



Nail Down Installation Instructions

INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Examine all materials carefully prior to installation. Do not install hardwood flooring that is not acceptable and contact your dealer immediately. The installer must exercise good judgment and common sense before and during installation. Warranties will not cover materials with obvious defects once installed. It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the jobsite sub-floor and conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for wood flooring installation. Elegance Plyquet is not responsible for wood floor failure associated with sub-floor, jobsite damage or deficiencies after hardwood flooring has been installed.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Site Condition

Time at which to install hardwood flooring: Lay only after sheetrock and tile work are thoroughly dried and all but the final woodwork and trim have been completed. The interior environmental conditions and moisture content of interior wood materials must be at occupied levels during installation. Interior walls should be dry enough to be painted and a room temperature of 60-75 degrees with a relative humidity of 35-55% should be provided before any installation begins.

Sub-floor Preparation

Remember: Your hardwood floor is only as good as your sub-floor.

Elegance Plyquet solid and engineered products must be nailed or stapled on dry, flat wood sub-floors, such as plywood. If plywood is used as an overlay over an existing sub floor, the thickness of the overlay material must be such as to yield a total 3/4" sub-floor thickness.

Preferred Sub-floor:

3/4" CDX Grade Plywood, 4' x 8' sheets.

OSB PS2 Rated Underlayment with a minimum 40 lbs. density.

Minimum Sub-floor:

5/8" CDX Plywood, 4' x 8' sheets.

Do not nail or staple over particleboard or similar product.

Unleveled sub-floor may cause any wood flooring installation to develop hollow spots between the flooring and the sub-floor. These hollow spots are not the result of any wood flooring manufacturing defect and are not covered by Elegance Plyquet wood flooring warranty. Your sub-floor tolerance should be flat to within 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

Remove paint, sheetrock mud, and other foreign materials. Vacuum thoroughly. All previously or existing glue or adhesives must be removed before installing new hardwood flooring.

Using a moisture meter, measure the moisture content of both the sub-floor and the hardwood flooring. **Sub-floors must not exceed 12% moisture content and the difference between sub-floor and hardwood flooring do not exceed 4%.** If sub-floor reading exceeds this amount, installer should locate and eliminate the source of excessive moisture. Consider using 6 mil polyethylene films as vapor barrier beside your felt paper. As part of your sub-floor preparation remove any existing base, shoe mold or doorway thresholds. These items can be replaced after installation, but should be replaced in such a way as to allow room for expansion around the perimeter of the room. All door casings should be notched out or undercut to allow for expansion.

Tools required for nail-down:

- Vacuum Cleaner or broom
- Table saw and miter saw
- Tapping block
- 6d or 8d flooring nails
- Hammer
- Rubber mallet
- Chalk line
- Moisture Meter
- Pencil
- Jamb saw
- Tape measure
- Power or manual nailing machines designed for 5/8" and 3/4" wood flooring

Installing the Floor

For the best results, we recommend that Elegance Plyquet solid wood flooring be acclimated in a controlled environment before installation for 7 days.

Installation Tips:

- Flooring should be installed from several different cartons at the same time to maximize the color and shade mixture.
- Starting from the longest wall will provide the best visual effect.
- Stagger the ends of each board at least 6", and 3" in second row.
- Hardwood flooring should be installed perpendicular to flooring joists.

First, cover your sub-floor with 15 lbs asphalt felt paper or equivalent. Establish a starting point by leaving a minimum of a 1/2" expansion gap (More spacing should be considered in large span) around the longest wall or vertical obstruction where you start from. Measure this distance from the starting wall in at least 3 places. Mark these points and snap a working chalk line parallel to the starting wall allowing the required expansion space between the starting wall and the edge of the first row of flooring.

Lay the first row using 6d or 8d flooring nails to top nail surface of flooring, and then countersink. Pre-drill nail holes will help to avoid splits. Space the fasteners at 6-8 inch intervals. The floor groove side should face the starting wall. Nails should hit the floor joists whenever possible. Continue each additional row of flooring with floor-nailing machine until the last row and any area that nailer will not fit. Fasten flooring through the tongue on a 45 degree angle (blind nailing) using the appropriate power nails or cleats that machine manufacturers recommend. Spacing between the nails should be 8-10 inches along the length of the board with a minimum of 2 fasteners per board 2-3 inches from each end. For flooring of 5 inch or wider, properly space nails every 4-6 inches along the length of the board. Maintain proper pattern repeat, distribute lengths avoiding "H" patterns and end joints less than 6 inches in adjacent runs. During installation of flooring pieces, gently tap boards flush to the previous row. Always tap against tongue; tapping the groove may damage the surface or edges.

When you have reached the final row, you will need to measure the width of the final boards. You may need to rip the planks to match the width of the space remaining. The tongue of the final row will need to be removed for a clean fit. Snug the last row of boards with the completed second row to last. Surface nail the last row again with 6d or 8d flooring nails, and then countersink, as you have done for the first row. Once the whole floor is completed, install the trims and moldings. Thoroughly clean and vacuum the installed floor before further use.