



Installation Instructions

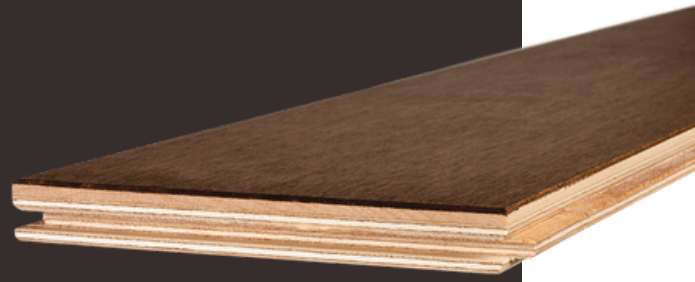
Engineered flooring

FLOATING, GLUED-DOWN OR NAILED INSTALLATION METHODS



Before installation

Engineered Hardwood Floor Installation



It is important to account for a 5% surplus of the surface to be covered in order to compensate for the losses (sawcuts, etc.). Before the installation of any wood flooring, the installer must determine that the work site environment as well as the condition and type of subfloor meets or exceeds all the requirements set out in the installation instructions.

In accordance to NWFA & NOFWA standards, any installed floorboards will be deemed as accepted by the installer and the owner, whether or not the owner is present at the time of installation. The decision not to proceed with the installation must be made within the first 100 square feet of installed floor space.

Preparations before installation

During a new construction, the engineered hardwood floor should be one of the last components to be installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustic ceiling, mud joints on dry-wall panels, etc.) should be completed before installation of the floor. Concrete and plaster must have hardened and dried for a minimum of 60 to 90 days. All materials should be dry. Heating and ventilation systems should be fully functional; it is crucial to maintain a constant temperature of 19-24°C (66-75°F) in the room, and a constant relative humidity between 40 and 55%.

Floor boxes must be at the work site at least 72 hours prior to installation. Do not open boxes prior to installation. Never store boxes in an inappropriate location such as a shed, an unheated garage or in a basement.

Failure to follow the preparation prior to installation will void the manufacturer's warranty.

Subfloor

Approved Subfloors

- Plywood panels with a minimum thickness of 15.5 mm (5/8 in.).
- OSB boards of minimum thickness 18.5 mm (3/4 in.) and compliant with NWFA Standard: PS-2-92.
- OSB boards are not recommended for a basement.
- Panels must be glued and screwed to the floor center joists spaced 400 mm (16 in.) apart.
- The panels can also be installed on a wooden floor already in place and leveled.
- The installation of the panels may also be on a concrete slab, but it is necessary to follow the installation instructions of the building code. (floor level, vapor barrier, plywood or OSB panels, felt paper)

The subfloor must be clean. It must be structurally solid and stable (screwed firmly on the joists to prevent cracking). The ideal subfloor moisture content is 8-10%, but should not exceed 12%.

The concrete floor must be 60 to 90 days old. The surface should be leveled: a maximum clearance of 3.17 mm by 1.8 m (1/8 in. x 6 ft) is acceptable. The moisture content according to a concrete Tramex Moisture Encounter shall not exceed 4.5%.

Subfloor

Installation on a Floor With a Radiant Heating System

- The radiant heating system must be in operation for at least two (2) weeks prior to installation to stabilize the building conditions.
- Maintain an ambient temperature between 18 °C and 24 °C (65 °F to 75 °F) and a relative humidity between 35% and 50%.
- The flooring must be acclimated under these conditions.
- Before installation, reduce or turn off the radiant heating system for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Once installation is complete, gradually restart the system, increasing the temperature by a maximum of 1 °C per day until the desired temperature is reached.
- The subfloor temperature must never exceed 28 °C (85 °F).

Caution : Do not use nails, staples or other fasteners to avoid damaging your heating tube system. Once the floor is installed, an increase of 1°C per day only is permissible, up to the desired temperature



Installation

Floating Type Installation Method

Note

Floating installation requires glue. Wickham flooring does not require a specific type glue. However, only engineering floor tube glue is recommended.

Tools required

Miter saw, jigsaw, square, measuring tape, chalk line, hammer, rubber hammer, level, chisel, vacuum cleaner, goggles, glue tubes, wet rags, touch-up pen, vapor barrier membrane, polyethylene foam membrane.

Subfloor

Ensure that the subfloor meets building standards before proceeding to the floating floor installation step. See section 1.

- Installation of a vapor barrier is recommended over the entire surface. It is suggested to use waxed paper, red rosin paper or felt paper as a vapor barrier.
- Unroll polyethylene foam rolls in the same direction as the planks and try to avoid overlapping joints.
- In order to obtain a better visual effect, it is recommended to install the floorboards parallel to the longest wall of the room.
- Leave a space of 1/4 in. short end of boards and 1/2 in. on the long side of the boards between the planks and the wall.
- Draw a starting line so that the first row is straight and square.
- Connect the panels in the first row to the narrow side throughout the room.
- Apply a thin thread (1/16 in. or 2 mm maximum) of tube glue on the top of the male parts of the board.
- Use the planks from different boxes and mix them to ensure a good assortment of grain, length and shade.
- Shift the ends of the strips by at least 15 cm (6 in.) from the end of the adjacent planks to avoid overlapping of the end joints.
- First connect the long sides and then slide the plank as close as possible to the short side of the previous one. Tap gently on the side until the 2 boards are equal. Do not strike too hard to avoid damage. Always use a damp cloth to quickly wipe away any adhesive residue.
- Allow 24 hours for air circulation before moving the furniture.

