



HARDWOOD FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDE

NOTE: It is important to read the instructions prior to installation.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Make sure that the subfloor is adequate, well levelled and dry.

The humidity level in the subfloor must not exceed 12%

Always use a black felt paper as a vapour barrier prior to installing your floor.

If there is any doubt of possible defects or you experience any difficulty, stop installation immediately and without hesitation, contact your retailer. The person designated for installation is totally responsible for the final result and proper installation of the planks while making sure that the colours have been properly harmonized.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENGINEERED HARDWOOD

Before Starting:

Wood should never be stored outdoors or in a damp area. If it is to be installed in a newly built house or room addition, ensure that doors and windows are already in place, and that the wallboards are completely dry. Engineered hardwood flooring should be the last item installed. The temperature of the room should be around 68°F(18°C) for at least five days prior to installation and the humidity should be approximately 40% to 50%. Engineered hardwood flooring must be acclimated for 48 to 72 hours in these conditions before installation starts. The humidity should be maintained at that level all year round.

Ensure that the subfloor is a minimum of 5/8" (16mm) thick. Always use black felt paper underlayment as a moisture barrier before nailing your flooring.

Engineered hardwood flooring can be installed on plywood, particle board, underlayment, grade OSB, and even existing wood floors provided the surface is structurally sound, levelled, dry, securely bound to a subfloor, has no protruding nail heads, and is clean of all dirt, wax, grease, etc.

Remove any carpet, carpet underpad and glue from the subfloor. Carefully remove the quarter-round and moulding so that they can be reused.

Engineered hardwood must be applied perpendicular to joists for maximum support. Apply felt paper parallel to joists, flush to the walls. Measure out 1/2" (12.7mm) at each end of start wall and stretch a chalk line between these points, 3/9"(19mm) above felt. This 1/2"(12.7mm) allows for natural expansion across floor width.

Installing engineered hardwood flooring requires specialized methods; contact your retailer or the NWFA for more information.

NAILING



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Recommended Pneumatic Floor Stapler 1/2" thick engineered planks should be nailed using a 20 gauge or 18 gauge 1-1/4" staple or longer with a 1/4" crown. Note: For some staplers you may be required to use an appropriate adapter to adjust to the thickness of the flooring. The nailing schedule which is 1" to 2" from the ends and 4" to 6" in the field. 3/4" thick engineered planks should be nailed or stapled using a 3/4" solid wood flooring nailer or stapler of any brand. You must use the recommended size staple or cleat for 3/4" solid wood installations, typically 18 gauge and 1-1/2" to 2" length. The nailing schedule which is 1" to 3" from the ends and 4" to 6" in the field For products with a width greater than 7 inches, please see glue-assist method below

Glue Assist Installation for Wide Plank Engineered Flooring:

It is not necessary, but it is recommended that installation of products with a board width of 6" and wider, installed using the nail-down installation method, be supplemented by the use of adhesive. Without the supplement with adhesive, nail-down installations of wide plank flooring may result in board movement. Noises that emanate from installed flooring are not considered to be a manufacturing defect. These noises are always related to movement caused by insufficient fastening, un-level subfloors, or pressure related to lack of expansion space. Adhesives used in the glue-assist method may be trowelled, or laid down in a bead, using a cartridge or sausage adhesive. Follow adhesive manufacturer's general guidelines. If using the trowel method, spread rows of adhesive perpendicular to the plank direction, no more than 12" apart. If laying down a bead of adhesive, apply the bead in a serpentine pattern, directly onto the subfloor, in the direction of the planks. Recommended adhesives: Trowel Method; Moisture Cured Urethane (e.g. Bostik Best, or equivalent) Bead method: Bona R850T (or equivalent) Do not use PL Premium or similar construction adhesives. The adhesive must remain flexible to allow normal expansion and contraction of the wood flooring. Be sure to follow adhesive manufacturers cleaning guidelines as adhesive that cures on the flooring surface will be difficult to remove. An alternative glue-assist method is to glue the tongue and groove joints using a standard PVA T&G adhesive, normally used in the floating installation method.

