



Please inspect product for color, finish, quality and style BEFORE installing any material. SLCC Enterprise, Inc. warranty DOES NOT cover materials with visible defects once they have been installed. Any defects should be reported to the flooring dealer IMMEDIATELY for inspection and/or replacement.

ALL PLANKS ONCE INSTALLED ARE CONSIDERED AS ACCEPTED BY THE INSTALLER AND/OR HOMEOWNER AND THE MANUFACTURER ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ABOVE.

ATTENTION: SLCC Hardwood Floor Installation Guidelines are intended to offer general guidance as it relates to SLCC hardwood floors, and are NOT a replacement for a professional, certified installer. **SLCC hardwood floors MUST be installed according to the National Wood Flooring Association’s (NWFA) installation guidelines in order for the SLCC Hardwood Flooring Limited Warranty to be valid.** The most current publication of the NWFA guidelines is available to all NWFA members, and can be found at www.nwfa.org.

INSTALLATION NOTICE: Please don’t damage this flooring by pounding on it with a rubber mallet during installation. Instead, use a tapping block against the edge of the plank to prevent surface damage.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION PROCEDURES MIGHT VOID WARRANTY.

Tools & Accessories:

- ✓ Rubber mallet
- ✓ Tenon saw, hand saw or circular saw
- ✓ Electric drill, with a 3/32 inch (2mm) bit
- ✓ Square and measuring tape
- ✓ Utility Knife
- ✓ Tapping Block
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Underlayment (Float install)
- ✓ Moisture Meter
- ✓ Chalk line
- ✓ Level
- ✓ Flooring screws (to solidify sub-floor when installing over wooden sub-floor)
- ✓ Safety glasses and dust mask
- ✓ Broom and dust pan

Additional Tools & Accessories Needed for Nail-Down Installation:

- ✓ Hardwood floor nailer (manual or pneumatic)
- ✓ Claw hammer and nail punch
- ✓ Air compressor/hose as needed
- ✓ Hardwood flooring nails (2in / 5cm) - 1 box or 1000 nails per 18.6 sq.m / 200 sq.ft
- ✓ Screw shank finishing nails (2.5in / 6.3 cm) or regular finishing nails
- ✓ Construction paper or #15 felt floor liner (when installing over wooden sub-floor)

BEFORE YOU START

Humidity and Temperature

Wood is a natural resource made of fibers that will naturally contract and expand with changes in humidity. This contraction and expansion of wood is normal and will not harm your floor as long as relative humidity (R.H.) levels are maintained between 35% and 55% and temperature between 65-75° F (18-24°C) for at least 3-5 days prior to installation and maintained after installation. This may require the use of an appropriate ventilation and/or humidification system including a humidifier or dehumidifier. Failure to maintain proper humidity levels can exacerbate any problems. Always maintain a 3/8” expansion gap around all vertical obstructions including walls to allow for contraction/expansion. Do not handle products in moist or damp areas. Store flooring in a dry, well ventilated, climate-controlled environment. If delivery is to a construction site, flooring should be placed inside a sufficiently enclosed building to ensure it is protected from the weather.

Acclimation

Floors should be acclimated for at least 72 hours in the room in which it will be installed. Planks with any visible defects must be put aside for replacement for warranty coverage to apply. Once floorboards are installed, they are considered accepted and warranty coverage will no longer apply. Failure to allow flooring to acclimatize prior to install may cause/exhibit stress, cracks, cupping and squeaks. 1. Ensure that the building is enclosed. 2. Verify that the building is maintained at normal living conditions for temperature and humidity. 3. Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air-conditioning systems should be operating at least five days preceding installation to



promote proper acclimation. 4. If it is not possible for the permanent heating and/or air-conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that mimics normal temperature and humidity conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air-conditioning system is operating. 5. Upon delivery, check wood flooring moisture content with a moisture meter to establish a baseline for required acclimation. Check the moisture content of multiple boards. A good representative sample is typically 40 boards for every 1,000 square feet of flooring. Acclimate to geographical location and your jobsite location. For further acclimation cautions and procedures see NWFA Guidelines.

Color Changes and Variation

Hardwood flooring ages and matures over time with exposure to UV light. Most floors will darken and become richer in color. To prevent spot darkening of floors, routinely rearrange area rugs and large pieces of furniture. Many wood floors will display variation in color from board to board. Some floors will have more variation than others depending on the species. This is not indicative of any fault in the floor, but is a natural occurrence with any wood product. Install boards simultaneously from several cartons to ensure good mix of color and shading.

Moisture

Water and wood do not mix. Any spills or liquids should be removed and wiped off your floor promptly and NEVER wet mop wood floors. Damage resulting from standing water or liquid is not covered by warranty.

