

EnWood Floors

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS PRE FINISHED, SOLID, PLANK OR STRIP

PLEASE READ AND REVIEW THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

Hardwood flooring is a beautiful and unique product of nature, which is characterized by distinctive variations in grain and color. These natural variations in color and grain are not flaws, but are a part of the natural beauty and uniqueness of hardwood flooring. (These inherent variations should be expected and serve to enhance the natural beauty and enduring charm.) EnWood Floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type.

- The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of all flooring should be done **before** installation. Carefully examine the flooring for color, finish and quality before installing it. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects whatever the cause. If material is not acceptable, contact your EnWood Flooring dealer immediately.
- Before beginning the installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site and the condition and type of the subfloor involved is acceptable, insuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements which are stipulated in the EnWood Flooring installation instructions which follow.

GYMS declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloors or job site environment deficiencies.

- The use of stain, filler, or putty stick for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- When EnWood Flooring is ordered, a 5 - 10% waste factor, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (Diagonal, herringboned, or bordered installations will require a higher waste percentage .)

JOB SITE INSPECTION & ACCLIMATION

- In new construction, EnWood Flooring™ should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustical ceilings, dry wall taping, etc.) should be completed prior to wood flooring being installed. Heating and air systems should be fully operating maintaining a consistent room temperature at 16 – 27⁰ C.
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 30 to 60 days old. Check basements and under floor crawl space, to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture. Bare ground in crawl space areas, should be covered with black, 6-8 mil polyethylene plastic sheeting.
- Flooring should be at the job site at least 48 hours prior to installation. **Do not open until ready to install.**
- Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the dry installation area. Stack the carton's flat in stacks 3 or 4 high, away from heat vents, out of direct sun light, as close to the center of the structure as possible.
- The installation site should have consistent room temperature of approximately 16°- 27°C and a constant relative humidity level of 35 - 65 % for a minimum of 5 days prior to the hardwood delivery, and acclimation period

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required for any EnWood Flooring product. Engineered Hardwood requires a minimal 48 hours acclimation period at the job site, prior to installation.

- When installing SoWood over wood or wood based sub floors, there should be no more than a 4% difference in moisture content between the sub flooring and the Hardwood flooring to be installed.

IMPORTANT:

- EnWood Floor is approved for **on grade** or **above grade** and below grade installation only.
- EnWood Flooring **can** be installed over radiant heated sub floor systems.

Nail Down Installation:

REQUIRED TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Air compressor | * Measuring Tape |
| * Door frame saw / manual or power | * Jig saw |
| * Table Saw | * Pry Bar |
| * Broom / Vacuum | * Chalk Line and Chalk |
| * Hammer | * Safety Equipment (Goggles & Mask) |
| * Pocket Blades | * Nail Punch / wood chisels |

Important: Set air compressor to 70 - 80 PSI (or follow manufacturer's suggested PSI setting). Adjust the air pressure to insure proper setting of nails or staples. If tongue damage occurs, lower the air pressure.

Important: If you need to remove a side nailed staple, do not pull straight up from the tongue. This will damage the surface of the board. Instead, pull out the nail or staple from the tongue at the front of the board with all pressure from the hammer head directed into the subfloor.

Recommended Subfloor Surfaces

Concrete subfloors: Concrete slabs should be of high compressive strength and constructed to prevent groundwater from permeating the concrete. Engineered hardwood flooring can be installed on, above, or below-grade. In addition, it can be installed over above-ground, suspended concrete floors. The suspended concrete must be a minimum of 40mm thick and must be structurally sound. The exception to this is lightweight concrete (which usually contains high amounts of gypsum) having a density of 4500g or less per cubic foot. Test for lightweight concrete by using a nail to scratch the surface of the concrete. If the concrete crumbles or turns to powder, it is not sound and you should NOT install the EnWood flooring. Use the floating installation method (products 3" or wider) only for lightweight concrete subfloors.

Wood Subfloors: Preferred Subflooring minimum 9mm thick WBP Plywood subfloor/ underlayment, 4'x8' sheets or 10mm thick wood joists of at least 50mm width to be placed maximum 150mm apart.

Installation of EnWood Flooring should not be made over joists spacing greater than 19.2 on center or parallel to the joists unless the subfloor has been properly strengthened, applying a second layer of underlayment of plywood or similar may be necessary.

