



INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Read all of these instructions thoroughly before beginning installation. In addition to these instructions, we recommend that the Installer follow all installation guidelines set forth by the national wood flooring association (www.nwfa.org). Where these instructions differ from NWFA guidelines, this document takes precedence.

ATTENTION! READ BEFORE INSTALLING! COLOR VARIATION: This flooring is a natural product and color variations are to be expected. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons and do not install boards varying greatly in color next to one another. Dry rack the material with 3-4 cartons and make sure that the Homeowner/End User approves the material before installing the floor. Once a floor is installed it is deemed acceptable and will not be warranted for any color variation, texture, gloss, finish claims. Always install the floor when the Homeowner/End User is present. Appearance, Color, Gloss may vary from different angles of the flooring.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

Acclimation

As relative humidity varies in different parts of the country, acclimation of the flooring prior to installation is the most important precaution to take in order to insure a successful installation. Proper acclimation is necessary to adapt the moisture content of the flooring to the conditions of your environment. Improper acclimation can cause the floor to buckle and/or the boards to shrink or cup after installation. The flooring must be delivered to the jobsite and minimum of 72 hours prior to the start of the installation to acclimate. Additional acclimation time may be required in certain areas.

Inspection Of Flooring Material

Flooring Material Needs To Be Inspected Prior To Installation. It is the Installer's responsibility to inspect the flooring prior to installation. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection and carefully examine the flooring for grade, color, finish, visible manufacturing defects, damages, or otherwise unsatisfactory appearance. Should an individual plank be unacceptable or doubtful, the Installer should not use this piece. Do not install damaged or visibly unsatisfactory material. Installing a plank constitutes acceptance of its appearance. Manufacturer cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects. After identifying a visible problem, do not open any additional cartons. Contact your local Retailer, Distributor or Manufacturer immediately for replacements.

Pre-Installation Jobsite Requirements

Manufacturer cannot be held responsible for jobsite conditions.

It is the Installer's responsibility to ensure that all general jobsite and subfloor requirements are met prior to installation. Manufacturer is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or subfloor conditions.

The Installer must follow all installation instructions carefully regardless of whichever installation method was chosen. When installed according to these instructions, this flooring is approved for use above, on and below grade. When installing below grade, use the floating floor installation method. Responsibility for the suitability of the manufactured flooring and accompanying products for each individual installation cannot be assumed by Manufacturer, since Manufacturer has no control over the Installer's proper application.

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before flooring installation. Water and wood do not mix. Installing flooring onto a wet subfloor will most likely cause cupping, tip & edge raising, telegraphing of core and subsequent gapping.

INSTALLATION FOR ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORS 5" WIDE AND GREATER

Before you begin using the following instructions, please refer to the Pre-Installation Jobsite Requirements above.

All wide plank engineered floors 5" wide and greater are required to be installed with either a full spread adhesive, rated for the proper width of the material being installed, or if nailing or stapling with a full spread glue installation.

Squeaking Noise

When nailing down planks wider than 5", it is required to use a full spread adhesive in addition to nails in order to prevent movement and squeaking. Claims will not be accepted for movement or squeaking in floors wider than 5" that were nailed down without a full spread adhesive. Nailing planks wider than 5" without a full spread adhesive will void all warranties. (See section on 'Nail & Glue Installation Instructions' for more details.)

NOTE: Our products are not warranted against squeaking, popping or crackling when using staple down or nail-down installation methods. Some squeaking, popping or crackling is normal and possible when using staple-down or nail-down installation methods. These symptoms may be aggravated in arid areas or during dry conditions.

GENERAL CONDITIONS (ALL INSTALLATION METHODS)

Acclimation

Ensure that the flooring has been properly acclimated to the site conditions prior to installation. Refer to section on acclimation on page 1.

