PARAMOUNT
BY QUALITY DISTRIBUTION

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Check the boxes for the correct color selection by verifying item code on the box and name as well as the color inside the box, prior to Installation. Make sure you are installing the correct color; no claims will be accepted for color once the material is installed.

JOB-SITE CONDITIONS

Handling and Storage

Don't unload wood flooring in the rain, snow or other humid conditions. • Store wood flooring in an enclosed building that is well ventilated with weather proof windows. Garages and exterior patios, for example, are not appropriate for storing wood flooring • Leave adequate room for good air circulation around stacks of flooring for adequate acclimation.

Jobsite Conditions

Wood flooring should be one of the last jobs completed in a construction project. Prior to installing hardwood floors, the building must be structurally complete and enclosed, including installation of exterior doors and windows. All finished wall coverings and painting should be completed. Concrete, masonry, drywall, and paint must also be complete, allowing adequate drying time as to not raise moisture content within the building.

ACCLIMATION: HVAC systems must be fully operational at least 7 days prior to flooring installation, maintaining a consistent room temperature between 60-80 degrees and relative humidity between 30-50%. Leave the flooring at room temperature for a 48-72 hours to acclimate under actual living conditions

Engineered hardwood floor may be installed above, on, and below grade level (basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" from the ground to underside of joists. A vapor barrier must be established in crawl spaces using 6 mil black polyethylene film with joints overlapped and taped.)

Subfloor Conditions

During the final pre-installation inspection, sub-floors must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate metering device for wood and/or concrete. Concrete Moisture Content (MC) in the concrete should be below 4%. Relative Humidity (RH) in the concrete needs to be below 75%. MC is only indicative but does not stand as a reputable source and either a Calcium Chloride test or RH test must be completed if a moisture claim should arise in the future. It is always recommended that a separate vapor barrier or all in one (adhesive & vapor barrier) be used, especially for glue down installations.

Staggering Joints

Distribute lengths, avoiding "H" patterns and other discernible patterns in adjacent runs. 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" for better visual effects when possible.

PRE-INSTALLATION (Sub-floor Preparation)

***Inspect the planks* for obvious defects**, if any. Materials installed with visible defects are not covered under the warranty. Do not install if you are not satisfied with the flooring; contact your dealer immediately. Final quality checks and approval of the product is the *sole responsibility of the owner and installer.*

INSTALLER: Determine that the job-site environment and sub-floor surfaces meet applicable construction and material industry standards. We recommend the use of National Wood Flooring Certified Professional Installers. The Manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from deficiencies caused by sub-floor or job-site environment or installation related items. All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound.

Sub-floor must be structurally sound and properly secured with nails or screws every 6 inches along joists to reduce the possibility of squeaking. Wood sub-floors must be dry and free of wax, paint, oil, and debris. Replace any water-damaged or delaminated sub-flooring or underlayments.

WOOD SUB-FLOORS

Preferred sub-floors - 3/4" CDX Grade Plywood or 3/4" OSB PS Rated sub-floor/underlayment, sealed side down, with joist spacing of 19.2" or less; Minimum sub-floors - 5/8" CDX Grade Plywood sub-floor/underlayment with joist spacing of no more than 16". If joist spacing is greater than 19.2" on center, add a second layer of sub-flooring material to bring the overall thickness to 1-1/8" for optimum floor performance. Hardwood flooring should be installed perpendicular to flooring joists. If flooring is installed parallel with joists then an additional layer of ½" plywood must be installed to meet minimum requirements of 1-1/8" •

Sub-floor moisture check. Measure the moisture content of both the sub-floor and the hardwood flooring with a pin moisture meter. Sub-floors should not exceed 12% moisture content. The moisture difference between sub-floor and hardwood flooring should not exceed 4%. If sub-floors exceed this amount, an effort should be made to locate and eliminate the source of moisture before further installation. • Do not nail or staple over particle board or similar product.