- Test the moisture content of the wood subfloor and wood flooring with a pin type moisture meter. Wood subfloors must not exceed 13% and the wood flooring should be within 4% of the wood subfloor.
- For existing wood floors install new flooring at right angles to the existing flooring.
- **Do not glue, staple, or nail down hardwood flooring over particle board**
- Installation over existing glue down hardwood floors is recommended only if it is checked and found to be in good condition.

Ceramic tile and terrazzo: All wax and sealers must be removed with an appropriate cleaner/stripper. Ceramic tile and terrazzo should be abraded to allow for proper adhesion. Check for loose tiles by tapping and re-adhere. Fill grout lines with a suitable self-leveling compound.

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Resilient tile, resilient sheet vinyl: Material must be full spread and secured to the subfloor. Do not install over perimeter glued floors. Do not install over more than one layer that exceeds 8mm in thickness.

Nail/ Staple Down Only - If old flooring is unsuitable to install new flooring then overlay with new underlayment. Test to conclude that the staples/ cleats are able to properly penetrate and secure the flooring to the subfloor.

Glue Down Only – Do not install over more than one layer that exceeds 8mm in thickness. Clean flooring with an appropriate cleaner and allow to thoroughly dry. If necessary degloss the floor using an abrasive pad to enhance the bonding of the adhesive, if wax or other coatings are present, completely remove the material with a quality stripper, rinse the floor and allow to dry. Always check for proper adhesion bond prior to installing.

CAUTION: DO NOT SAND any existing resilient tile, sheet vinyl flooring, or flooring felt as they may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Inhalation of asbestos dust can cause serious bodily harm.

Acoustic Cork Underlayment: (Glue Down Only) – Install the cork underlayment according to the manufacturer’s instructions. The cork underlayment must be fully adhered to the subfloor. The cork underlayment should be of pure granulated cork combined with a polyurethane binder.

Radiant Heated Subfloors

- **Prior to installation of flooring over radiant heat system it is important that the guidelines are followed in strict accordance. Failure to follow the guidelines may produce unsatisfactory results.**
- **Floating installation methods only, direct glue down is NOT RECOMMENDED.**
- **Sub floor must be flat to 3mm in 6 feet.**
- **Prior to installation moisture testing must be conducted for concrete or using a pin type meter for wood sub floors.**
- **Relative humidity of the jobsite must be maintained between 35-55% relative humidity. Use of humidification system may be required to maintain the proper humidity level. Failure to maintain proper humidity level can result in excessive dryness of flooring.**

It is highly recommended that the radiant heat system be designed specifically to accept a wood floor

- 1. Use of an in floor temperature sensor as well as a separate thermostat for the individual room is required.**
- 2. An outdoor temperature sensor should be used to adjust water temperature according to anticipated heat**

loss.

Pre installation/ Job Preparation

Inspect the Flooring – Inspect material for color, finish, milling, and grade. Hold out pieces that may not be acceptable once installed. **PLEASE NOTE: We do not accept responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been permanently installed.**

Undercut Door Casings - Undercut all door casings 2mm higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. To do this, use a scrap piece of flooring as a guide. Lay it on the substrate and cut the casing with a handsaw or use a power jamb saw set at the correct height.

Blending of Cartons- To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we highly recommend that you open and work from several cartons at a time and dry-lay the flooring, mixing the planks from several cartons. This will allow you to blend the planks for maximum aesthetic appearance. Make certain the room is well lit to ensure color is consistent and that any visual defects can be seen and removed.

Match Transition Moldings: For best appearance blend all transitions and moldings to planks that have similar color and graining. Set them aside for use as needed.

Layout of Flooring: “Racking the Floor” is essential to achieve a random appearance. Start by either using random-length planks found in the carton or by cutting four or five planks in random lengths, differing by at least six inches. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a six-inch minimum between end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance. Never waste materials; the end cuts from starter rows should be used at the opposite side of the room to complete rows or used to start the next row.

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Expansion space: Expansion space around the perimeter is recommended. For floating installation the minimum is 6mm regardless of the thickness of the material.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Additional tools & material needed:

Square-notch trowel

NOTE: When using wood adhesive that is not fast drying, you **MUST** install the hardwood flooring by using the "Off the Floor" technique. In other words, you **MUST** be working from the subfloor and **NOT** standing or walking on the newly installed flooring during installation. Failure to follow this procedure can result in the planks moving during installation, creating gaps at both end and side joints.