Environmental Conditions

To help minimize moisture-related expansion and contraction, verify the following conditions prior to installation:

- All exterior walls, windows, and doors must be in place and the building envelope closed during acclimation and installation.
- All wet work such as painting, drywall, masonry, and concrete must be completed and dry.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated. Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18" high from the ground to the bottom of the joist. Dirt floors in crawl spaces should be covered with a 6-10 mil black plastic to reduce moisture migration. Seams should overlap and be sealed with waterproof tape. Perimeter crawl space cross ventilation should equal 1.5% of the square footage. Vents must remain open year round.
- Exterior grading should be complete and drainage should move away from the building structure with a minimum drop of 3" in 10'.
- Permanent HVAC should be on and operational and maintained between 65°F-75°F with relative humidity of 35%-55% for a minimum of 7 days prior to delivery, as well as during and after installation of the flooring. Humidity levels below 35% or above 55% may cause movement in the flooring, gapping between pieces, cupping, cracking and other problems. Use of a humidification/dehumidification system may be required to maintain proper humidity levels.
- Any wood flooring planks greater than 7-1/2" could be prone to gapping, face checking and warping in extreme climate conditions.
- Squeaking, popping or crackling noises are not manufacturing defects and not warranted. Some squeaking, popping or crackling noises are normal and possible when using, glue down, floating, staple-down or nail-down installation methods. These symptoms may be pronounced in arid areas or during dry conditions.

SUBFLOOR CONDITIONS

Subfloors must be:

- 1) **Clean** – Subfloors must be scraped clean and free of debris. Sweep and /or vacuum all debris from the subfloor. Debris on the subfloor may cause over-wood and uneven surfaces in the finished floor, poor fit between planks, and poor adhesive bond in glue-down installations.
- 2) **Flat** – Subfloors must be flat to within 3/16" over any 10' radius and 1/8" over any 6' radius. Check the flatness using a straight edge, laser line or string line. Grind, scrape, sand or shim all high or low spots. On concrete subfloors, grind all high areas and fill low areas using a quality cementitious leveling compound. Ensure that all fasteners securing the subfloor are set flush.
- 3) **Dry** – Check and record all moisture and temperature conditions prior to installation. Visually check the jobsite for potential moisture problems. Look for signs of water intrusion around window and doors. Check for mold or fungus on walls and all other areas. Water intrusion may necessitate structural repairs and/or create conditions unsuitable for flooring installation.
 - Plywood and composite subfloors should be checked using a calibrated moisture meter. Be sure to use the correct moisture meter setting for the species being checked. Carefully follow the moisture meter manufacturer's operation instructions. Moisture readings should not exceed 10% in any location and the moisture variation between the subfloor and the flooring should not exceed 2% at time of installation.
 - Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, and should have minimum 6-mil polyfilm between the concrete and ground. Lightweight concrete can hold more moisture and may take longer to dry out to an acceptable moisture content.
 - Installations over concrete require the use of a Calcium Chloride test per ASTM F 1869, or an in-situ Relative Humidity test using probes inserted into holes drilled into the concrete. Test all areas where wood will be installed. The results

of the Calcium Chloride tests should not exceed 3 lbs per 24 hours per 1000 square feet, and in-situ test results should not exceed 75% RH. Carefully record all results.

NOTE: *These tests give a snapshot of moisture conditions at the time of the test, but do not reflect the permanent year-round condition of the substrate. If Gluing Down on concrete that is on or below grade, it is highly recommended to use a concrete sealer approved by the manufacturer of the adhesive you have chosen, even if you believe the concrete is dry. A concrete slab on or below grade that measures dry today may become moist in the future and cause floor failure. Manufacturer is not responsible for site related moisture issues.*

- 4) **Structurally Sound** – Wood subfloors must be well fastened. Use screws every 6" and replace subfloor panels/boards as necessary to eliminate all movement and squeaking.

