



LEXINGTON COLLECTION - INSTALLATION GUIDELINES (Floating Floor System)

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

Read all instructions carefully before starting.

It is the owner's/installer's responsibility to follow all manufacturer's written instructions and/or applicable industry standards. In the absence of any specific manufacturer's instructions revert to the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) current industry standards. It is the owner's/installer's responsibility to carefully inspect all material for visual defects prior to installation. Boards that are considered imperfect or objectionable in any way should be used in hidden areas, cut-off or not installed. This product is manufactured in accordance with industry standards which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 10%. The defects may be of any type whether manufactured or natural. Do not install defective flooring. Flooring that has been installed is deemed acceptable.

JOBSITE CONDITIONS/ACCLIMATION

It is the owner's/installer's responsibility to ensure the jobsite conditions and subfloors are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to installation. Subfloors must be clean, flat, secure and meet the minimum standards set forth. The manufacturer shall not have any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of hardwood flooring resulting from or related to the subfloor, jobsite environmental conditions or improper storage and handling. Prior to delivering the wood to the jobsite, the site conditions must be at "normal living conditions" and maintained between 35% - 55% relative humidity and 59° – 79°F. The jobsite must be fully enclosed and the exterior finishing complete. Gutters and downspouts must be in place and all exterior grading should divert water away from the foundation prior to installation. The HVAC system should be on and fully operational for a minimum of seven days prior to installation. All interior wet trades (i.e. paint, drywall, concrete, tiling etc.) must be completed prior to installation. Deliver all material to the jobsite to acclimate for at least 72 hours or as long as it is necessary to meet the proper requirements prior to installation. Store material in the same environment where it will be installed. Do not store material directly on a concrete floor, near windows or vents. Material must be checked with a moisture meter to ensure that it is in moisture equilibrium with the job site environment. Record all moisture readings.

Engineer wood flooring hardwood may be installed above grade, on grade or below grade.

RECOMMENDED SUBFLOOR SURFACES

Wood Subfloor

- Minimum 5/8" CDX plywood or minimum 5/8" OSB (flooring underlayment grade). Particle board is NOT an acceptable subfloor for a staple or nail down installation.
- Maximum 16" on center joist construction.
- Subfloor must be clean, secure and flat within a minimum of 1/8" over 10 feet.
- Hardwood should be installed perpendicular to the joist system.
- Moisture content of the wood subfloor should not exceed 12% and be within 4% of the hardwood being installed. Failure to test for proper moisture content in the subfloor can result in problems associated with moisture.

Concrete Subfloor

- All new concrete subfloors must be fully cured and they require a minimum of 60 days drying time before a wood floor can be installed. Follow NWFA guidelines for proper moisture testing on concrete slabs. Moisture emissions in a concrete subfloor cannot exceed 3 lbs / 1000sqft / 24hr.
- Concrete floors must be clean, dry and flat within 1/8" over a 10 feet radius and free from any structural defects. Surface must be free from dry wall mud, paint, oil, wax, grease, old adhesives, curing compounds and other debris.

Other Subfloors

- Terrazzo, tile and any other hard surface that is structurally sound and level are suitable for the installation of an engineer wood flooring floor. As stated above, the surface must be sound, secure and free from contaminates.
- Do NOT install over perimeter glued resilient vinyl, rubber tiles, carpet, hardwood that has been glued to concrete or any floor that is not adequately adhered to the subfloor.

GETTING STARTED

- Check the hardwood for moisture content. It must be between 6% - 9% moisture content and within 4% of the subfloor to be ready for installation.
- Ensure that subfloors are clean, flat, and secure and meet minimum requirements as set forth.
- Undercut door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the floor (and pad) being installed.
- Place an approved vapor retarder and approved underlayment pad (such as foam/cork pad) some products may have the vapor barrier incorporated into the pad. Install 6 mil Polyethylene vapor barrier over entire flooring surface. Overlap sheets of Polyethylene 16" and tape together creating an airtight seal.
- "Racking the Floor" dry lay out several rows, staggering the end joints a minimum of 8" while avoiding "step" or "H" patterns. To achieve a random appearance across the floor, work from several cartons at a time. Do not install any boards that have a visual defect or are deemed objectionable.
- Maintain a 1/2" expansion space along each wall and against all fixed obstructions. Increase expansion gap to 3/4" for spans exceeding 30 feet.
- For best results when installing mix 4 cartons together in each section of the floor

INSTALLING THE FIRST ROW

Start out on the left corner of the room with the longer wall facing you and work right. Planks should be installed horizontally.

