



Length. Finish. Service.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORING

General Rules

- $\frac{3}{4}$ " solid wood flooring is intended for installation on or above grade only. For installation below grade, special precautions must be taken including an assessment of the humidity level, seasonal variations in humidity and moisture testing of the sub-floor. Your hardwood flooring dealer can best offer you advice in this area. Also, do not install over radiant heat installed within concrete floor.
- Understanding the relationship between wood and water is important. This flooring is dried to correspond to a 40% relative humidity environment. Environments over 40% or under 40% will result in a corresponding gain or loss in the wood's moisture content, which will result in expansion or contraction of the flooring. The relative humidity of the basement is also important.
- Moisture content of the sub-floor and the hardwood flooring should be measured. If the difference between the two is greater than 2%, installation should NOT proceed until the two are within 2% of each other.
- Hardwood flooring should be installed at right angles to the floor joists. If this is not possible, the sub-floor should be built up to a thickness of 1" for proper support and nail holding.
- High spots on the sub-floor should be sanded down and re-nailing should be done to eliminate any squeaks or loose boards.
- Because of the natural variation in hardwood flooring, it is important to work out of 3 or 4 different boxes at a time to ensure a proper blend of shading. Wood should be racked out on the floor before nailing/stapling to ensure a pleasing and balanced look. Close attention should be paid to date codes or batches as identified on the carton label, to ensure proper mixing, as it affects layout of the floor.
- Proper nail/staple spacing is one nail every 8" – 10" with at least 2 nails/staples in every board. Every board should be nailed/stapled so that there is a nail/staple within the last three inches of both ends of the board.
- 2" nails/staples should be used for machine nailing of this product.
- The following tools are needed: Tape measure, broom, chalk line, hammer, nail set, pry bar, circular saw, miter saw or table saw, power nail gun and mallet, matching putty and touch up stain.

Installation

- Ensure sub-floor is clean with no high spots or loose boards.
- Lay the wax paper along the floor, shiny side up.
- From the starting wall, measure out a distance at each corner equal to the width of the board plus $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Snap a chalk line between the two points as a guide for the first row.
- Lay the first row with the tongue pointing out into the room. Pre-drill and face nails/staples this row $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge closest to the wall, along the chalk line, maintaining the $\frac{3}{4}$ " expansion space. Pre-drill along the tongue and edge, nail/staple the boards at a 45 degree angle through the tongue along this first row. Sink the nails/staples with a nail set. Fill holes not covered by molding with matching putty.
- Subsequent rows can now be placed and nailed/stapled using the 45 degree nailing/stapling through the tongue only. The power nail/staple gun can be used as soon as space from the wall allows. Typically, the first few rows will need to be done by hand. Also, the last few rows will need to be hand nailed/stapled.
- Ensure that the end joints between rows are staggered in a random fashion and maintain a minimum 8" between these joints.
- When fitting the last row, be sure to rip the boards if necessary to maintain the $\frac{1}{2}$ " – $\frac{3}{4}$ " expansion space.