Acceptable Subfloor Types:

- 1) **CDX Plywood** – At least 5/8" thick for joist spacing up to 16" on center, minimum 3/4" thick for joist spacing greater than 16" on center (19.2" maximum). Plywood subfloors installed over concrete must be installed in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA). Please visit www.nwfa.org.
- 2) **OSB** – At least 3/4" thick, PS 2-92 rated or PS 1-95 rated.
- 3) **Underlayment Grade Particleboard** (Minimum 40 lb. Density) – Glue Down/Floating Floors only.
- 4) **Concrete Slab** – Glue Down/Floating Floors only. Concrete must be at least 3000 lbs. density for Glue Down installations. For more information, please refer to NWFA Installation Guidelines Chapters 5, Concrete Subfloor Guidelines, and Chapter 6, Installing a Subfloor Over Concrete.
- 5) **Lightweight Concrete** (Gypcrete) – Floating Floors only. Gluing to concrete that is less than 3000 lbs. density is NOT WARRANTED. Manufacturer provides no guarantee that lightweight concrete or gypcrete will remain structurally sound during the life of the floor. Separation of the flooring from the subfloor caused by deterioration or fracturing of the substrate will not be considered a product failure.

PREPARING THE PERIMETER

- 1) Undercut door trim, door jambs and casings to the thickness of the flooring plus any adhesives or underlayments you plan to use.
- 2) All wood flooring expands and contracts with changes in humidity. It is essential to install the floor leaving adequate expansion space between ALL sides of the flooring and ALL vertical obstructions, including door trim, door jambs, studs, plumbing, cabinets, etc. This space will be covered with base molding. Failure to provide adequate expansion space in any single location can cause damage to the entire floor.
- 3) Minimum expansion space of 9/16" – 3/4" is needed for thick 5/8" thick flooring.

Layout

On wood subfloors, if the subfloor is fastened to joists or trusses, the flooring should be installed perpendicular or at a 45° angle to the joists/trusses. If possible, use an outside wall as the starting wall. No contiguous area of installed flooring should exceed 30' across the widths of the planks or 50' along the lengths of the planks. For spaces wider or longer than these dimensions, add expansion space midway through the span and cover with a T-molding or other transition piece.

GENERAL TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES RECOMMENDED (ALL INSTALLATION METHODS)

– Pencil	– Tape Measure	– Safety Glasses	– Utility Knife	– Moisture Meter
– Hammer	– Shim Wedges	– Tapping Block	– Rubber Mallet	– Dust Mask
– Carpenter Square	– Pry-Bar or Pull-Bar	– Wood Filler	– Scraper	– Rags
– Chalk Box & Chalk	– Recommended Saws: Power miter saw, table saw, jamb saw			

Never tape protective covering directly to the floor – only tape it to itself by overlapping the protective covering.

Once all of these General Conditions are met, continue the installation using the instructions for the type(s) of installation you have chosen (Nail & Glue, Glue Down or Float).

NAIL & GLUE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS - REQUIRED WHEN NAILING DOWN PLANKS OVER 5" WIDE.

When nailing down engineered planks that are 5" or wider, a full spread glue installation is required. Use a full spread adhesive in addition to nails in order to prevent movement and squeaking. This flooring can be nailed & glued to plywood and OSB meeting the requirements outlined under Subfloor Conditions.

Acceptable Jobsite Conditions and Jobsite Checklist

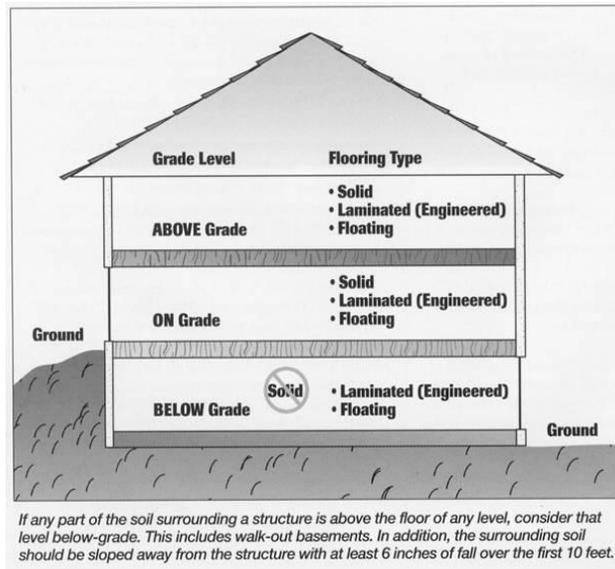
Refer to NWFA Installation Guidelines Chapter 1, Jobsite Conditions.