- 1) Lay the first full plank along the wall with the groove facing you.
- 2) Install the second and subsequent full planks by locking the short ends of the boards together.
- 3) Place spacers along all sides that are adjacent to the walls to maintain 1/2" expansion gap.
- 4) Continue installing the planks in the first row until you reach the last plank that needs to be cut.
- 5) Measure the distance between the wall and the face surface of the last plank installed. Subtract 1/2" and cut the plank.
- 6) If this distance is less than 8", go back to the very first full plank and cut approximately 8" from the end adjacent to the starting wall. This will leave a longer plank at the end of the first row.

INSTALLING REMAINING ROWS

Begin the second row of planks with the piece cut from the last plank in the first row. If the piece is shorter than 8", cut a new plank in half and use it to begin the second row. Whenever possible, try to use the piece cut from the previous row to start the next row. All end joints should be staggered at least 8" apart.

- 1) Install the long end of the first plank at an angle to the board in the previous row. Keep the plank at its natural angle slightly raised off the subfloor. Use a scrap piece of flooring to support the row if needed.
- 2) Continue installing full planks in the second row by angling the short end of the next plank in the row to lock into the previous plank. Position the plank so that the longer side is close to planks in the previous row and overlapping the groove of the planks in the previous row.
- 3) Angle up and push forward until the boards are locked together. Continue installing full planks in the second row until you reach the last plank.
- 4) Mark the last plank, cut and install. After all planks in a row are installed, press (or walk) all planks flat to the subfloor before starting the next row.
- 5) If needed, use a pull bar to ensure joints are tight.
- 6) Follow the same steps to install planks in subsequent rows.

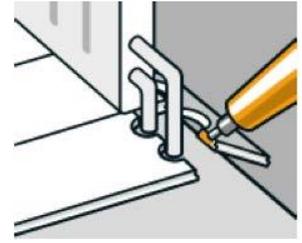
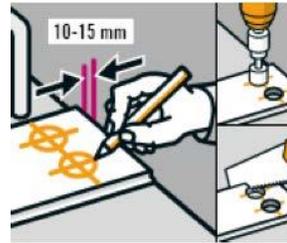
INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

The last row in the installation may need to be cut lengthwise.

- 1) Place the row of planks to be fit on top of the last row of installed planks. Use a divider or a piece of the plank as a scribe to trace the contour of the wall.
- 2) Be sure to place a spacer between the marking pen and scribe piece to maintain a 1/2" expansion gap at the finish wall.
- 3) Mark where the plank should be cut.
- 4) If the fit at the finish wall is simple and straight, just measure for the correct width and cut.
- 5) After the last row is installed, use a pull bar to tighten the joints.
- 6) When appropriate, cut the underlayment even with the top of the floor.

AREAS WITH PIPES

- 1) Mark the pipe position on the plank.
- 2) Drill a hole with the same diameter as the pipe plus 3/4" for expansion.
- 3) Cut the plank through the center of the hole.
- 4) Install the planks.
- 5) Glue the 2 pieces back together.



AREAS WITH HEAVIER TRAFFIC

In places where the floor may be subjected to heavier traffic, apply a small continuous bead of glue to the bottom edge of the groove when connecting the planks. Clean up any excess glue that may have gotten onto the face of the planks.

COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION

- 1) Remove spacers and install appropriate transitions and moldings (thresholds, t-moldings, baseboards, quarter-round etc.
- 2) Always predrill transitions or moldings prior to nailing. To allow the floating floor to move freely, **DO NOT** fasten the trim to the flooring.
- 3) Clean the floor with a vacuum or damp mop. To remove excessive dirt buildup, we recommend using Bona Kemi Hardwood Floor Cleaner.
- 4) **DO NOT WAX OR POLISH** your floor.

FLOOR CARE & MAINTENANCE

Real hardwood floors will show signs of wear over time depending upon the use. Factory finished floors will scratch and dent under certain circumstances. Here are some tips to keep your floors looking their best:

- Constantly maintain "normal living conditions" in the home. Maintain the relative humidity between 35% - 55% and the temperature between 59° – 79°F. The proper use of a humidifier or de-humidifier may be required.
- Sweep and vacuum (do not use a vacuum with a beater bar) regularly to keep dirt and grit off the floor.
- Remove spills immediately with a soft absorbent cloth.
- Only use an approved hardwood cleaner. NEVER wet or damp mop your floor with water or other products. DO NOT use hardwood floor cleaning machines, steamers, oil soaps, wax or other cleaning products that contain oils, silicone or ammonia.
- Keep pet nails trimmed.
- Remove shoes with spiked or damaged heels. Use protective pads under furniture legs to reduce scratches and dents. Chair casters will cause premature wear in the finish. Protect the floor when moving heavy furniture and appliances.