Care and Maintenance

SLCC Enterprise, Inc. Engineered floors are easy to maintain. Simply dry mop or vacuum your floor. NEVER WET MOP. Only products specially formulated for use on pre-finished hardwood floors should be used. Some cleaners that are not specially formulated for pre-finished hardwood floors can leave a dull residue and will void the warranty. NEVER use wax or oil based detergents, or abrasive chemical cleaners on your hardwood floor. These can irreversibly dull and damage the finish and/or leave a greasy residue. Regular care and maintenance are required to keep floors looking their best. Help protect floors by using mats and area rugs at entrances and high traffic areas. Place felt pads under legs of furniture and clean them regularly to prevent scratching your floor. Never wear high heels or stiletto shoes on wood flooring.

PREPARING THE AREA

Moldings

- If needed, use a jamb saw to undercut door casings and jambs so that flooring can slide underneath.
- Scribe along the top edge of existing base moldings with a utility knife prior to removing moldings to prevent tearing paint or drywall.
- Remove all existing moldings and doorway thresholds before installing floor.

Environment

- Maintain temperature between 65-75° F (18-24°C) and R.H. at 35-55% for at least 3-5 days before installation, during and maintain after installation. HVAC systems must be operational for at least a week prior.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

GENERAL RULES

- Clean any adhesive residue from the flooring surface IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT wait until the end of installation, since adhesive may dry and will be very difficult to remove without damaging the finish.
- DO NOT USE BLUE MASKING TAPE.
- Avoid standing or putting weight on newly installed floors during installation.
- During installation, occasionally remove a piece of flooring from the subfloor and inspect the back for proper adhesive transfer. Adequate adhesive transfer is necessary to achieve proper bonding.
- Save a few boards in case board replacement or repair is necessary
- Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps to appear in following rows as installation progresses. When you are certain your first two starter rows are straight and secure, spread adhesive 2 to 3 feet wide across length of room, ever spreading more adhesive than can be covered in 30 to 45 minutes.

STEP ONE: STARTING THE LAYOUT

1. Installation parallel to the longest and straightest wall is recommended for best visual effects. Install floors perpendicular to flooring joists unless the subfloor has been reinforced to reduce any subfloor sagging.



2. In at least two places, at least 18" (46cm) from the corners of the starting walls, measure out equal distances and snap a chalk line. The measurements must be the sum of the width of the flooring plus an additional 5/8" (16mm) to allow for 3/8" (9.5mm) expansion space and the width of the tongue.
3. Measure the distance between the starting line along the full length of the wall to see if there are any places out of line. It may be necessary to trim board widths in order line the wall with its irregularities.
4. Install a starting strip (NO ADHESIVE, any straight wood material) along the inside edge of the chalk line, closest to the starting wall with the tongue side facing the starting wall. This row MUST perfectly align with the starting chalk line. (continued)
5. When the row is completely straight, use finish nails or concrete nails to attach strip to the subfloor. This sacrificial row will minimize movement of the floor during the installation process and will be removed later on.

STEP TWO: SPREADING THE ADHESIVE

1. Follow all directions according to the adhesive manufacturer (Recommended: Bostik EFA). Use a trowel recommended by the adhesive manufacturer to spread adhesive over an area that can be covered with flooring within 30-45 minutes. Work trowel at 45-degree angle in a circular motion.
2. It is imperative that the installer check for adhesive transfer from the subfloor to the flooring. Improper adhesive transfer or leveling of the subfloor may result in hollow spots, which are not a manufacturing related problems and will void the warranty.

STEP THREE: INSTALLING THE FLOOR

1. Install the first board along the chalk line.
2. Insert the next board into the adjoining tongue or groove and force the board tightly against the sacrificial row and first plank. When installing products wider than 31/4", apply a bead of carpenter's wood glue to all the end grooves prior to installing into the adhesive. When installing pieces, engage the short end-joint first then slide together tightly to engage long joint tongue and groove. To avoid adhesive bleed-through and memory pull-back, avoid sliding pieces
3. Once you have installed three or more boards in the first row, you can begin installation of the second row.
4. Select a board for the second row that will allow at least 6" of difference between the joints of the first row and second row. Continue installation, starting new rows once three or more boards have been installed for the preceding rows until the laid down adhesive has been covered.
5. Stagger joints a minimum 6" in adjacent rows. Avoid alignment of joints in alternating rows, which can create an undesirable H-shaped pattern.
6. Once the first section has been completed, inspect all joints closely, tightening all end and side gaps as needed.
7. Measure the final row and trim board lengths to fit along the final wall, maintaining 3/8" expansion gap.
8. Once main area is complete, remove the sacrificial row, careful not to damage the adjoining boards. Complete installation in the same manner.
9. If required by adhesive manufacturer, roll floor with appropriate weight roller before adhesive cures.
10. If necessary, use weights to flatten boards with bows until adhesive cures in order to prevent hollow spots. Boards that cannot be flattened should be cut in length to reduce the bow or not used.

