

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

FOR INTERLOCKING ENGINEERED WOOD

Glue or Floating Installation: INTERLOCKING ENGINEERED WOODS can be installed over most sub-floors, and are engineered to be very dimensionally stable, making them suitable for installation over all grade levels. (See information and installation guidelines below.)

ATTENTION – INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Inspect “all” materials carefully before installation. Wood is a natural product containing variations in color, tone and graining. Some variation in color is to be expected in a natural wood floor. Beautiful hardwood floors are a product of nature and therefore not perfect. These floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance of 5%. Even though our product goes through many inspections before it leaves the plant, it is the responsibility of the customer and installer to perform a final inspection prior to installation.

Any warranties offered with this product do not cover materials with visible defects once the product is installed.

We strongly recommend that you visit the NWFA website at woodfloors.org/consumer for installation help and maintenance tips.



TOOLS

Basic tools and accessories: broom or vacuum, chalk line, tapping block, wood cleaner, hand or electric jamb saw, miter saw, moisture meter, safety glasses, straight edge, table saw, tape measure, square, utility knife, pry bar and underlayment (for floating installations).

Use urethane wood flooring adhesive, towels and trowel if gluing.

JOB SITE CONDITIONS

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the job site sub floor and job site conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for wood floor installation. The installer/owner is responsible for wood failure resulting from or connected with sub-floor, subsurface, job site damage or deficiencies after the hardwood flooring has been installed. See NWFA guidelines.

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

Concrete Sub-Floors

New concrete slabs require a minimum of 60 days drying time before covering them with a wood floor.

Lightweight Concrete

Lightweight concrete has a dry density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot and is only suitable for engineered wood floors when using the floating installation method. Many products have been developed as self-leveling toppings or floor underlayments. These include cellular concrete, resin reinforced cementations, underlayments, and gypsum-based materials. Although some of these products may have the necessary qualifications of underlayment for wood flooring installation, others do not. To test for lightweight concrete, scrape a coin or key across the surface of the sub-floor. If the surface powders easily or has a dry density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot, use only the floating installation method.

All Concrete sub-floors must be dry, smooth (level with 3/16” in a 10 foot Radius – 1/8” in 6”) and free of structural defects. Hand scrape or sand with a 20 grit #3-1/2 open face paper to remove loose, flaky concrete. Grind high spots in concrete and fill low spots with a Portland based leveling compound (min. 3,000 psi).

Concrete must be free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax grease, dirt and curing compounds. These may be removed chemically or mechanically, but do not use solvent-based strippers under any circumstances. The use of residual solvents can prohibit the satisfactory bond of flooring adhesives. It is important to ensure a proper bond between the adhesives and concrete and wood panels.

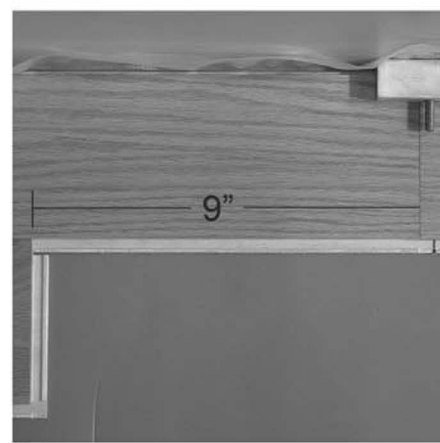
Engineered Hardwood flooring may be installed on grade, above grade, as well as below grade where moisture conditions do not exist. To ensure a long lasting bond, make sure that the perimeter of the foundation has adequate drainage and vapor barrier.

Wood Sub-Floors

Wood sub-floors need to be well nailed or secured with screws. Nails should be shanks and screws need to be counter sunk. The wood sub-floor needs to be structurally sound and dry. It should not exceed 14% moisture prior to installation. If the sub-floor is single layer, less than 3/4” thick, add a single cross layer for strength and stability (minimum 5/16” thick for a total 1” thickness). This is to reduce the possibility of squeaking.



9. The cut board from the first row is used to start the second row.



10. Maintain a minimum 9” stagger throughout installation.



11. Position second row board at an angle and push down into place.



12. Measure cut line for last row, allowing for 1/2” expansion.



13. Place a bead of glue on the end seams of the last row.

Final Touches:

Install the proper trim molding at the doorways to achieve the transition and along the walls to cover the edges of any gaps along the wall due to irregularity.

MAINTENANCE

ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORS are very easy to maintain. Simply use a wood cleaner and a specialty terry cloth flooring duster, which is available from most flooring retailers. NEVER WET MOP YOUR WOOD FLOORS.

STEP 1:

Vacuum or sweep your floor to remove any particles that could scratch your floor.

Warning: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a wood floor and should never be used.

STEP 2: Apply the specialty wood cleaner directly to the terry cloth flooring duster, not to the floor!

STEP 3: Use a back and forth motion with the duster. When the terry cloth cover becomes soiled, simply replace it with a clean one. Cleaning the floor with a soiled cover could cause streaking. The covers are reusable so simply throw the cover in the wash and dry it as you would any towel.

Tips & Warnings:

- Never wet or damp mop your wood floors. Water can damage them.
- Vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Remove spills promptly using a wood cleaner and a clean white cloth.
- Use felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture and chairs.
- Use protective mats at all exterior entrances.
- Spiked heels should not be worn on hardwood floors and shoes in need of repair can damage your floor.
- Never use oil soaps, wax or other household products to clean your floor.
- Wood is a natural product that is affected by the sun. Expect that over time the sun's UV rays can change the color of your floors.
- Keep animal nails trimmed.
- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.
- If your floor becomes scratched or dull, repairs can often be made using repair accessories.