Glued-down Installation Method

Glue-down installation requires the use of an adhesive. While Wickham does not mandate a specific brand, a high-quality adhesive specifically designed for engineered flooring is required for all full glue-down applications.

For optimal results—particularly when a built-in moisture barrier is needed—we recommend the following industry-leading products:

- Bona Quantum R851
- Bostik UltraSet SingleStep2
- Mapei Ultrabond ECO 980

Important Note:

To ensure the integrity of the moisture barrier and the long-term stability of the floor, these products must be applied using the manufacturer's specifically recommended notched trowel.

Tools Required

Miter saw, jig saw, angle saw, measuring tape, drawline, hammer, rubber hammer, level, wood chisel, vacuum cleaner, goggles, Wickham glue 15 liters pail, wet Rags, 100-pounds roll, trowel with 3/16 in. V notch, touch-up pen.

Subfloor

Ensure that the subfloor meets building standards before proceeding to the floor installation. See section 1.

- Leave a space between the planks and the wall of 1/4 in. short end of boards and 1/2 in. on the long side of the boards.
- Draw a starting line so that the first row is straight and square.
- Spread glue using a 3/16 in. V trowel at a 45° angle.
- Apply the glue evenly to the surface, but be sure to install the boards within 20 minutes.
- Install each board with sufficient pressure on the floor. Use a rubber hammer or walk on the board in both directions. Make sure the board adheres well to the floor by checking the back of a board.
- Always use a damp cloth to wipe away glue residue quickly.
- Use the planks from different boxes and mix them to ensure a good assortment of grain, length and shade. Shift the ends of the strips by at least 15 cm (6 in.) from the ends of the adjacent planks to avoid overlapping of the end joints.
- After the installation is complete, roll the floor with the 100-pound roll in both directions.
- Allow 24 hours for air circulation before moving the furniture.

Installation

Nailed installation method

Required tools

Miter saw, jigsaw, angle bracket, measuring tape, chalk line, hammer, rubber hammer, level, nails or staples depending on product thickness, nailer, vapor barrier, chisel, vacuum cleaner, goggles, touch-up pen.

Subfloor

Ensure that the subfloor meets the construction standards before proceeding to the nailed type flooring installation step. (See section 1.)

- Installation of a vapor barrier is recommended over the entire surface.
- It is suggested to use wax paper, red rosin paper or felt paper.
- To obtain a better visual effect, it is recommended to install the floorboards parallel to the longest wall of the room.
- Draw a starting line so that the first row is straight and square.
- Leave a space between the planks and the wall of 1/4 in. short end of boards and 1/4 in. on the long side of the boards.
- Use the planks from different boxes and mix them to ensure a good assortment of grain, length and shade.
- Depending on the nail gun, the first row(s) must be nailed by hand until sufficient space is available to use the gun.
- Shift the ends of the strips by at least 15 cm (6 in.) from the ends of the adjacent planks to avoid overlapping of the end joints.

Nails / staples and laying sequence

Engineered wood 1/2 in. thick: staples 1 1/4 in. or nails 1 1/2 in.

Engineered wood 5/8 in. thick: staples 1 1/4 in. or nails 1 1/2 in.

Engineered wood 3/4 in. thick: staples or nails 2 in.

Installation sequence

3.25 in. and 5 in. planks: nail or cramp every 6 in. to 8 in.

Boards of 7 in. or more: nail or cramp every 4 in. to 6 in.

Start nailing at 2 in. minimum space from the edge boards.

**** If the floor is nailed directly to a plywood over concrete, take no more than 1 1/2 in. nails only; even for 3/4 in. engineered wood. Be sure to bring the nail sequence closer to 4 in. to 6 in. ****

After installation

Preservation and Maintenance

Keeping a stable climate environment is the secret of a well-preserved floor. It is essential to maintain an interior temperature of 19-24° C (66-75°F) and keep relative humidity between 40% and 55%.

- Use carpets in front of exterior access to hold dirt and moisture. Avoid carpets with the backing made of foam or rubber, as they can damage the varnish.
- Use felt protectors for furniture legs to prevent scratches.
- Do not thoroughly water clean. Excessive moisture damages the wood. Use special hardwood floor cleaner on the mop and wipe clean.
- Use a vacuum cleaner, dry mop or broom.
- Absorb the water or other liquids quickly with a cloth.
- Never apply wax.
- Avoid wearing high heels on the wood floor.
- The claws of animals, among others, can cause scratches.



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