Acclimation Guidelines

Refer to NWFA Installation Guidelines Chapter 2, Acclimation and Conditioning of Wood Flooring.

Appropriate Grade Levels

- A. Engineered wood floors can be installed successfully on, above or below grade level. Engineered wood floors can be installed directly to a concrete or wood subfloor.
- B. The entire flooring level is considered to be below grade where soil is present along any perimeter wall and is more than 3" above the installed wood flooring level. Ground should be sloped away from the house for proper drainage. (Check local building codes. Local building codes prevail. Follow local building codes.)



Tools and Accessories Needed

For nail & glue installations, all recommended general tools & accessories listed above plus the following will be needed:

- Premium Wood Flooring Adhesive: Franklin 771, 811, or 821, Bostik GreenForce, BEST, or VaporLock, Bona R851 or of equal.
- Adhesive Remover recommended by the manufacturer of the adhesive selected
- Adhesive Trowel recommended by the manufacturer of the adhesive selected
- Nail set
- Tack Stapler or 1" roofing nails (for felt)
- 6-d Finish Nails or Pneumatic Finish Nailer with 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" fastener
- Edge or Blind Stapler/Nailer (Manual or Pneumatic) with 1 1/2" - 2" Fasteners for flooring 5/8" - 3/4" thick, or 1-1/4" to 1-1/2" fasteners for flooring 5/16" - 9/16" thick (always do a test plank to verify that fasteners are seating properly and not causing dimpling on the surface)
- Compressor with hose (if pneumatic tools are used)
- 15 lb. roofing felt, #15 hardwood floor underlayment felt, or Aqua Bar underlayment paper

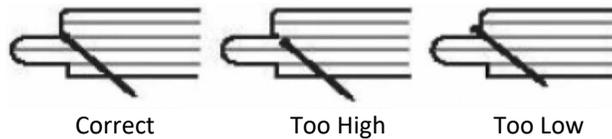
Set Up And Use Of Pneumatic Staplers And Nailers

Minor noises within the flooring are inherent to all staple/nail-down installations and can change as environmental changes occur. This is not a manufacturing defect and is therefore not covered under our warranties. You can help reduce squeaking, popping, and crackling by being sure that the subfloor is structurally sound, does not have any loose decking or joists, and is swept clean prior to installation. You should also be sure that your stapler or nailer is setting the fastener properly, not damaging the planks, and that you are using the correct nailing schedule. When used improperly, staples or cleats can damage wood flooring. If the tool is not adjusted properly the staples/cleats may not be positioned at the proper angle and cause blistering, peaking, squeaking, or crackling of the floor. Some models may require the use of an adapter to adjust for proper thickness. Test the tool on a piece of scrap material first - set the stapler/ nailer flush on the tongue side of the plank and install a staple/cleat.

Be sure not to over-drive the fastener past the nail slot, this can lead to a condition known as a telegraphing fastener. A telegraphing fastener is the visible effect of excessive pressure being placed on the wood fibers which causes the appearance of a bump to occur just above the fasteners. This condition becomes most apparent when natural or artificial light reflects across the surface of the floor causing the bump to become visible to the eye. This condition can sometimes be difficult to see, so make sure to thoroughly examine the first few rows of flooring to make certain telegraphing does not exist. The manufacturer does not warrant against this condition since telegraphing fasteners are not manufacturing related. If you should encounter this condition immediately stop the installation

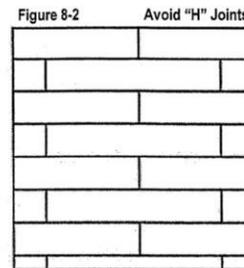
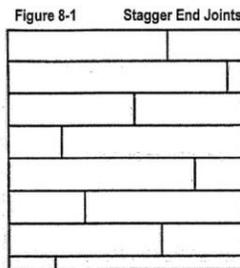
and contact your local Distributor or manufacturer of the nailer for technical advice. It is essential that the flooring Installer make sure that the nailer/stapler is properly adjusted for the particular floor that is being installed i.e. the fastener(s) MUST enter the nail slot at the correct angle and height, do not over-drive the fastener(s) so as not to cause damage to the board e.g. telegraphing fasteners, broken or split tongues, peaking, squeaking, or crackling noises to occur.

