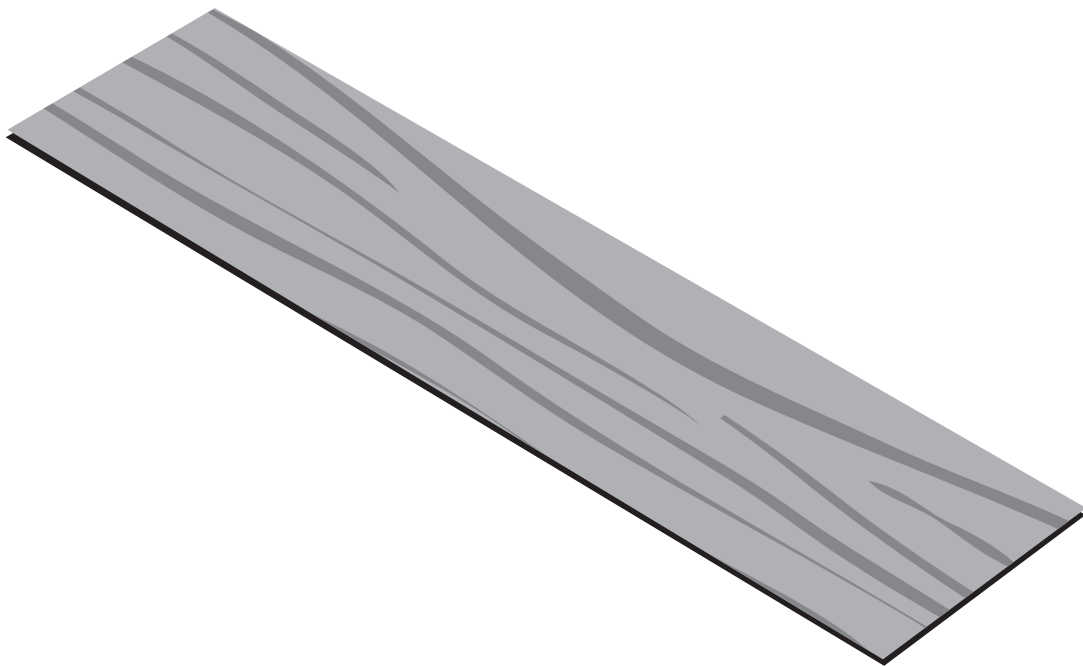


HOME
DECORATORS
COLLECTION®

USE AND CARE GUIDE

STAPLE/NAIL, GLUE DOWN, FLOATING 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 staple/nail/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!

ENGINEERED WOOD INSTALLATION

3/8" TONGUE & GROOVE: FLOAT, NAIL/STAPLE & FULL SPREAD GLUEDOWN

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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, HEAD-ACHE, 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.

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.

JOBSITE 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. Earth-en crawl spaces must have a minimum of 6 mil black polyurethane film with seams overlapped and taped.

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.

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.

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.

An engineered 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.

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 in order to balance the appearance. The short ends of these ripped planks will need to be glued together and weighted until dry. If planks are ripped to a width of less than 2" wide, also use wood glue to affix the ripped planks lengthwise 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.

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.

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.

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:

Concrete subfloors testing 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.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

TOOLS NEEDED

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| •Foam Underlayment | •3/8" Wood or Plastic Spacers | •Measuring Tape | •Jamb Saw |
| •6-mil Polyethylene film (if going over concrete) | •Straight Edge | •Safety Glasses | •Circular or Rip Saw - 80 Tooth Blade |
| •Tongue & Groove adhesive or wood glue | •Tapping Block | •Pull Bar | •Dust Mask |
| •Chalk Line and chalk | •Pencil | •Soft Faced Hammer | |

INSTALLING FLOOR

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Roll out foam underlayment (follow instructions inside packaging). On a concrete subfloor, if you are using an underlayment that does not have a vapor barrier attached, loose lay 6 mil poly sheeting with the seams overlapped 8", taped with clear packaging tape and lapped up the wall but not touching the sheetrock. Then roll out underlayment, butting edges. For installations over a plywood subfloor it is not necessary to use poly sheeting, and foam underlayment may or may not have a vapor barrier attached.
- Never open the bundles until ready to start the installation process.
- When the decision is made on the direction the boards will run, start at one side wall with the first row of boards allowing an expansion space along side and end walls with the use of wood wedges (equivalent spacers.)
- 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.

SIDE AND END GLUING

- The engineered boards must be side and end glued using wood glue. Apply glue in the groove of each plank as you install. Begin at the end and fill the entire length of the board. Fully glue the end joint. It is very important to fill the groove to its full thickness. This will ensure proper transfer to the tongue of the adjoining planks. Failure to follow proper glue schedule will void all warranties. If any excess glue squeezes up to the finished surface, wipe off using a paper towel or cloth.

INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

- The boards in the last row will need to be cut to the necessary width. Remember to allow the appropriate expansion space between the last row and any vertical surface it adjoins. Mark the board to the correct width and contours of the wall.