INSTALLING AS A FLOATING FLOOR

Subfloor Preparation: Preparation of a subfloor is more critical for a floating engineered floor than for a staple or glue down application, the floor must be flat to 3/16" in a 10' radius. If the floor requires correction, the high areas can be ground down and the low areas may be filled using a latex fortified Portland leveling compound. The leveling compound must be allowed to dry according to the manufacturers instructions before the floor is installed over it. The use of sand or extra padding to fill low areas is not acceptable. Important: Do not install cabinets or walls on top of the flooring when using the floating installation method. **Floating Floor Underlayment** Floating installation requires the use of poly-foam underlayment designed for engineered hardwood floating floors, with a minimum thickness of 1/8" and a minimum 2.0lb density. Underlayment requirements are very critical in a floating installation. Excessive pad compression or compaction can cause seam failure. **Floating Floor Expansion Space:** An expansion space of at least 1/2" must be maintained around the perimeter of the room, all pipes, counters, cabinets, fireplace hearths, doorframes and any other fixed vertical objects in the room. **Floating Floor Glue and Glue Placement:** Use recommended floating floor glue for use with engineered hardwood floors for installation. Glue placement is very important. The glue must be



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placed along the topside of the groove the full length of the grooved side and end. This can be accomplished by inverting the plank and applying a bead of glue ($\frac{3}{32}$ "") to the topside of the groove (side of the groove nearest the face of the plank). When the plank is turned back over the glue will run down the back of the groove giving total coverage. Apply only a $\frac{3}{32}$ " bead of glue; if the groove is filled with glue it will be difficult to close the seam, not allowing a tight fit. The installation begins in the left hand corner of the room with the long direction parallel to the longest wall of the room. Install three rows of flooring glued together and held in place with blue painter's tape with the groove side facing the wall. Tap boards together with a hammer and tapping block against the tongue side only. Spacers must be used to establish the minimum $\frac{1}{2}$ " expansion space from the walls. Place spacers against the wall every 2 – 3' and at each plank end joint connection. The three rows must be straight and square because they establish the alignment for the rest of the floor. After putting these three rows together, allow the glue to set (15 to 45 minutes) before proceeding with the installation. After installing 8 or 10 rows of flooring, stand back and check for crowning or heaving due to tension or any damage caused by improper tapping.

READY TO START

- First Row

When starting, try to use the straightest strips in the first row to obtain the straightest line possible. Lay the first row with grooved edge flush to line, with first and last strips (cut to required length). The straightness of the starting row will control the straightness and balance of the floor so be sure that strips are flush to the line and fit tightly on sides and on ends. Drill holes from the tongue edge, on 10-12" (25-30cm) centres, nail through hole with 2" (5cm) finishing nails at a 45 degree angle. Use a nail punch to countersink the heads without damaging edges of strip. Always nail from left to right.

- Second Row

Use the leftover piece from the first row if it is long enough. Offset each row a minimum of 6" (15cm) from the previous row. Engage boards tightly together on sides and ends. Nail through tongue at 45 degree on 10-12" (25-30cm) centres. Use two nails on all pieces under 12" (30cm) lengths. Ratchet or pneumatic nailer: Use a nailing machine with a rubber mallet, drive 2" (5cm) nails when clearance permits. Nail is driven on 45 degree angle and nail head is countersunk.

- Balance of Rows

Continue across the room laying out and choosing pieces so that the ends are never in line. Tap gently together to ensure tight fit of all strips.

- Last Rows

Use same procedure as first two rows, blind nailing through tongue. Measure and cut last row, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " (12.7mm) space at wall. Drill holes and face-nail. Countersink all nail heads and fill with matching putty stick. Replace base moulding, nailing them into the wall and not the floor.



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MAINTENANCE

Sweep or vacuum regularly. We suggest the use of a wood maintenance cleaning kit to clean and maintain your floors. You can also use a well wrung damp mop. Never let liquids stand on your floor.

WARNING: NEVER WAX YOUR FLOORS

We do not recommend the use of soaps, detergents, and cleaners other than those recommended for your finish.

WARRANTY

Products are made according to the manufacturing guidelines of the National Wood Flooring Association.

According to these guidelines, a natural variety of colour between sapwood and the middle wood is accepted.

BECKHAM BROTHERS will not guarantee exact colour match to sample. Wood is a natural product with natural variation in colour, especially over time.

BECKHAM BROTHERS guarantees the quality of the grade sold, good manufacturing, and the moisture content at manufacturing that is between 6 to 9%.

BECKHAM BROTHERS will not be held responsible for any damage caused to sold products that are not installed according to the aforementioned instructions and/or the relative humidity of the room is not adequate and/or that proper care is not given with the intention of protecting the product after installation.

All BECKHAM BROTHERS dealers agree to advise their customers of these limitations and to give the proper information on the characteristics of the products sold, the storing conditions, installation techniques, and maintenance information.

**By necessity, these instructions are general in nature.
For more details, contact your retailer.**