Air Pressure Settings



Steps For Nail & Glue Installations

- 1) Before you start, make sure to test the substrate for moisture according to appropriate moisture testing procedures in Chapter 3, Moisture Guideline and Vapor Retarders. Excessive/elevated moisture should not be present. The subfloor should be within acceptable moisture content as per adhesive and wood manufacturer's recommendation before installing.
- 2) Choose a starting wall according to the most aesthetically or architecturally important elements in the room, taking into consideration fireplaces, doors, cabinets and transitions, as well as the squareness of the room. The starting wall will often be the longest unbroken wall in the room.
- 3) Expansion space should be left around the perimeter. Measure out from the starting wall the width of one flooring plank plus the appropriate expansion space for the thickness of flooring. Mark two points toward each end of the starting wall and snap a chalk line along the full length of the wall through the marks.
- 4) Only use an adhesive approved by the flooring manufacturer. Follow the installation procedure recommended by the adhesive manufacturer, which includes subfloor moisture content, spread rate, trowel size, open time, working time and flash time as necessary.
- 5) Trowel spread the adhesive on the subfloor along the chalk line wide enough to allow the first row of flooring to be installed, being careful not to cover the line. A proper roller can also be used if recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Before proceeding to the next step, follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for wet lay times.
- 6) Lay the tongue side of the first row of flooring along the chalk line. Face nail (top nail) the first row of flooring in place. Place the fasteners approximately 3/4" from the wall side (groove side) of the board every 4" to 6". Once the face nails are set, use 6-d finish nails or the pneumatic finish nailer to blind/edge nail along the tongue of the first row, every 4" to 6" and every 2" to 3" from every end joint. Check to make sure the first row is still straight along the chalk line before proceeding.
- 7) Trowel spread enough adhesive to install 2-3 more rows.
- 8) Install the second row by sliding the groove side on to the tongue of the first row. Blind/edge nail it in to place, with fasteners every 4" to 6" and 2" to 3" from each end joint. Stagger end joints by at least 8". Avoid "H" patterns and other discernible patterns. (See Figures 8-1 and 8-2.)



- 9) Continue nailing and gluing 2-3 rows at a time in this manner across the room. Avoid creating "H" patterns (where an end joint is adjacent to another end joint in the second to last row installed). Use cut ends to start the subsequent row, discarding any pieces shorter than 8".
- 10) Most adhesives require that the Installer clean the adhesive off the flooring boards during the installation. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for this procedure.
- 11) Trim the last row of flooring to maintain the minimum expansion space at the far wall.
- 12) At the far (finish) wall, it may be necessary to face-nail the last 2-3 rows due to the angle of the stapler/nailer. The last row or two of flooring may need to be pulled together using a pulling bar.
- 13) Complete the installation by reinstalling or installing new base moldings.
- 14) Do not allow foot traffic on the floor for 24 hours after installation is complete.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS – FOR ALL PLANK WIDTHS

This floor can be glued down to concrete, plywood, OSB & underlayment grade particleboard meeting the requirements outlined under General Conditions/Subfloor Conditions. Manufacturer does not warrant the adhesive bond between the subfloor and the wood flooring.

Tools and Accessories Needed

For glue down installations, all recommended general tools & accessories listed on page 2 plus the following will be needed:

- Premium Wood Flooring Adhesive: Franklin 771, 811, or 821, Bostik GreenForce, BEST, or VaporLock, Bona R851 or of equal.
- Adhesive Remover recommended by the manufacturer of the adhesive selected
- Adhesive Trowel recommended by the manufacturer of the adhesive selected
- Tape is not recommended