Before you begin using the following instructions, please refer to the Pre-Installation Job Prep information above.

Getting Started

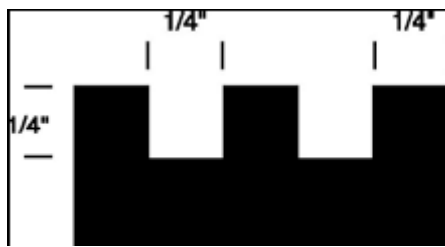
1. Select a starter wall. An outside wall is best: it's most likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from this wall, at each end, the width of two planks including the tongue plus the space needed for expansion.
2. Snap a chalk line from these points, parallel to that wall.
3. Prior to installing the flooring, secure a straight edge inside the chalk line to act as a guide and to prevent the row of planks from shifting during installation. The straightedge could be a straight piece of lumber or piece of flooring. Alternatively, the first row can be face-nailed with finishing nails into the wood subfloor or nailed into a concrete subfloor.

Spreading the Adhesive

4. Using the proper trowel, hold the trowel at a 45° angle to ensure proper spread rate of adhesive. Apply pressure to allow the trowel to leave ridges of adhesive on the substrate with little adhesive left between the ridges. This will help to achieve the proper spread rate of the adhesive.
5. Temperature and air flow across the adhesive can have an affect on the open time of the adhesive. Different adhesive will have different open time in areas of low humidity and will have a shorter open time in areas of high humidity. (Refer to manufacturer's adhesive label for further information).

Installing The Floor

6. Spread adhesive from the chalk line/straightedge out to approximately the width of two planks. Install the first row of starter planks along the chalk line/straightedge and secure into position with the tongue facing the starter wall.
NOTE: Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps to appear in proceeding rows of flooring. When you have the starter rows complete, you can begin the next row. Use adhesive Masking tape to hold the boards together tight and to prevent movement or gapping.
7. When you are certain the first two starter rows are straight and secure, spread adhesive 2 to 3 feet wide across the length of the room. As a general rule, never spread more adhesive than can be covered in 30 to 45 minutes. If the adhesive has skinned over remove dried adhesive and trowel new adhesive.
8. Continue to install planks and push them into place. Place the tongue of the board into the grooves of installed boards and press into the adhesive. Use 3M blue mask tape to hold planks together to reduce gaps and movement. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a six-inch minimum space between end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance.
9. **NOTE:** Never strike a rubber mallet or hammer directly on the flooring to engage the tongue-and-groove. This practice can damage the flooring and/or the finish.
10. Remove the adhesive from the surface of the installed flooring as you work – this will help to save time. A damp rag with water or mineral spirits will remove most adhesive marks.
11. **NOTE:** Frequently change cleaning towels to avoid leaving a haze on the flooring surface.



Square Edge Trowel

12. As you approach the end wall it may be necessary to cut the width of the last row – be sure to allow for the expansion space along the end wall. Once the final cuts are made set planks into place.
13. After the floor is completed, remove the straight edge and glue down the first two boards.
14. Restrict foot traffic for a minimum of 6-8 hours and wait 24 hours before permitting moving of furniture onto the floor.
15. Carefully remove the adhesive Masking tape 24 hours after installation is completed. Do not wait more than 24 hours to remove tape since it may damage the floor
16. Clean any remaining adhesive from the flooring with a lightly dampened clean cloth or sponge. If the adhesive has dried, use mineral spirits on a clean cloth.

Final Inspection: After the floor has been cleaned, inspect the floor for nicks, scratches, gaps or planks that may have moved during installation, as well as any other imperfections that need attention. Touch up nicks and scratches with touch-up products. In typical climates, the new floor can accept foot traffic within 24 hours. In areas where additional curing time is required, more time may be needed.

NAIL OR STAPLE DOWN INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Before you begin using the following instructions, please refer to the Pre-Installation Job Prep information above.

NOTE: Our products are not warranted against squeaking, popping or crackling when using staple-down or nail-down installation methods. Some squeaking, popping or crackling is normal and possible when using staple-down or nail-down installation methods. These symptoms may be aggravated in arid areas or during dry conditions.

