



# WOOD INSTALLATION GUIDE



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# WHAT IS WOOD FLOORING?

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Wood comes in a variety of sizes, colors, shades and installation types. Depending on what type of subfloor you have usually depends on what type of wood floor you can install.

## TYPES OF WOOD

**SOLID WOOD:** Solid wood flooring is completely lumber which is available unfinished or pre-finished. Solid wood flooring can be used on grade and above grade, but not below grade. Solid woods should be a moisture controlled environment. They can be sanded and refinished over several generations of use. Solid wood floors are mostly for nail down installation. Solid wood floors can be sanded and refinished over several generations of use.

**ENGINEERED WOOD:** Made of several layers of different woods or different grades of same wood stacked and glued together under heat and pressure. Engineered wood flooring is less likely to be affected by changes in humidity and can be installed above, on, or below ground level. Some engineered wood floors with thicker top layers can be sanded up to three times and others cannot be sanded at all. Engineered wood can be installed as glued, stapled, nailed or floating floor.



# TYPES OF WOOD INSTALLATIONS:

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**NAILDOWN:** For  $\frac{3}{4}$ " solid wood floor. To be nailed down over plywood (at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick); OSB (at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick) and existing wood floor.

**GLUE DOWN WOOD:** Engineered wood to be glued down over concrete or wood.

**FLOATING WOOD FLOOR:** To be installed over almost all types of flooring as long as existing is in good condition and no evidence of height difference issues. Floating wood should not be installed on steps.

**F&I SITE-FINISHING:** Unfinished solid wood which is installed, stained and finished on site.

**REFINISHING:** Sanding down existing wood floors to bare wood, staining and finishing.



# FLOOR PREPARATION FOR HARDWOOD INSTALL

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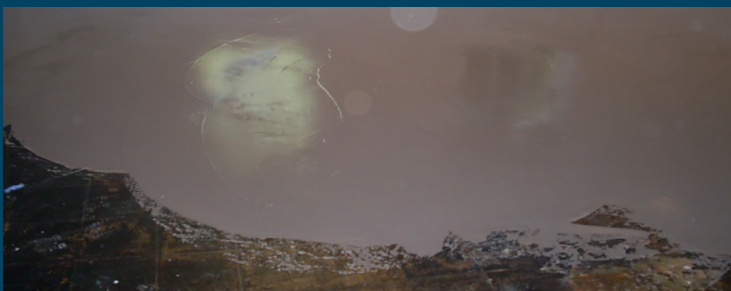
- All hardwood flooring should be stored in the area in which it will be installed for at least 72 hours in order to acclimate.
- A moisture reading should always be taken to determine the level of moisture prior to any hardwood installation.
- If rip up of existing floor is needed, be sure to clean area thoroughly prior to any installation.
- Examine all pieces of flooring prior to installation to confirm proper material and check for any damages.
- Check for adequate clearance at the bottom of the doors and door casings so the new floor will fit.
- Be sure to take pieces from several different boxes of flooring to maximize color and shade mixtures.
- Always leave a 3/8" expansion gap around the walls or any solid objects.
- Wood floors should be installed in the opposite direction to your floor joists. If over concrete, flooring should be installed parallel to the longest wall.



Plywood



Self Leveler



## UNDERLAYMENT

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All subfloors should be leveled to a certain degree otherwise the following may be needed to level the floor (must see manufacturers specs).

**PLYWOOD:** 1/4" (or thicker) is needed for installing over wood subfloor (be sure to patch all seams, nail holes and repair any imperfections prior to spreading adhesive).