CONCRETE SUB-FLOORS

Concrete slabs must be of high compressive strength with minimum 3,000 psi. In addition, concrete sub-floors must be dry, smooth and free of wax, paint, oil, grease, dirt, non-compatible sealers and drywall compound etc. • Engineered hardwood flooring may be installed on, above, and/or below-grade. • Concrete substrates must meet or exceed adhesive manufacturers guidelines for flatness • Additional requirements for flatness are required for floating floors as stated in installation guidelines • Lightweight concrete that has a dry density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot is not suitable for engineered wood floors. To check for lightweight concrete, draw a nail cross the top. If it leaves an indentation, it is probably lightweight concrete. Lightweight concrete can be used if properly treated. Check with the adhesive manufacturer for the proper material to use • Concrete sub-floors should always be checked for moisture content prior to the installation of wood flooring. Standard moisture tests for concrete sub-floors include relative humidity testing, calcium chloride test and calcium carbide test

Concrete Moisture Content (MC) in the concrete should be below 4% (using a Tramex or Wagner Meter). Relative Humidity (RH) in the concrete needs to be below 75%. MC is only indicative but does not stand as a reputable source and either a Calcium Chloride test or RH test must be completed if a moisture claim should arise in the future. Calcium Chloride test should not exceed 3lbs/1000sf of vapor emission in a 24 hour period. Please follow the ASTM guideline for concrete moisture testing. Please follow the ASTM guideline for concrete moisture testing. It is always recommended that a separate vapor barrier or all in one (adhesive & vapor barrier) be used for glue down installations.

Sub-floors other than wood or concrete

Other floors such as ceramic, terrazzo, resilient tile and sheet vinyl and other hard surfaces are NOT suitable as a sub-floor for engineered hardwood flooring installation.

LEVELNESS

Check for level and flatness of the existing Sub-floors. Acceptable tolerance is **3/16" height difference over a 10' run, or 1/8" over a 6' level.** If needed, either sand/grind down the high areas or fill in the low areas with some type of filler (no more than 1/8") to bring the sub-floor to acceptable level.

Begin by undercutting all door casing, jambs, etc. 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. Remove any existing base, shoe molding or doorway thresholds for replacement after installation. It is extremely important that the floor surface is absolutely clean and dry during installation. Vacuum or sweep surface frequently as you work to keep the area clean.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

-can be laid over wood or concrete sub-floor

Material Needed: **Urethane Adhesive** (i.e. Bostik's, Franklin, Sika, Mapei, etc).

NOTE for ADHESIVE: Pay attention to the correct trowel size to be used by the adhesive company in accordance to the thickness of the wood to avoid hollow spots and loose planks.

NOTE for WOOD: To achieve a uniform color and shade mixture across the entire floor, open and work from several different cartons at a time

When the site where moisture conditions are of no concern, start planks square with the room and parallel to its longest dimension, but leave ½" expansion space from the base plate or wall.

Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, leaving appropriate expansion space around all vertical obstructions. Secure a straight edge on the working line before spreading adhesive. This prevents movement of the boards that can cause misalignment.

Apply urethane adhesive using a trowel recommended by your glue manufacturer. Do not use a water-based adhesive with this hardwood flooring product. •Some adhesive residues can damage finish if left on too long. It is imperative that you clean off as soon as possible to avoid damage. Finish damage caused by adhesive residue is not covered by the manufacturer's warranty Spread adhesive from the working line out to approximately the width of two or three boards

Install a starter board along the edge of the working line and begin installation. Boards should be installed right to left with the tongue side of the board facing the starting wall. Continue installation in this method 3M Blue Tape can be used to hold planks tightly together and reduce minor shifting of floors during installation. Remove adhesive from the surface of the installed flooring as you work. All adhesive must be removed from flooring surfaces prior to applying 3-M Blue Tape. Tape should never be allowed to remain on floor for an extended period and never overnight. No claims will be processed for tape damage.

Make sure the initial rows are firmly in place. Start the second row by selecting a board that is at least 6 inches longer or shorter than the neighboring one. Repeat the process with all other boards.

Glue down installation is strongly recommended for Quality Distribution products.

Thoroughly remove all adhesive residue prior to leaving the job site. Be sure that any solvent used to remove adhesive is not directly applied to the floor. Any area wiped with a solvent rag must be re-wiped with a damp cloth to remove solvent residue. Be sure to change rag/cloth frequently to avoid spreading adhesive residue

NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION

-can be laid over wood sub-floor

Material Needed: L-shaped cleats and power nailer tool

The construction and use of substrate products like OSB has continued to increase even though the actual nominal thicknesses have reduced in many instances. There can be noises such as squeaking, popping and crackling associated with mechanically fastening an engineered hardwood floor to these substrates. Our products are not warranted against the above referenced noises or against nail or staple pull through from the substrate.