SET UP AND USE OF PNEUMATIC STAPLERS AND NAILERS

1. Minor occasional noises within the flooring are inherent to all staple/ nail-down installations and can change as environmental changes occur. This is not a manufacturing defect and is therefore not covered under our warranties. You can help reduce squeaking, popping, and crackling by being sure that the subfloor is structurally sound, does not have any loose decking or joists, and is swept clean prior to installation. You should also be sure that your stapler or nailer is setting the fastener properly, not damaging the planks, and that you are using the correct nailing schedule.
2. When used improperly, staples or cleats can damage wood flooring. If the tool is not adjusted properly the staples/ cleats may not be positioned at the proper angle and cause blistering, peaking, squeaking, or crackling of the floor. Some models may require the use of an adapter to adjust for proper thickness. Test the tool on a piece of scrap material first - set the stapler/ nailer flush on the tongue side of the plank and install a staple/ cleat. Should the staple/ cleat penetrate too deeply reduce the air pressure; if the staple/ cleat is not deep enough then increase the air pressure using an in-line regulator. The crown of the staple/ cleat should sit flush within the nail pocket to prevent damage to the flooring and to reduce squeaking. The flooring manufacturer is not responsible for damage caused by the mechanical fasteners.

Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for complete set-up and operation of equipment.

Getting Started

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1. After the subfloor has been properly cleaned and prepped cover the subfloor with 15lb. asphalt felt paper. This material will help to keep the floor clean and help to retard moisture from below (there is no complete moisture barrier system for staple or nail-down applications).
2. Select a starter wall. An outside wall is best: it's most likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from this wall, at each end, the overall width of the plank (board width + tongue + the space needed for expansion).
3. Snap a chalk line from these points, parallel to that wall.
4. Install the first row of starter planks along the chalk line/straightedge and secure into position with the tongue facing away from the starter wall (toward you). Drill pilot holes through the face of the plank every 6" (in the dark grain); approximately 1" from the back edge of the board and secure planks with 1" finishing nails. Countersink nails and fill with appropriate colored wood filler – remove excess filler from surface.
5. Blind nail at a 45° angle through the tongue 100mm from the end joints and every 150mm in between along the length of the starter boards. Depending on the width of the flooring it may be necessary to do this for the first few rows prior to using a pneumatic stapler/ nailer.

NOTE: Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps to appear in proceeding rows of flooring.

Installing the Floor

6. Continue to install the flooring making sure to nail/staple 150mm from the ends and every 300mm thereafter. Make certain the tool is adjusted properly to ensure that the fastener is at the proper angle and is flush within the nail pocket. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a six-inch minimum space between end joints. **Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance.**
7. If needed, use a tapping block to help engage the boards together until the tongue-and-groove is flush and tight and no gaps are present between adjacent planks.

NOTE: Never use a rubber mallet or hammer directly on the flooring to engage the tongue-and-groove. This can damage the flooring and/or finish.

8. As you approach the end wall it may be necessary to cut the width of the last row – be sure to allow for the expansion along the end wall. Once the final cuts are made set planks into place.
9. The last few rows will need to be fastened by hand. To fasten the final planks into place, you must either manually blind nail and/or face-nail through the surface on the final planks. Drill pilot holes at a 45-degree angle to the floor and blind nail using 1" finishing nails. Alternatively, drill pilot holes in the face every 150mm (try to drill holes in darker portion of the wood) and install with 25mm finishing nails. Countersink nails and fill with appropriate colored wood filler – remove excess filler from surface with a clean rag and proper cleaner.

FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

(Products 15mm or more in thickness, 90mm width and above only)

Before you begin using the following instructions, please refer to the Pre-Installation Job Prep information above.

- 6 Mil Polyethylene not required over a vinyl, wood, or a wood product sub floor.
- 6 Mil Polyethylene required over concrete type subfloors – on grade or below grade.
- Do not install over carpet.
- If installing over vinyl, ensure that the vinyl is secure to the sub floor. Do not install over perimeter glued vinyl.
- If installing over an existing wood floor, install the flooring at right angles to the wood floor.
- Secure creaking and loose floorboards with screws or nails.
- Do not install over wood flooring glued to a concrete sub floor unless inspected to be fully secured without any loose pieces.
- 6mm minimum expansion space required at all vertical surfaces.

