



Installation Instructions

Hardwood Flooring



Before installation

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The installation of a hardwood flooring product systematically implies the acceptance of apparent imperfections unless the owner or the installer has pointed them out to the vendor before installation.

Natural wood flooring is a unique product that by nature is distinctive due to variations in woodgrain and color of its fibres. Said variations do not in any way constitute a defect. Industry standards provide for a margin of error of 5% for natural imperfections and manufacturing defects. Before installation of the floor, the installer must carefully inspect the planks for grade, color, quality of product manufacturing and finish in order to insure that the product is up to standard. The installer must make a reasonable selection and cut, eliminate or install any defective piece in a low visibility area. Provide for a surplus of 5% of the surface to be covered in order to compensate for cutting loss. Before laying down wood flooring, the installer must determine whether the work site environment as well as the condition and type of subfloor meet or surpass all requirements contained in installation instructions.

Any installed plank shall be deemed accepted by the installer and the owner, whether or not the latter is present at the time of installation.

Before installation

Pre-installation preparation

In a new construction, hardwood flooring should be one of the last elements to be installed. All water works or works that generate humidity (plumbing, acoustic ceilings, wallboard joints, etc.) should be completed before the installation of hardwood flooring. Concrete and plaster need to harden for at least 60 to 90 days. All materials must be dry. Heating and ventilation systems must be completely functional; a constant temperature of 19-22°C (66-72°F), as well as a constant relative humidity between 45% and 55% should be maintained.

The ideal moisture content of the subfloor is 8 to 10%, but must not exceed 12%. The difference between the subfloor and the wood planks must not exceed 4%. For planks of a width of 4 in. and above, the difference between the subfloor and the wood planks must not exceed the internal humidity level of the planks by more than 2%. The boxes of planks must be stored at the work site at least 72 hours before installation. Do not open the boxes before starting the work. Never store the boxes in an inadequate place such as a shed, an unheated garage or a basement.

It is not recommended to install hardwood flooring in a basement nor over a radiant heating system.

Subfloor

Approved subfloors

- A plywood with a minimal thickness of 15 mm (5/8 in.)
- An OSB panel of 20 mm (3/4 in.) well nailed to the central joists of the floor spaced at 40.6 cm intervals (16 in.)
- A concrete slab with an approved subfloor (tongue and groove wood subfloor)
- An existing wood floor (installed at a right angle)

The subfloor must be clean. It must be structurally solid (firmly screwed to the joists in order to prevent creaking). The surface must be level: a maximum discrepancy of 3.17 mm over 1.8 m (1/8 in. over 6 ft.) is acceptable.



Installation

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Required tools

Nail gun, meter saw, circular saw, drill, square, measuring tape, chalkline, hammer, rubber hammer, nail punch, level, vacuum cleaner, protective glasses, touch-up kit.

Installation

- Installation of a vapour barrier is recommended on the entire surface.
- Trace a start line to insure that the first row is straight and square.
- Leave a space of at least 13 mm (1/2 in.) to 19 mm (3/4 in.) between the planks and walls to allow for expansion due to variations in humidity.
- Use and mix wood planks from several boxes to ensure a good assortment of color, length and appearance.
- Depending on the nail gun, the first rows must be nailed by hand until sufficient space enables use of the nail gun with 5 cm nails (2 in.).
- Planks must be nailed every 20 to 25 cm (8 to 10 in.) and at a minimal distance of 5 cm (2 in.) from the end of the planks.
- Stagger ends of adjoining planks by at least 15 cm (6 in.) to avoid clustering end joints.
- The last planks must be installed the same way as the first ones.

After installation

Preservation and maintenance

Keeping a stable climate environment is the secret of a well-preserved floor. It is imperative that in indoor temperature between 19-22° C (66-72°F) and a relative humidity between 45% and 55% be maintained.

- Use protective mats at doorways to retain dirt and humidity. Avoid mats with a foam or rubber under covering as they could damage the varnish.
- Use felt pads under all furniture and chair legs in order to prevent scratching.
- Never wash floor with lots of water. Excessive humidity damages the wood.
- Use a vacuum cleaner, a dry mop or a broom.
- Wipe up any spots or spills immediately.
- Never use wax.
- Avoid wearing high heels on your hardwood floor.
- Pets' nails, among other things, can cause scratches.



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