**SELF LEVELER:** for installing over concrete that is unlevel or damaged.



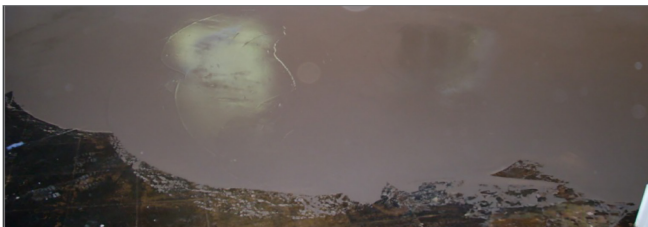
## INSTALLING PLYWOOD

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## APPLYING SELF LEVELER

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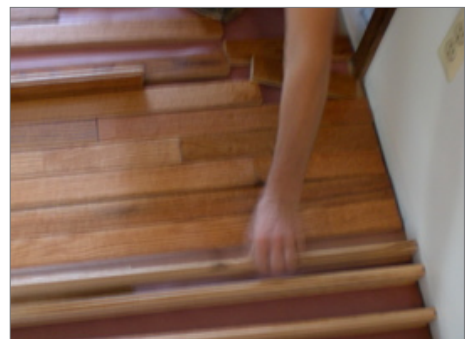
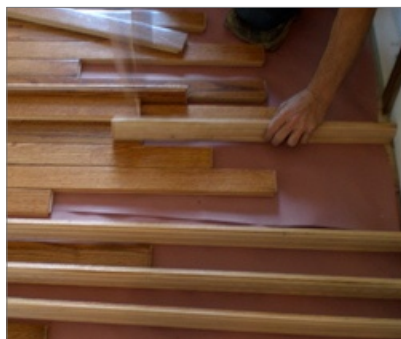
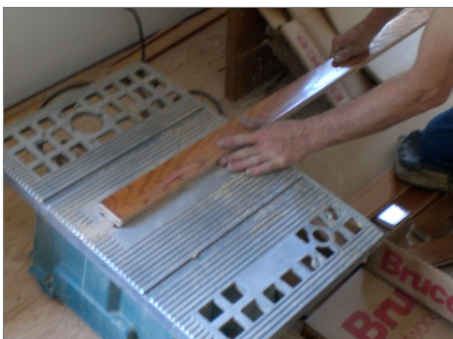
## EXAMINING THE MATERIAL

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## CUT TO FIT AND STAGGERING

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# NAILDOWN WOOD

The only proper subfloor for a naildown wood is plywood (at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick, OSB (at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick) and existing wood floor.

Plywood



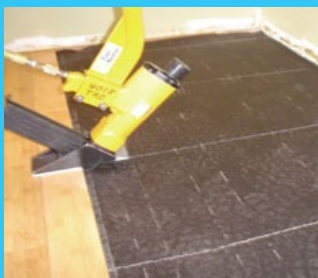
Existing Wood Floor



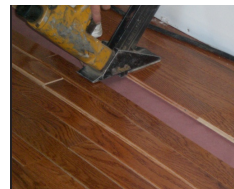
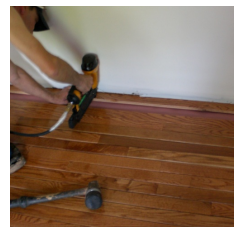
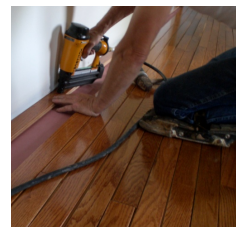
OSB



All naildown installations require an underlayment of rosin paper or felt paper which is used as a protective barrier against air and moisture passage from the area beneath the flooring as well as providing a movement and noise isolator.

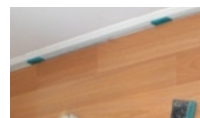


# NAILDOWN INSTALLATION



# NAILDOWN WOOD TOOLS

A few specialized tools are needed to install a nail down wood: a power nailer to secure floor; chalk line for installation guidance; 3M blue tape to secure planks together to avoid any movement or gaps; and spacers for maintaining expansion gap around walls and solid objects and a pull bar to tighten joints together around the edges.





# GLUE DOWN WOOD

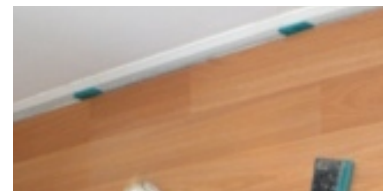
Glue down wood is installed over bare concrete or wood subfloor.

Engineered flooring can typically be installed with the tongue or the groove facing you and can be started in any position in the room.



## GLUE DOWN WOOD TOOLS

A few specialized tools are needed to install a nail down wood: a power nailer to secure floor; chalk line for installation guidance; 3M blue tape to secure planks together to avoid any movement or gaps; and spacers for maintaining expansion gap around walls and solid objects and a pull bar to tighten joints together around the edges.



# FLOATING WOOD

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Floating a wood floor means the wood planks are not fastened or glued to any part of the subfloor, instead the planks float freely over the top of the subfloor and connect solely to each other.