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Getting Started

1. Remove all doors and shoe moldings. Undercut all door casings 3mm higher than the thickness of the flooring and underlayment to be installed. Place a scrap piece of plank and a sheet of underlayment against the door casing to act as a guide and cut the door casing with a hand saw or power jamb saw set to the correct height.
2. After determining the direction to run the planks, measure the width of the room (the dimension perpendicular to the direction of the flooring). The last row of the flooring should be no less than 50mm wide; if it is less, cut the width of the starter row to avoid a narrow last row.
3. Select a starter wall. An outside wall is best: it's most likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from the wall, at each end, the overall width of the plank plus 6mm for expansion. If the first row requires ripping then measure from the wall the width of the ripped board plus 6mm for expansion.
4. Snap a chalk line using a (brightly colored chalk) from these points.
5. Install Underlayment: Unroll the 6 mil. Poly sheeting overlapping edges 100mm and seal seams with clear plastic tape. Allow the poly to run 10mm up the wall and trim back after installation of flooring. Install 6mm foam underlayment.

Note: Use of a floating floor 2 in 1 underlayment may be used. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application installing the 2 in 1 underlayment.

6. Prior to installing the flooring, secure a straight edge (starter board) inside the chalk line to act as a guide and to prevent the row of planks from shifting during installation. The straightedge could be a straight piece of lumber or piece of flooring. This is temporary and will be replaced as the floor is completed.

Installing the Floor

7. Insert spacers at walls to maintain the expansion space between the flooring and the wall.
8. Before starting to glue planks, dry lay the first two rows of flooring. Working from left to right, install planks so that the groove faces the straight edge (starter board). When reaching the end of the first row, cut the plank as necessary to fit. On the first 4 rows stagger end joints a minimum of 400mm and then 200mm thereafter.
9. Use the remainder of the plank from the first row to start the second row. If the piece is less than 150mm long, cut a new plank in half and use that piece to start the second row.
10. Lay the remainder of the planks in the second row. Make sure that the rows are straight and no gapping exists on the sides or ends. Once you have dry laid the first two rows, remove all the planks in order. You are ready to begin.
11. Begin gluing the boards; Run a continuous bead of adhesive along the groove of the short side (width) with Fast Drying Liquid Nails Adhesive (Available from Bostik or Maxbond) and glue the plank's side groove (length) at 180mm intervals (glue 180mm, skip 180mm, and glue 180mm). Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps to appear in proceeding rows of flooring.
12. Install first row of planks with groove facing the straight edge. Work from left to right. Complete the first row. Make sure there are no gaps between the boards. Use a tapping block if need to close the boards together. Immediately wipe away any excessive adhesive with a clean, slightly dampened cloth.

CAUTION: Adhesive that is allowed to dry on the finish surface can be difficult to remove and may leave a haze.

13. At the end wall use an end pry bar, if needed, to pull the ends of the planks tight.
14. Continue to install the floor working left to right, repeating the process until the completion of the floor. Continue to use the spacers on all vertical surfaces to maintain the 6mm expansion.
15. If needed after several rows of planks are installed, use Adhesive Masking Tape to hold the planks securely.

DO NOT USE laminate straps as they may damage the flooring

16. The last row will most likely require cutting to width but it should be no less than 50mm wide. To do this, lay the plank face up on top of the last full row installed. Trace the wall contour on the last plank using a scrap piece of plank and a pencil.
17. Install cut planks and pull into place with a pry bar. Install spacing wedges between planks and wall.
18. Remove the straight edge (starter row) and install the last row using the pry bar. Allow floor to dry for a minimum of 12 hours before removing all spacing wedges and allowing foot traffic.
19. Install trim and moldings the following day.

COMPLETING THE JOB – ALL INSTALLATIONS

- Clean the floor.

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- Install transition pieces -i.e. – thresholds, t-moldings, base boards and quarter round. Nail moldings to wall, not the floor.
- Inspect final floor for nicks and or minor gaps – fill with appropriate color wood putty.
- Use plywood or hardboard when moving heavy appliances or furniture across floor.

THRESHOLD MOLDINGS, TRIM & TRANSITION PIECES

Installation Tips:

- When installing Wall Base molding, eliminate the need to putty as many holes on the molding by placing the bottom nail below the finished line of the Quarter Round.
- On Wall Base or Quarter Round moldings, never restrict the hardwood floor's natural contraction/expansion movement by driving the fasteners at a downward angle. Rather, attach the moldings to the wall or vertical surface.
- Always miter cuts rather than having butt cuts when splicing hardwood moldings. Decide the direction of the miter by cutting the molding with the long point oriented in the same direction as your natural line of vision when you enter the room.

