

Installation Instructions

For 3/4" Solid Plank or Strip Prefinished Hardwood Flooring

Nail-Down Installation

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS
CAREFULLY BEFORE INSTALLING**

Hardwood flooring a product of nature, the color, shade and grain characteristics of hardwood flooring varies among individual pieces. This prefinished hardwood flooring is manufactured in accordance with industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type.

INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

As the installer, you assume all responsibility for final inspection of the product quality. This inspection of all flooring should be done BEFORE anything else. Carefully examine the flooring for grade, color, finish and quality before installing. If material is not acceptable, DO NOT install it, contact the dealer where you purchased the flooring immediately.

PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

Job Site Inspection

1. The building should be closed in with all outside doors and windows in place. All concrete, masonry, framing members, drywall, paint and other "wet" work should be thoroughly dry.
2. The wall coverings should be in place and the painting completed except for the final coat on the base molding. When possible, delay installation of base molding until flooring installation is complete.
3. Exterior grading should be complete with surface drainage directing water away from the building. All gutters and down spouts should be in place.
4. Solid flooring can only be installed on or above grade level. Do not install in full bathrooms with tub or shower.
5. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated.
6. Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 24" (600mm) from the ground to underside of joists. A ground cover of 6-8 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier with joints lapped six inches and taped. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation (see figure above).
7. Subfloor must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate testing method.
8. Permanent air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operational. The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 60-75 degrees F and humidity of 35-55% for 14 days prior, during and until occupied to allow for proper acclimation.



SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Structurally Sound - Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any water damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or underlayments as they are unable to properly hold fasteners. Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement unless they have been properly stiffened prior to the installation of the flooring.

Level and Flat - The subfloor must be smooth and flat within 1/8" deviation in 10 ft.

Dry - Check moisture content of subfloor. Moisture content of wood subfloor must not exceed 13% on a wood moisture meter or read more than a 4% difference (3% for plank) than moisture level of product being installed.

Recommended Subfloor Surfaces - Preferred: 3/4" (19mm) CDX grade plywood or 3/4" (23/32) OSB PS2 rated underlayment. Minimum: 5/8" CDX grade plywood or existing solid wood flooring. Screeds: Tongue and Groove wood subflooring

Rosin paper or #15 builders felt may be used to act as a moisture retarder between the subfloor and flooring to be installed.

NAIL-DOWN INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

Step 1. Establishing A Starting Point

1. Before beginning actual installation, provide proper layout of flooring by distributing short and long lengths equally over the areas to be floored. Flooring should be laid at right angles to floor joists.
2. Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to insure good color and shade mixture.
3. Align the first row of flooring to be sure you have a good straight line from one side of the room to the other. Snap a chalk line at the desired distance from the wall to help align the flooring. **IMPORTANT:** Leave at least 3/4" for expansion at all vertical obstructions, this space will be covered by base board and quarter round (see Figure A).

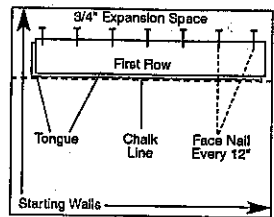


FIGURE A

Step 2. Installing the Floor

1. Align first piece of flooring on chalk line. The groove side and end will be facing the starting wall, be sure to allow 3/4" expansion space.
2. Pre-drill holes and drive 7D or 8D cut steel or screw type flooring nails into the face of the board every 12" approximately 1/2" - 3/4" from the edge closest to the starting wall and within 2" - 3" from the ends and in the darker grain of the wood (see Figure A).
3. Edge nail (blind nail) the flooring by driving the same type nails at a 45 degree angle through the tongue of the board, spacing the nails every 8" - 10" and within 2" - 3" from the ends. This process should be repeated for each piece of flooring in the entire first row. Upon completion of the first row, go back and sink the face nails with a nail punch. If it appears the holes are not to be covered by the baseboard molding, fill the holes with filler that blends with your floor.
4. Install each succeeding row of flooring by edge nailing the tongue side every 8" - 10" to within 2" - 3" from board ends. Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards at least 6" in adjacent rows to avoid clustering of end joints. Upon reaching the last row to be installed, the boards should be ripped to allow a 3/4" expansion space from the wall. The last row must be fastened by face nailing approximately 1/2" - 3/4" from the back edge of the board and every 12". The same process of counter sinking the face nails and applying filler should be repeated. Replace baseboard moldings and other finish pieces.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FASTING MACHINES

Avoid striking the edge of flooring with the fastener's mallet. Edge crushing can occur causing unsightly cracks and splinters. Use a block to hammer against the boards (see Figure B). Faceplates should be covered with protective materials to prevent damage to the surface of the flooring.

General Information for Manual Fastening Machines

Improper adapter plate selection can cause severe edge damage. Be certain that the proper adapter has been selected and properly installed for 3/4" flooring.

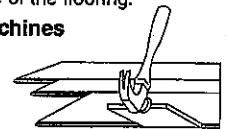


FIGURE B

General Information for Pneumatic Fastening Machines

Improper pressure setting and failure to use proper adapters can cause severe damage to the flooring. The correct adapter and air pressure setting will properly set the fastener in the nail pocket (see Figure C). Low air pressure may fail to properly set the fastener and damage adjoining boards. Air pressure set too high may cause damage to the tongue, which may dramatically reduce the holding power of the fastener causing loose, squeaky floors. Make certain that the compressor has a regulator in-line with the air hose for proper adjustment. Set pressure at 70-75 PSI to begin with and adjust until proper fastener setting occurs.



Air Pressure Too Low



Air Pressure Too High



Correct Air Pressure

FIGURE C

How to Keep Your New Hardwood Floors Beautiful

After Installation Sweep with a soft bristle broom or vacuum with a protected attachment to remove dirt and grit. Clean with a floor-cleaning product manufactured specifically for hardwood flooring.

Routine Care - Sweep or vacuum the floor routinely (every 1-2 weeks) before grit can be ground into the finish. If floor is subjected to heavy traffic, clean it more frequently. Wipe up spills as soon as they occur. Treat spot cleaning just like wiping up a spill. Apply cleaner to a soft cloth and wipe up the spot.

Periodically- Sweep or vacuum, then lightly mist the terry cloth cover of a swivel sh-mop with a hardwood flooring cleaner and clean one small area at a time. Finish one area prior to moving on to the next. Replace soiled terry cloth covers or pads with clean ones. Continued use of a soiled cover or pad can cause streaking.

CONTACT THE FLOORING DEALER WHERE YOU PURCHASED THE PRODUCT FOR WARRANTY INFORMATION