

# **READ THIS GUIDE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**

**Installation and maintenance guides may be revised periodically to apply to new products or reflect changes in industry standards.**

**Please visit our website at [www.lwflooring.com](http://www.lwflooring.com) to review our most up to date documents.**

## **INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY**

Open the boxes and check the products to ensure material meets the homeowner's expectations. If material is not acceptable, contact your dealer immediately and arrange for replacement.

Inspect ALL materials carefully BEFORE installation. LW Flooring warranties DO NOT cover materials that are installed with visible defects. A defect/irregular tolerance of up to 5% is allowed according to industry standards.

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine if the job site conditions are environmentally acceptable for wood floor installation. LW Flooring declines any responsibility for wood floor failure resulting from/connected to job site environmental/construction damage of due to subfloor deficiencies after hardwood flooring has been installed.

### **CAUTION: Wood Dust**

Wood dust becomes a potential health problem when wood particles from sanding and cutting become airborne. Breathing these particles may cause allergic respiratory symptoms, mucosal and non-allergic respiratory symptoms, and cancer. The extent of these hazards and the associated wood types has not been clearly established.

Power tools should be equipped with a dust collector. If high dust levels are unavoidable and appropriate NIOSH-approved dust mask should be used. Avoid contact with eye and skin.

First Aid- In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes.

### **CAUTION: Proper Maintenance**

Please ensure proper maintenance procedures and products are used. Some flooring lines require natural oil care and some require urethane-friendly cleaners. Use of inappropriate cleaners could damage finish and void manufacturer warranty. **WARNING:** Not all floor cleaning products marketed as wood floor cleaner are appropriate for your specific floor finish. Please refer to [www.lwflooring.com](http://www.lwflooring.com) for additional maintenance guides and further information.

## I. PROPER SITE CONDITIONS AND HANDLING

- The building must be complete and enclosed. Permanent HVAC systems **must** be working and in operation 7 days prior to installation. It is essential that all masonry, drywall, paint and all other “wet” work have been completed, given time to thoroughly dry as this will affect the moisture content on the job site. Overly dry or wet conditions must be corrected before installation. Room temperature and humidity of installation areas should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least **ONE WEEK** before installation of wood flooring. Room temperatures of 60°F to 80 °F and a humidity range of 35% to 60% should be maintained year-round. Supplemental humidification maybe needed in dry environments and regions to meet above normal living conditions. Power tools should be equipped with a dust collector. If high dust levels are unavoidable and appropriate NIOSH-approved dust mask should be used. Avoid contact with eye and skin.
- The exterior grading should be complete with all gutters, downspouts and drainage directed away from the building. Basement and crawlspace must have adequate cross ventilation. Crawlspaces must be a minimum of 18” from ground to underside of joists. Exposed earth should be fully covered by a minimum 6 mil black polyethylene vapor barrier with joints overlapped and sealed with a moisture resistant tape. Refer to the National Wood Flooring Association’s Installation Guidelines.
- Engineered wood flooring can be installed on, below and above grade level, but should not be installed in areas such as full bathrooms, pool areas, etc.
- Take special care when transporting and unloading hardwood flooring at the job site. Flooring should be stored in small lots in the rooms where installation will take place and in a job controlled environment allowing for proper acclimation.

## II. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- The subfloor surface must be clean, free of any wax, dirt, paint, oil, greases, curing compounds and other debris, dry, flat and structurally sound. Subfloor should be flat to within 3/16” in a 10- foot radius, sand or grind high spots and fill low spots with an approved floor patch compound. The surface temperature of the subfloor, at time of installation, should be at least 60°F but never exceed 80°F. LW FLOORING will not be responsible for replacement of any product failure due to improper subfloor preparation or subfloor conditions.
- **CONCRETE SUBFLOOR:** Test for excessive moisture. A reading of over 3lbs. /1000 sq. ft. by Calcium Chloride test requires the application of a vapor retarder. **ALWAYS FOLLOW LOCAL CODES AND MANUFACTURER’S INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCEPTABLE VAPOR RETARDERS.** Ensure concrete has a minimum of 3000 PSI Compression. For installation over a lightweight concrete (less than 3000 PSI) use a floating subfloor or flooring installation method. New concrete should be completely cured for at least 60 days. Installers should refer to the ASTM F2170 “Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes”.
- **WOOD SUBFLOOR:** When using floating application, cover wall to wall with an underlayment overlapped at seams (follow underlayment manufacturing instructions). It is recommended to tape overlapped edges with a cellophane tape. Re-secure any loose areas to prevent subfloor squeaking. The moisture content (MC) of a wood subfloor should not exceed 11%. In general, the moisture content of hardwood flooring is between 6% and 9% and the MC difference between the subfloor and flooring should not exceed 2% on a 3 ¼” or wider flooring.