Wall Base - Borders the wood floor at the base of the wall to give the room a finished look. This molding along with the Quarter Round conceals the required expansion space between the wall and the hardwood flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks.

Quarter Round - This molding conceals the required expansion space between the Wall Base and the hardwood flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks where a wall base won't fit or at the base of the stairs to provide a subtle blend between the floor and the wall or vertical surface.

Threshold – A molding typically used at exterior doorways as a transition between flooring and the doorway threshold. It is also used to transition a wood floor to different floors to make them fit together perfectly, such as high pile carpeting or tile. Another typical use for a threshold is to conceal the expansion space between the flooring and a vertical surface such as fireplace hearths and sliding glass doors.

T Molding - Used in doorways to join two wood floors in adjoining rooms, or when making transitions, from a wood floor to another floor that is approximately the same height such as ceramic tile, hardwood or laminate floors.

Installation: A space of 30mm between the two adjoining floors is necessary to properly install the T- molding. This is to allow for the expansion space. Measure, cut, and dry fit the T-molding in place to insure the proper fit. When using the T-molding between a ceramic tile floor and the hardwood floor, apply bead of fast drying adhesive to the top edge of the ceramic tile. When using between two hardwood floors, seat the molding in place allowing for a minimum of a 6mm overlap on the wood flooring. Make sure to allow for the expansion space between the T-Molding and the tile or wood. Fasten the T-mold by nailing to the sub floor through the center part of the molding.

Flush Reducer - Used to join hardwood floors with floors in adjoining rooms that have floor coverings that are lower in height, such as vinyl, ceramic tile, or low pile carpeting.

Installation: To attached molding, pre-drill and nail in. Do not nail closer than 50mm from the ends of either side.

Flush Stair Nose - Provides the proper transition for stair treads, which match the hardwood flooring that has been installed. The Stair Nose also provides the proper transition from one floor level to the next, such as the step down into a sunken living room. **Installation:** All Stair Nose moldings must be installed using construction grade adhesive as well as finish nails or screws. Set the nail or screw heads, then use color matched wood filler to achieve a desirable finished look.

Hardwood Flooring Care & Maintenance

Routine Maintenance

1. Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
2. For tough spots, such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, or tar, use acetone/nail polish remover on a clean white cloth, then wipe the area with a damp cloth to remove any remaining residue.
3. Sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor regularly with the hard floor attachment (not the beater bar) to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
4. Periodically clean the floor with cleaning products made specifically for pre-finished hardwood floor care.

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5. Do not wash or wet mop the floor with soap, water, oil-soap detergent, or any other liquid cleaning material. This could cause swelling, warping, delamination, and joint-line separation, and void the warranty.
6. Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
7. Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine.
8. For spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, harden the spot with ice and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
9. For tough stains, you may need to use a heavy-duty stain remover made specifically for hardwood floors.
10. A more frequent dust-mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.

Environmental Protection

1. Entry mats will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that might otherwise be tracked onto your floor.
2. Do not use rubber or foam backed plastic mats as they may discolor the flooring finish. To prevent slippage, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
3. Use floor protectors and wide-load bearing leg bases/ rollers to minimize indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector.
4. Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 45 and 65% throughout the year to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of the wood.
 - a. Heating season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.
 - b. Non Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier, or periodically turning on your heating will help to maintain humidity levels during summer months.
5. Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.
6. Do not walk on your floor with stiletto heels, spiked golf shoes, or other types of sports cleats.
7. Do not allow sharp, pointed, or rough textured objects to be exposed to the hardwood flooring.
8. Keep your pet's nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.
9. Periodically rearranging your area rugs and furniture will allow the floor to age evenly. UV sunlight will soften the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees.
10. Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances; but first, put down a piece of quarter inch plywood to protect the floor. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.
11. A protective mat should be used for furniture or chairs with castors.

Repairing Your Hardwood Floor

1. Minor damage to your hardwood floor can be repaired by using a color fill. This special product should be matched to the color of your floor and, when properly used, will make the damaged area virtually invisible. In addition, the repaired area will hold up to traffic and wear.
2. A qualified hardwood flooring installer should repair extensive damage to traditional engineered or solid hardwood flooring.
3. Contact GYMS CMS for assistance.