Steps For Glue Down Installations

- 1) Measure out from the starting wall the width of one flooring plank plus the appropriate expansion space for that thickness of flooring. Mark two points toward each end of the starting wall and snap a chalk line along the full length of the wall through the marks. Install backer boards as guides along the wall side of the chalk line. Anchor the backer boards in place with screws or finish nails. Over concrete subfloors, anchor the backer boards with concrete screws or concrete nails. These boards will be removed later.
- 2) Lay the first row of flooring, but do not glue into place. Align the tongue side of the flooring boards against the backer board. Dry lay the next two rows of flooring in place, sliding the tongue into the groove. End joints should be staggered by at least 8". Pull the rows of flooring boards out away from the backer board approximately 24" to allow for the glue to be spread.
- 3) Trowel spread the adhesive on the subfloor along the backer board wide enough to allow the first three rows of flooring to be installed. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for wet lay times before proceeding to the next step.
- 4) Install the first row of flooring, pressing the tongue to the backer board. Slide the tongue of the next row of flooring into the groove of the first row and continue until the first three rows are done.
- 5) Trowel spread adhesive and continue the installation across the room. Trim the last row of flooring to maintain the minimum expansion space at the far wall. Be careful not to move the installed flooring out of position. Using knee-boards can help prevent movement. Some flooring boards may need to be tapped or pulled into place with a tapping block or pull bar.
- 6) Use a damp cloth to **IMMEDIATELY REMOVE ANY ADHESIVE** that gets on the flooring surface. If it doesn't come off, use the Manufacturer's recommended adhesive remover and follow the procedures.
- 7) Once the room is finished, remove the backer boards at the starter row.
- 8) Dry lay the first row of flooring to replace the backer board. Trowel spread the adhesive on the back of the flooring boards (not on the subfloor) and install the flooring, sliding the groove onto the tongue of the already installed starter row. Doorways and other openings may require installation of the flooring the same way. Slide the flooring boards under the previously cut door trims and casings.
- 9) Complete the installation by reinstalling or installing new base moldings.
- 10) Do not allow foot traffic on the floor for 24 hours after installation is complete.

FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS – FOR ALL PLANK WIDTHS

This product can be installed as a floating floor system over almost all types of subfloors including Plywood and OSB provided they are clean, flat, dry and structurally sound, meeting the requirements outlined under Subfloor Conditions.

Tools and Accessories Needed

For floating installations, all recommended general tools & accessories listed on page 2 plus the following will be needed:

- Tongue and Groove Glue: Franklin Titebond III or Equivalent PVA adhesive
- Underlayment Pad: Approximately 1/8" thick Two-in-One pad (pad plus vapor barrier) or approximately 1/8" thick pad with 6 mil polyfilm sheeting
- Tape is not recommended

Steps For Floating Installation

- 1) If installing over underlayment pad plus a separate layer of polyfilm, install the 6 mil polyfilm first, taping all seams with waterproof tape, and then install the pad. Roll out the first run of pad from wall to wall parallel to the starter wall. On the installed pad mark two points toward each end of the starting wall and chalk a line the full length of the wall through the marks. This is the starter line.
- 2) Lay the first row of flooring using only long boards. The first flooring board and the last flooring board in this row should be a minimum of 12" long and cut to provide the appropriate expansion space on each end. Apply a 1/8" continuous bead of T&G glue on the bottom side of the groove of each end joint. Align the tongue side of the starter row along the chalk line and

engage the end joints together. Use shims along the long wall and at both ends of the row to keep the floor in place and maintain the right expansion space.

- 3) Lay the second and third row of flooring boards. End joints should be separated by a minimum of 8" from the adjacent row. Spread a 1/8" bead of T&G glue along the bottom side of the long groove and each end joint groove on the second row of flooring. Engage the groove side of the second row with the tongue of the starter row. Engage the end joints at the same time, aligning them and cutting at the end of each row to allow for appropriate expansion space. Continue this procedure for the third row. These three rows must be aligned straight to ensure that the rest of the installation remains straight.
- 4) Continue using the same procedure. If boards do not easily engage together, use a tapping block or pull-bar.
- 5) Avoid working on top of the installed flooring to prevent breakage of the glue joint.
- 6) Complete the installation by reinstalling or installing new base moldings.
- 7) Do not allow foot traffic on the floor for 24 hours after installation is complete.