STEP FOUR: FINISHING

1. Inspect floor for any gaps, chips and adhesive residue. Remove all residue, touch up chips and fill with appropriate filler if necessary. Use colored latex filler for factory finished floors.
2. Install or reinstall all moldings, nailing to wall, not the floor. Add shoe base if necessary.
3. Vacuum or sweep floor thoroughly.
4. Use only cleaners formulated for pre-finished hardwood floors. NEVER WET MOP OR SPRAY CLEANER DIRECTLY ON FLOOR.
5. Wait 24 hours before moving furniture (do not drag) and allowing heavy foot traffic.
6. If floor is to be covered for temporary protection, use a breathable material such as, cardboard. NEVER cover with plastic.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

STEP ONE: PREPARING THE FLOOR

1. For concrete subfloors, follow all testing requirements for moisture prior to installation. Install a 6-mil polyfilm vapor barrier with joints overlapping 8". Fasten seams every 18- 24" with clear waterproof packing tape. Run outside edges of polyfilm up perimeter of each wall 4". Trim excess after flooring installation is complete. **DO NOT** use vapor barrier over wood subfloors, use moisture retardant.
2. Install recommended underlayment parallel to the starting wall in the same direction flooring will be installed. Butt edges but **DO NOT OVERLAP JOINTS**. Leave a 3/8" space between pad and all walls and permanent vertical fixtures. Tape all joints using a waterproof tape with **NO** wrinkles.

STEP TWO: STARTING THE LAYOUT

1. Installation parallel to the longest and straightest wall is recommended for best visual effects. Install floors perpendicular to flooring joists unless the subfloor has been reinforced to reduce any subfloor sagging.
2. In at least two places, at least 18" (46cm) from the corners of the starting walls measure out equal distances and snap a chalk line. The measurements must be the sum of the width of the flooring plus an additional 5/8" (16mm) to allow for 3/8" (9.5mm) expansion space and the width of the tongue.
3. Measure the distance between the starting line along the full length of the wall to see if there are any places out of line. It may be necessary to trim board widths in order line the wall with its irregularities.
4. **OPTIONAL:** Install a row (**NO ADHESIVE**) along the inside edge of the chalk line, closest to the starting wall. Make sure row is in perfect alignment with the chalk line and use wedges to hold the flooring in place on the ends.

STEP THREE: INSTALLING THE FLOOR

1. Select the longest boards available. Lay the boards out along the length of the room; making certain the final board in the row is at least 12" in length. If not, trim the first board to allow the last board to be longer.
2. Begin installation with the tongue facing away from the starting wall. Groove should be facing the starting wall or strip row. The short end groove should be facing the end wall. Align the first board with the starting line.
3. Select the next board. Place a 1/8" continuous bead of glue (Recommended: Franklin Tongue and Groove adhesive) in the inside bottom edge of the short end groove. **DO NOT** apply glue to the long side groove yet. Carefully interlock the joint of the second board to the first board, keeping the long side aligned with the starting line.
4. Remove any excess glue from the floor surface with a towel dampened (not wet) with warm soapy water. **DO NOT LET GLUE DRY ON SURFACE**. Use wedges or spacers along the side and end walls (ends only if sacrificial row was used) to maintain alignment with the starting line. Continue until first row is complete.
5. Measure and cut to length the final board in the first row, allowing 3/8" expansion gap between the end of the board and end wall. Select a longer board so that the remaining piece of the board can be used to start the next or later rows. Apply glue in the groove and install.
6. If the cut off "waste" piece from the first row, last piece was 18" or longer, use it to start the second row. Stagger adjacent row joints at least 6".
7. Please a continuous bead of glue along the inside bottom edge of the end groove and side groove. Carefully align the tongue and grooves together and tighten with a tapping block until all joints are snug. Remove any excess glue. Cut and install the final board of the row.
8. Continue until the first few rows are complete. At this point, you want to be certain the floor installation is in perfect alignment to ensure the remainder of the installation goes smoothly. Any variance will worsen as the flooring proceeds further into the room. This is a good time to inspect the floor, before the glue has fully set. Adjust the floor as needed before proceeding.
9. Finish the final row, cutting boards to fit and maintain the 3/8" expansion gap.
10. If starting strip/sacrificial row was used, remove and replace with a row of materials, glued same as above.