A vapor retarder of asphalt - saturated paper should be installed on the sub-floor before installing hardwood floor. This will retard moisture from below and may prevent squeaks.

Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, allowing expansion space as specified above.

Start the planks parallel to the room's longest dimension, but leave ½" expansion space from the base plate or wall. Make sure the initial rows are firmly in place by wedging or face nailing. Further courses shall be nailed each plank to the one next to it by selecting a board that is at least 6 inches longer or shorter than the neighboring one.

Top-nail and blind-nail the first row (hand nail if necessary), using appropriate fasteners. Blind nail at 45° angle through the tongue 1"-3" from the end joints and every 4-6" in between along the length of the starter boards. Each succeeding row should be blind-nailed whenever possible. Narrow crowned (under 3/8") 18-20 gauge thickness fasteners - Length

of fasteners as follows: 1 1/4"- 1 ½" staples or 1"- 1 1/4" cleats designed for engineered flooring. 3/8" flooring would use a minimum 1" fastener, 1/2"- 9/16" flooring would use a minimum 1 1/4" fastener with 1 ½" being preferable. Spacing of fasteners should be as follows - Staples should be placed every 3" - 4" and cleats should be placed every 4" - 6". All fasteners should be placed within 1" -2" of end joints. 1/2" crown - 15 1/2 gauge staples typically used for solid wood flooring should not be used. Fasteners should hit the joist whenever possible. To ensure proper alignment of flooring, make sure the flooring along the working chalk line is straight. Denser species may require pre-drilling the holes in line is straight the tongue.

Continue the installation until finished. Distribute lengths, staggering end joints as recommended above. Thoroughly clean, sweep, and vacuum installed floor and inspect the floor for scratches, gaps and other imperfections. Do not apply any tape directly to the installed flooring to hold down floor protection.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

Sub-floor flatness is critical to the success of a floating floor installation.

A flatness tolerance of 1/8" in a 10-foot radius is required for floating floor installation.

Roll out the appropriate foam backing and follow the manufacturing install instructions. If the pad does come with a vapor barrier, a 6 mil polyethylene film needs to be installed. Secure all seams with masking tape. Do NOT overlap seams.

We recommend beginning the installation parallel to the longest outside wall. Use 3⁄4" spacers to provide a gap for expansion of the flooring.

Please Joint planks tightly together by applying wood glue (Use adhesive such as Franklin's Titebond Tongue and Groove adhesive or similar product). BOTH the Tongue and the Groove sides of the planks and lock boards into each other. Be sure to glue the End Joints as well. Wipe up excess glue immediately. (Note: Make sure there is enough glue inbetween the board so that it will hold both sides of the boards and makes contact and does not come undone later).

To avoid gaping, use only #2080 Scotch-BlueTM Painter's Tape for Delicate Surfaces by 3M to hold the boards together and allow glue to dry for a minimum of 6 hours. The use of blue tapes other than #2080 Scotch-BlueTM (for Delicate Surfaces) may damage the coating of our products and therefore, strictly prohibited.

Please do NOT leave tape on flooring for more than 24 hours. Avoid walking on flooring prior to glue dries.

Avoid heavy foot traffic on flooring for at least 24 hours. Wait 24 hours before moving furniture and appliance into the installed rooms.

Maximum span without a transition is recommended to be 40 ft in any direction. Additionally it is recommended that transitions be installed at any doorway or opening less than 72 inches.

Thoroughly clean, sweep, and vacuum installed floor and inspect the floor for scratches, gaps and other imperfections.

**You may use any moisture resistant foam underlayment for laminate flooring. However, we don't recommend foam underlayment to be more than 1/4" thick;*

***** Our 1/2" engineered products CAN be float/glue over Cork underlayment.***

COMPLETE THE JOB

– Check jobsite thoroughly for any adhesive residue left on flooring.

– Check to make sure all chips and nicks are properly colored.

– Check to insure all acceptable gaps are filled with like-colored putty

Install any transition pieces that maybe needed and Reinstall your base and/or quarter round moldings. Use a Miter Saw to cut moldings to ensure a tight fit around the corners. Be sure to nail molding into the wall, not the floor.