Floating wood can be installed over almost all types of flooring as long as existing is in good condition and there is no evidence of any height issues

All floating installations require some type of moisture barrier in order to guard the wood panels against moisture that could seep through from surfaces

## TYPES OF MOISTURE BARRIERS

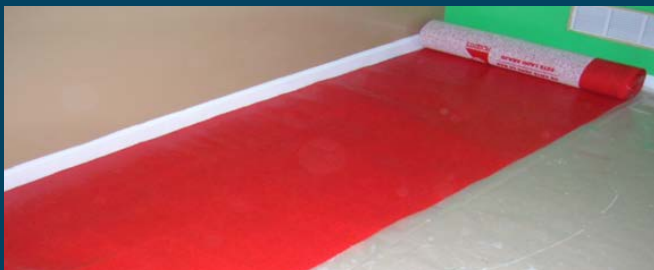
**6 MIL POLYETHYLENE FILM:** a plastic sheet used to resist passage of moisture from the subfloor to the laminate panels

**2-AND-1 FOAM UNDERLAYMENT:** a foam cushion and a vapor barrier

**3-AND-1 FOAM UNDERLAYMENT:** a foam cushion, vapor barrier and seam tape

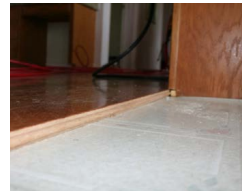
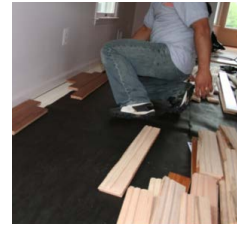
# MOISTURE BARRIER FOAM UNDERLAYMENTS

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# FLOATING INSTALLATION

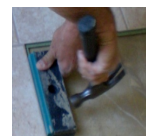
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# FLOATING WOOD TOOLS

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A few specialized tools are needed to install a floating wood floor: a hammer and tapping block to tighten joints as you install or a rubber mallet; spacers for maintaining expansion gap around walls and solid objects and a pull bar to tighten joints together around the edges.





# WOOD COMPLETIONS

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Before



After



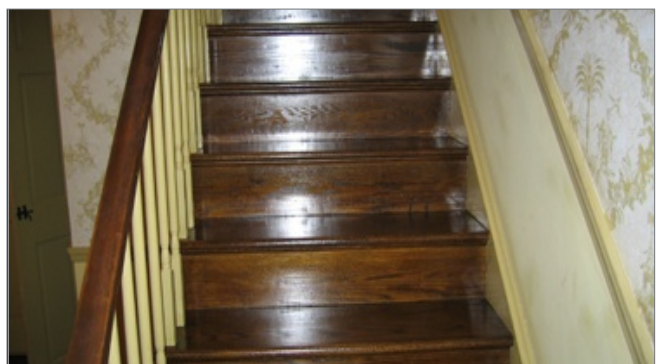
## SANDING

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## REFINISHING

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## F&I SITE-FINISHED WOOD

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A site finished wood installation is when a solid unfinished wood is installed, stained and finished on site.

The actual installation of the unfinished wood will follow that of the naildown or gluedown installation procedures.

Due to the excessive amount of dust caused by sanding, all precautions to protect all areas must be taken care of prior to sanding.

## REFINISHING WOOD

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Refinishing wood floors consists of completely sanding down the existing hardwood floor to the raw wood, removing layers of old existing finish, debris and scratches. Then, the floor is buffed and thoroughly vacuumed and then finished with two to three coats

Due to the excessive amount of dust caused by sanding, all precautions to protect all areas must be taken care of prior to sanding



## SANDING AND REFINISHING TOOLS

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All the basic tools apply for a glue down or nail down installation. A few specialized tools are needed in order to sand and finish a floor: a large belt sander in order to sand off the top layer of flooring; an edge sander to get to all the corners and perimeter of the room and of course, the stain and finish along with applicator.





# MOULDINGS FOR ALL WOOD FLOORS

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When installing all types of wood, an expansion gap must be left in order to allow the wood to expand and contract with the site condition.

A moulding is used to cover the expansion gap and give installation a finished look.

## MOULDINGS FOR WOOD

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Wood with matching wallbase



Wood with matching wallbase and quarterround



Wood with primed wallbase and quarterround



Unfinished quarterround



Stained to match quarterround

# HARDWOOD STAIRS

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Before



After



Before [Rounded Step]



After [Squared-off Step]



Different Types of Stairs