- **INSTALLATION OVER RADIANT HEATED FLOOR:** Prior to installation over radiant heat systems it is important to refer to the NWFA Installation Guidelines Section IV. Appendix H. Failure to follow these guidelines can void your LW Flooring warranty and may produce unsatisfactory results.

### III. GENERAL INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Flooring that is at least ½” thick and 5” wide can be installed using the direct glue down, floating or nail/staple methods. It is not recommended for 3/8” or thinner flooring to be installed using a floating installation.
- Cleats are preferred for high density wood species. Minor occasional noise (such as squeaking) within the flooring is inherent to all staple and nail down applications and can occur as environmental conditions change. Mechanically fastened **products are not warranted against squeaking or popping sounds.**
- Flooring should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure the best blend of color and shade mix. Should a piece of flooring be debatable due to manufacturing, color, finishing, grade, or showing a visual defect, do not install it. Cut it for the wall line or place it in a closet.
- End joints should never be closer than 6 inches from each other.
- Tongue and groove should be engaged by tapping block or a soft-head mallet.
- Allow ½” expansion space around all vertical obstructions.
- **Always follow adhesive manufacturer’s recommendation for correct trowel notch, open time and spread rate.**
- Lift a plank periodically to ensure proper adhesive transfer. Clean adhesive off surface of wood with adhesive manufacturer approved cleaner and soft cloth before it gets dry.
- If recommended by the adhesive manufacturer, roll the floor with the proper roller.
- Use approved tongue and groove flooring adhesive for floating installation. Adhesive must be used on all side/end joints. Apply 1/8” continuous bead of glue on the bottom edge of the groove and the top of tongue. If you see glue come up between the planks you’re using too much glue. After 4-5 rows check the floor for square as you will still have time to adjust it before the glue sets. Ensure the floor is aligned properly and continue on as necessary using tape to hold the flooring temporarily in place. Remove excess glue as you go. **Float installed products are not warranted against squeaking or popping sounds.**
- Do not install floating floors in excess of 30 feet in either length or width of the room without the use of transition moldings.

### IV. COMPLETING THE JOB

- Glue Down Installation: roll with a 100 to 150 lb roller every 2 to 3 hours, and on completion, to ensure all planks are flat and in contact with the adhesive. Please refer to the adhesive manufacturers installation guidelines
- For all installation methods: remove the spacing wedges, and install the base moldings. Always nail moldings to the adjacent wall, not the flooring
- For glue down and float applications, restrict any foot traffic for 12 hours following installation.

- Inspect the completed floor for any scratches, nicks and minor gaps. Use touch up kit, filler or wood putty as needed. Hint: Test filler on spare piece of plank. Note: The use of fillers/putty and stain is recommended and acceptable industry practice. Full plank replacements are also acceptable forms of repair and do not affect the integrity of the floor when completed correctly.
- Clean, sweep and vacuum installed flooring before use.

## **V. GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

- ✓ Maintain room temperatures of 60°F to 80°F and a humidity range of 35% to 60% year round.
- ✓ NEVER use wax or oil based cleaning products on a urethane finish. All purpose cleaners are not recommended as they can dull your floor's finish or leave a hazy residue.
- ✓ LW Flooring recommends Bona cleaning products, which are widely regarded as the best cleaning solution for urethane finished flooring.
- ✓ LW Flooring recommends Woca brand products for maintenance of oil finished floors.
- ✓ Sweep, vacuum, or dust mop regularly.
- ✓ Use walk off mats at entrance doors and in high traffic areas.
- ✓ Install proper felt protectors under chair and furniture legs to prevent scratching.
- ✓ Close curtains or blinds to limit direct sun exposure and protect from possible fading.
- ✓ Wipe up spills immediately. Never let water stand on wood floor for any length of time.
- ✓ **Do not use steam cleaners or a wet mop to clean wood floors.**