NAIL/STAPLE INSTALLATION

TOOLS NEEDED

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| •Moisture Inhibitor (such as 15lb. asphalt saturated felt, silicone vapor shield, or Aquabar® B) | •Tapping Block | •Dust Mask | •Jamb Saw |
| •Chalk Line and chalk | •Pencil | •Safety Glasses | •Circular or Rip Saw - 80 Tooth Blade |
| •3/8" Wood or Plastic Spacers | •Tape Measure | •Pull Bar | |
| | •Chalk Line and chalk | •Soft Faced Hammer | |

FOR 3/8": PNEUMATIC OR MANUAL NAILER/STAPLER FOR USE WITH 3/8" FLOORS:

- 80-85 lb of air pressure
- 1-1/4" minimum fastener length
- 20 gauge

INSTALLING FLOOR

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

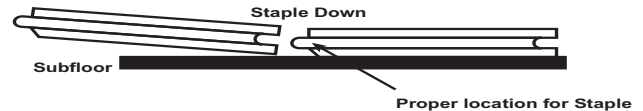
- These floors can be nailed/stapled over dry, flat wood subfloors such as plywood and OSB. If used over an existing subfloor, the thickness of the overlay material must be such as to yield a total of 3/4" subfloor thickness.
- Particle board is NOT allowed for staple down installations.
- NOTE: SUBFLOOR IRREGULARITIES THAT CAUSE WOOD FLOORING INSTALLATIONS TO DEVELOP MOVEMENT OR HOLLOW SPOTS BETWEEN THE SUBFLOOR AND THE WOOD FLOORING, ARE NOT THE RESULT OF MANUFACTURING DEFECTS AND ARE NOT COVERED BY WARRANTIES.

INSTALLING THE FLOOR

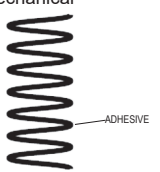
- The clean subfloor surface should be covered, wall-to-wall, with an acceptable moisture inhibitor (see tools needed). Lap the edges of the moisture inhibitor 4" when positioning. Double the moisture inhibitor around heating ducts.
- Flooring should be laid at right angles to the floor joists and, if possible, in the direction of the longest dimension of the room.
- Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, allowing for expansion space.(Expansion space should be equivalent to the thickness of the flooring.)
- With the tongue out, lay one row of planks along the length of the working line. The first row should be face-nailed and countersunk.

- Subsequent rows should be blind nailed wherever possible. With the proper nailer, nail planks every 4"- 6" and within 2" of the end joint. Push or gently tap boards flush to the previous row. Only tap against the tongue; tapping the groove may damage edges.

- Stagger at least 9" between end joints of adjacent board rows. End joints should not repeat visually across the installed floor. Avoid "H" joints and other discernible patterns.



- Face-nail and countersink final rows of flooring as necessary.
- When installing wider plank wood floors (5" and wider) flooring movement due to seasonal changes may be reduced by utilizing both glue and the mechanical fasteners (nails/staples) specified. Do NOT use a moisture inhibitor with this application since glue assisted applications must have direct contact with the wood subfloor. Utilize a premium grade urethane construction glue (such as Liquid Nails® or Loctite® Urethane Wood to Wood Glue) and apply glue in a serpentine fashion to the subfloor.



GLUEDOWN INSTALLATION

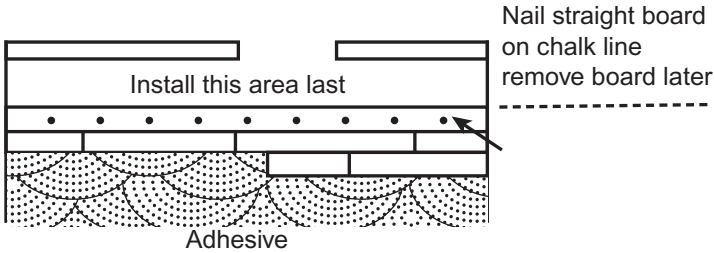
TOOLS NEEDED

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| •Urethane adhesive | •3/8" Wood or Plastic Spacers | •Measuring Tape | •Jamb Saw |
| •Adhesive remover | •Straight Edge | •Safety Glasses | •Circular or Rip Saw - 80 Tooth Blade |
| •Trowel (check adhesive for recommended size) | •Tapping Block | •Pull Bar | •Dust Mask |
| •Chalk Line and chalk | •Pencil | •Soft Faced Hammer | |

INSTALLING FLOOR

PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- When the decision is made on the direction the boards will run, snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, allowing the width of a board plus the tongue and 3/8" expansion space. Temporarily nail a straight starter board along the edge of the working line
- Once the starter board is secured, apply adhesive to the substrate with the proper trowel. (Flooring may be installed using either a "wet-lay" or "walk-on" method.



- For "wet-lay" installations, flooring is placed into "wet" adhesive; workers do not walk on flooring during installation. For "walk-on" installations, spread the adhesive and allow the adhesive to develop "tack", then begin to install the flooring material.) Spread adhesive up to and along the working line.
- Install the first row of planks along the working line with the tongue-side facing the starting wall. Continue installing subsequent rows, inserting the tongue into the groove of the previous row. Boards should be engaged by hand. Stagger at least 9 inches between end joints of adjacent board rows. End joints should not repeat visually across the installed floor. Insure that the proper expansion space is left at the perimeter of the room.
- As you work, immediately clean any adhesive from the surface of the flooring using mineral spirits and a soft cloth, being careful not to damage the finish. Lift a plank periodically to check adhesive transfer. >80% coverage is required.
- After the large part of the room is installed, remove the starter board and complete the installation.

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 minimum 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 hardwood 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.