



Flooring Installation Guidelines

Please read carefully

STORAGE AND HANDLING

- * Do not install wood products until they have had adequate time to adjust to the relative humidity of the new environment (within 2- 1/2% Moisture Content).
- * Protect wood products from exposure to moisture and like conditions. Do not deliver wood products until after concrete, masonry, plaster, ceramic tile and similar wet work is completely cured and dried.
- * Store wood products in a dry, warm, well-ventilated, weather-tight location. Move wood products into spaces where they will be installed at least seven to ten days before installation.

PROJECT CONDITIONS

- * Conditioning: Maintain an ambient temperature between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit in spaces to receive wood products for at least seven days before installation, during installation, and for at least seven days after installation. **After post-installation period, maintain relative humidity and ambient temperature planned for building occupants.**

1. Do not install wood products until it has adjusted to the relative humidity and temperature of the space where it is to be installed.
2. Moisture contents between flooring/paneling and sub-flooring should vary no more than 2-1/2% of one another before installation.

OWNER/INSTALLER/AGENT RESPONSIBILITY

- * **Reclaimed wood & stone products are a product of nature; and therefore, not perfect.**
- * Prior to installation of any product, the owner/installer/agent must determine that the job-site environment and the sub-surfaces involved meet or exceed all applicable standards.
- * The manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure from or associated with sub-surface, sub-flooring or job-site environment deficiencies.
- * Use of stain, filler or putty stick for touch-up during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- * Use of appropriate products for correcting sub-floor voids should be accepted as normal industry practice.

INSTALLATION TIPS & IDEAS:

- * Wood flooring is one of the last jobs of any construction project.
- * Make sure to have an appropriate, sturdy, stable sub-floor previous to installing your new flooring at least 5/8 inch thick. * All texturing and primer coats should be completed previous to installing wood floors.
- * It is recommended that any flooring planks exceeding 3 inches in width be both glued and nailed to the sub-floor. * If you are secret nailing a wide wood plank floor (i.e. where the width of the board is greater than five times the thickness of the board) consider additional fixing by nailing through the face of the plank, plugging the hole with a plug made from timber. This will give a smooth finish if you do not wish to see the nails.
- * It is a wise precaution to treat all battens and existing timber joists against infestation and rot before laying your new floor. * Remember that all wood floors will move between seasonal extremes; expanding in the summer months and shrinking in the winter months when the heating is on. This is quite normal.
- * **Always leave an expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. This should be 1/2 inch for small rooms and 1/2 to 3/4 inch for**

larger rooms. In most cases the gap will be covered by the skirting board.

- * When flooring is installed it may be necessary to do a light sanding.
- * Always allow flooring to acclimate (7-10 days minimum) previous to installation. Installation in summer months requires the flooring stacks to acclimate prior to installation in an air-conditioned, humidity controlled space. Do not expose flooring stacks to high humidity for at least one week before installation. Remove any wrapping from flooring for acclimation
- * If laying floor onto concrete, lay down a vapor retarder such as 6 mil polyethylene film over the concrete to create a vapor barrier. * Although flooring may start tight initially after installation, as a natural product, it will continue to absorb and release moisture. * Seasonally, this natural process may cause some small cracks to develop between boards.
- * If your tongue and groove floor isn't seating itself properly, use a piece of scrap flooring to protect the actual floor when tapping them together.
- * Make sure the moisture content of framing members in a structure ranges between or is less than 12% to 14% (or within 2 1/2% relative humidity of the new product) before delivery.
- * It is recommended to place 15 lb. asphalt saturated felt paper or a building paper with an equivalent permanence over the sub-floor previous to installation (unless using a mastic acting as a partial vapor barrier in conjunction with other acceptable vapor barrier options). * Due to the varying patinas, wood grain patterns and other distinguishing characteristics that are prevalent in each individual flooring plank, make sure to lay out the flooring in a random pattern.
- * On adjacent rows, stagger end joints at least 12" from each other when laying a floor. Avoid "H" joints, where two end joints parallel each other, separated by one plank.
- * Try to keep as much original surface as possible. Test finishes, stains and wood fillers on hidden or unused pieces of wood making sure to allow full drying and a finishing coat to insure desired results.
- * Using finishes containing ultraviolet inhibitor will help to prevent color changes in wood. If you wish for your wood project to continue to amber with time, it is not recommended using ultraviolet inhibitor.
- * Radiant heat should never exceed 85 degrees at a wood floors surface. Narrower planks (under 4 inches in width) are also recommended when installing flooring over radiant heat.
- * When laying a random width floor you should lay all planks in a random order. DO NOT LAY RANDOM WIDTH FLOORING IN A PATTERN UNLESS YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR IT AHEAD OF TIME. YOU MAY END UP RUNNING SHORT ON A PARTICULAR WIDTH PLANK WITHOUT PROPER ADVANCED PLANNING.

MOISTURE:

- * Check the job site conditions before delivery and make sure the flooring will not be exposed to extended periods of high humidity or moisture.
- * The ground surface grade or slope should direct water away from the building.
- * Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated. In joist construction with no basement, outside cross ventilation through vents or other openings on the foundation walls must be provided with no dead air areas.
- * The building should be closed in with outside windows and doors in place. All concrete, masonry, sheet rock and framing members, etc. should be thoroughly dry before flooring is delivered to the job site.
- * In warm months the building needs to be well ventilated. During the winter months, heating should be maintained near the occupancy levels at least 5 to 7 days before the flooring is delivered and until sanding and finishing are complete.
- * Because materials used to provide energy efficient structures trap moisture in the residence or commercial space, it may be necessary to delay delivery and installation of flooring to allow the excess moisture to evaporate that was trapped during construction. The average moisture content of framing members and sub-flooring should be below 12%-14% (or within 2 1/2% relative humidity of the product) before delivery of the flooring. Moisture contents above 12%-14% can cause moisture related problems. * When job site conditions are appropriate, have the flooring delivered and broken up into small lots and stored in the rooms where it will be installed. Allow 7 to 10 days or more for the flooring to become acclimated to job site conditions.
- * If flooring is packaged, open or remove packaging for acclimation. Do not cover the flooring with any covering that may reduce air flow and inhibit acclimation. If covering the flooring is necessary, use cloth tarps, construction grade paper or cardboard. * From the time flooring is delivered and until occupancy, temperature and humidity should be maintained at or near occupancy levels. After occupancy, continue to control the environment. Extended times (more than 1 month) without HVAC controls can promote elevated moisture conditions which can adversely affect flooring.
- * Protect flooring from excessive heat. Flooring installed over heating plants or non-insulated heating ducts may develop cracks unless protected from the source of heat. Use a double layer of 15lb, or a single layer of 30lb asphalt felt/building paper, or 1/2" standard insulation board between joists under the flooring in these areas. Insulation used over heating plants should be non-flammable.

TESTING FOR MOISTURE CONTENT:

- * Use a quality moisture meter to measure the moisture content of both the sub-floor and the flooring. Sub-floors must not exceed 12% moisture content. The difference between sub-floor and flooring cannot exceed 2-1/2%
- * If sub-floors exceed 12% moisture, an effort needs to be made to locate and eliminate the source of moisture before further installation. A moisture barrier (StrateStuff Safeguard is recommended; 6 mil polyethylene film minimum) may be required in addition to the 15 lbs. asphalt felt. Asphalt felt is not considered a moisture barrier, rather a vapor retarder.