
Installation Guidelines

Engineered Hardwood Flooring

Engineered wood floors can be installed successfully on, above, or below grade level and can be installed directly to concrete or wood subfloor.

Before delivering wood flooring or installation begins, evaluate the jobsite for potential problems:

1. Make sure the building is enclosed.
2. Check if heating or cooling system is operational. Permanent heating or cooling systems should be operating before, during and after installation.
3. Check for appropriate temperature and humidity conditions before delivering or installation begins. Follow the temperature and humidity conditions that are defined in the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) guidelines.

Before installation:

1. Check the moisture in the wood flooring and subfloor to ensure they are within acceptable range.
 - a. For solid strip less than 3" there should be no more than 4% percent moisture content differences between properly acclimated wood flooring and subfloor.
 - b. For material 3" or wider there should be no more than 2% percent moisture content between wood flooring and subfloor materials.
2. Test subfloor moisture in several areas in the room. If a high reading appears in one area, this needs to be corrected before installation begins. Be sure to document your readings for your records as well as the owner.
3. Before testing moisture on concrete, the slab must be a minimum of sixty days old.
 - a. Use a moisture device designed for testing moisture in concrete. If the meter indicates excessive moisture, future tests may be required using calcium chloride.
 - b. Concrete slabs with a calcium chloride reading of more than 3% percent will require a vapor retarder.
4. Gluing wood flooring over concrete requires the slab to be free from non-compatible sealers, waxes, oils, paints and drywall compounds etc.
 - a. To check for sealers, apply drops of water to the slab and see if water beads up on top of concrete. If water beads up there may be sealers, waxes or oils on the slab.
 - b. Slick steel trowel slabs may require screening with a 30-grit abrasive before installation.
 - c. Concrete slabs should also be within a flat tolerance of 1/8"– 3/16" in a 10' radius.

Installation:

1. Choose a starting wall according to the most aesthetically or architecturally important elements in the room, taking in consideration fireplaces, doors, cabinets and stair nosing's, as well as squareness of the room. The starting wall will often be the longest unbroken wall in the room. A minimum of 1/2" expansion space should be left around the perimeter.
2. Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, which would be the width of the board, plus the tongue and recommended expansion space.
3. Install a starter board along the edge of the working line and begin installation.
4. Alternatively, lay one row of plank in the adhesive along the length of the working line.
5. Use wood flooring adhesive and spread rate, trowel size, working time and flash time as necessary. Spread the adhesive as instructed up to and along the working line.
6. Distribute lengths, avoiding H patterns and other discernible patterns in adjacent runs.
7. Stagger end joints of boards row to row, a minimum of 6" for strip flooring, 8"– 10" for 3" to 5" plank, and 10" for plank wider than 5".
8. It is recommended to roll the floor with the proper roller to enhance proper adhesion.