AFTER INSTALLATION

- Flooring should be one of the last items installed in a project. In order to protect the floors while other trades are finishing their work prior to final cleanup and turnover to the owner, use rosin paper. DO NOT use Blue Tape to adhere to the floor (blue tapes may damage the finish). Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the rosin paper to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. DO NOT USE plastic film or other non-breathing coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity buildups.
- Remove expansion spacers and reinstall base and/or quarter round moldings to cover moldings to cover the expansion space.
- Dust mop or vacuum your floor to remove any dirt or debris.
- Install any transition pieces that may be needed (reducers, T-moldings, nosing, etc.).
- If using glue-down method, do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on floor for 24 hours
- Follow the residential Care & Maintenance Guidelines from Osmo for using Wash & Care during initial cleaning.
- For commercial applications, contact your local Osmo specialist for a customized cleaning and maintenance schedule.

GENERAL PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR FLOOR

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

- Clean the floor thoroughly before laying the covering to ensure that no debris is trapped underneath. Tape pieces of protective covering together but do not tape them to the wood flooring.
- Place walk-off mats at all entrances to collect dirt and debris that could damage or dull the flooring finish.
- Install felt floor protectors underneath all furniture.
- Do not allow people to wear spiked heels on the floor, which will damage even the hardest wood floors and finishes.
- Pet claws should be properly trimmed at all times.
- Work boots and shoes that may have pebbles lodged in the soles should be removed prior to entering.
- Sweep or vacuum frequently. Most damage to wood floor finishes is caused by debris that is walked on.
- All mats or rugs should be cleaned on a regular basis. They should also be moved occasionally to allow natural color changes caused by light to occur evenly in all areas.
- Never wet-mop your floor, and always clean up spills and standing water as soon as possible. With oil- finished floors, water left for prolonged periods may cause water-spotting. With water or any other cleaning agent, be sure to thoroughly ring out the applicator or mop prior to applying it to the floor. A damp mop is fine as long as the moisture is limited to an amount that will evaporate almost immediately. Moisture that is allowed to seep into the seams between the planks may cause damage to your flooring. Do not allow soiled mats or rugs to stay on the floor as they can trap moisture on the surface.
- Please refer to the care & maintenance for the specific collection.

Fading

Natural floors contain organic pigments and are subject to fading when exposed to direct sunlight. Where possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light.

Joints

Natural flooring reacts to the conditions in the environment. Natural flooring plank systems expand and contract in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Controlling the environment, maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity will minimize the visible effects of normal contraction and expansion.

Optimum recommended temperature is 70°F and relative humidity is 35% - 55%. In very dry climates, the use of a humidifier might be necessary.

Photosensitivity

Hardwood floors are photosensitive and will change color as they age or are exposed to U.V. light. In some species the natural pigmentation will be lost and can develop a “bleached” appearance. In many exotic hardwood species (i.e. Tigerwood), the flooring develops a rich patina that will darken the appearance and enhance the natural beauty of the material.

As this is a natural occurring phenomenon, accelerated with exposure to U.V. light, it is not considered a material defect and is excluded from coverage under the provisions of Manufacture's Limited Warranty.

Tips to Minimize Fading/Discoloration

- Avoid rubber-backed mats and rugs, as the backing may discolor your floor.
- Change the location of your rugs periodically. Rearrange more frequently if they are placed in front of doors and windows.
- Use light filtering window treatments (i.e. blinds, drapes, window film) that will help prevent sunlight exposure.
- Rearrange furniture seasonally to allow the flooring to darken and age uniformly.

If completing a flooring extension or board replacement after the original installation has been down for a period of time, the new flooring will have a lighter appearance. As the material is exposed to natural light, it should eventually blend in with the surrounding areas. However, due to the age of your flooring, surface wear (and/or) exposure to U.V. light, Manufacturer cannot guarantee replacement flooring will be a 100% match to your existing product.

Remember that color variation is to be expected with natural products. However, should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the Installer should NOT use this piece.

- **Follow the instructions on this installation guide as well as the guidelines listed out by the NWFA.**
- **For further detailed installation guideline, please refer to NWFA (www.nwfa.org).**
- **UV Oil finished floors require a coat of Osmo Wash & Care immediately after installation to bring out the beauty of your new floor and maintain warranty.**