STEP FOUR: FINISHING

1. Inspect floor for any gaps, chips and adhesive residue. Remove all residue, touch up chips and fill with appropriate filler if necessary. Use colored latex filler for factory finished floors.
2. Install or reinstall all moldings, nailing to wall, not the floor. Add shoe base if necessary.
3. Vacuum or sweep floor thoroughly and use only cleaners formulated for pre-finished hardwood. NEVER WET MOP OR SPRAY CLEANER DIRECTLY ON FLOOR.
4. Wait 24 hours before moving furniture (do not drag) and allowing heavy foot traffic.
5. If floor is to be covered for temporary protection, use a breathable material. NEVER cover with plastic.

STAPLE/NAIL INSTALLATION

GENERAL RULES

- DO NOT cut short boards to finish a row. After a board is cut, the remainder can be used to start the new rows. A short board that is cut will only produce waste.
- Make sure staple plate is clean and free of nicks.
- When the stapler/nailer are not being used, DO NOT place directly onto the hardwood floor.
- Check the air pressure of your stapler/nailer. Different subfloors and flooring require different air pressures. Staples or cleats can cause blistering, peaking, squeaking or crackling of the floor if the stapler/nailer is not adjusted properly and staples/cleats are positioned at the wrong angle. Perform a trial on a scrap piece. Set the stapler/nailer flush with the tongue side of the plank and install a staple/cleat. The crown of the staple/cleat should sit flush within the nail pocket. If the crown is set too deep, reduce the air pressure. If the staple/cleat is not set deep enough, increase the air pressure.
- SLCC Enterprise, Inc. Floors are not warranted against squeaking, popping or crackling when using staple-down or nail-down installation. Some squeaking, popping or crackling is normal and possible when using staple-down or nail-down methods of installation and may be perpetuated by arid or dry conditions. To prevent squeaking, popping or crackling, ensure the subfloor is structurally sound, does not have any loose joists or decking and is free of debris prior to installation.
- Only use manufacturer's recommended staples or cleats. We recommend staples and nails with a minimum gauge of 18 and minimum length of 1" for 3/8" thick products and minimum length of 1 1/4" for 1/2" thick products.

STEP ONE: STARTING THE LAYOUT

1. Installation parallel to the longest and straightest wall is recommended for best visual effects. Install floors perpendicular to flooring joists unless the subfloor has been reinforced to reduce any subfloor sagging.
2. Snap a chalk line 5 5/8" from the starting wall. This should account for 3/8" space for expansion gap and the tongue.
3. Install first board, aligning tongue side with starting line, groove side of the board facing the starting wall. IMPORTANT: YOU MUST START STRAIGHT AND SQUARE. Leave a 3/8" gap at the end and side wall.
4. Pre-drill 1/2" (13mm) from back (groove) edge parallel to the starting wall. Use 6d finish nails and a pneumatic finish nailer to secure the first board every 6-8" within the tongue side nail pocket at a 45° angle. Nail the edge, not the ends and maintain 3/8" expansion space. Nail heads will be hidden by quarter rounds

STEP TWO: INSTALLING THE FLOOR

1. Insert end of the next board into the adjoining tongue or groove and force the butt ends tightly together. Fasten as above until all boards in the first row are complete.
2. Cut the final board for the row, always ensuring there is a 3/8" expansion space at the wall.
3. Taking boards from several cartons (at least 3), layout or "rack" an area of the floor loosely laying materials side by side, avoiding close joints. Stagger joints a minimum 6" in adjacent rows. Avoid alignment of joints in alternating rows, which can create an undesirable H-shaped pattern.
4. Once satisfied with the layout, install the area using cut pieces from the end as starter boards for the next rows to reduce waste. Since wall makes it difficult to use a stapler, use finishing nails every 4" along the tongue side for the first few rows, countersinking nails.



5. Once enough rows have been installed, use a stapler or brad nailer for subsequent rows, blind nailing the tongue side. Avoid close alignment of joints in all rows throughout the installation, always striving for the maximum space available and minimum 6" between adjacent joints. Nail down boards every 4-5", but keep more than 2" away from the end of each board.
6. The last 1-4 rows will need to be face-nailed, similar to the first few rows when clearance does not permit blind nailing with the stapler.
7. Measure the final row. Trim or rip boards to fit along the length of the wall, allowing for 3/8" expansion.

STEP THREE: FINISHING

1. Inspect floor for any gaps, chips and adhesive residue. Remove all residue, touch up chips and fill with appropriate filler if necessary. Use colored latex filler for factory finished floors.
2. Install or reinstall all moldings, nailing to wall, not the floor. Add shoe base if necessary.
3. Vacuum or sweep floor thoroughly and use only cleaners formulated for pre-finished hardwood. **NEVER WET MOP OR SPRAY CLEANER DIRECTLY ON FLOOR.**
4. If floor is to be covered for temporary protection, use a breathable material. NEVER cover with plastic.
5. Save a few boards in case board replacement or repair is necessary.

