

Uptown Plank

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS
3/4" x 9-7/16" PREFINISHED ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORING
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Nail Down and Glue Down Installation Methods

These installation instructions are intended as a general guide and are based on recognized industry standards published by the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA). Installation must comply with all current NWFA guidelines, NWFA certified installer and local building codes.

Improper installation may void the manufacturer's warranty.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Installer and owner are responsible for inspecting all flooring prior to installation. Do not install any material with visible defects. Installation of flooring constitutes acceptance of the product. Installer must be a current NWFA Certified Installer. Recommended interior living conditions before, during, and after installation:

JOBSITE CONDITIONS

- Maintain the building in a climate-controlled condition before, during, and after installation.

Required conditions:

- Interior temperature must be maintained between 60°F and 80°F.
- Relative humidity must be maintained between 40% and 60% target 50%.
- HVAC systems must be fully operational a minimum of 5 days prior to installation.
- Wet trades such as drywall, painting, concrete, masonry, and tile work must be completed and dry prior to flooring delivery.
- Landscape should be sloped away from home, so water drains away
- Crawl spaces must be dry and properly ventilated. Black 6mil poly should cover mud under the house secured properly.

Failure to maintain proper environmental conditions may result in excessive movement, gapping, cupping, crowning, or other performance issues.

JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Wood subfloors must be structurally sound, flat within 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6', and dry. Concrete subfloors must be fully cured, structurally sound, and free of contaminants. Concrete moisture testing is mandatory prior to installation. Maximum allowable readings: 3 lbs. Calcium Chloride or 75% RH.

ACCLIMATION

Flooring must be acclimated to the environment in which it will be installed. Unopened cartons should be placed inside the installation area for a minimum of 24 hours under normal living conditions. Do not deliver flooring to the jobsite until all wet trades are complete.

Acclimation time may vary depending on jobsite conditions and geographic location. Installer must verify moisture conditions before installation begins.

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Subfloor must be structurally sound, clean, dry, flat, and free of contaminants. Acceptable substrates include concrete, $\frac{3}{4}$ " APA approved plywood, and $\frac{3}{4}$ " TECO rated OSB subfloors approved for glue-down installations Flatness Requirements $\frac{3}{16}$ " within 10' or $\frac{1}{8}$ " within 6'. High spots must be ground down. Low areas must be filled using a cementitious patch or leveling compound.

IMPORTANT:

Any patching or leveling compound used **MUST** be compatible with the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations. Always follow adhesive / leveling manufacturer instructions regarding primers, patches, moisture barriers, and leveling materials.

MOISTURE TESTING

Concrete and wood subfloors must be moisture tested prior to installation.

Concrete Subfloors:

Perform one or more of the following tests:

- Calcium Chloride Test ASTM F1869
- Relative Humidity (RH) Probe Test ASTM F2170

Follow adhesive manufacturer moisture limits and requirements.

Wood Subfloors:

Wood subfloor moisture content should not exceed: 11% moisture content on inside subfloor and 15% on crawl space side. Maximum 4% difference between subfloor and flooring material. If moisture tests exceed acceptable limits, installation **MUST NOT** proceed. Remedial action must be taken to correct moisture-related issues before installation begins.

Examples may include:

- Additional drying time
- Moisture mitigation systems for concrete subfloor
- Moisture barrier adhesive systems
- Correction of drainage or water intrusion problems raised wood frame houses

Retailer and/or Installer assumes all responsibility for installation over unacceptable moisture conditions.

GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Blend boards from multiple cartons during installation. End joints should be staggered a minimum of 6 inches. Maintain expansion space around all vertical obstructions. Utilize appropriate transitions in doorways and adjacent surfaces. This floor is not designed for floating applications. Prior to laying the floor, match the boards to be used for reducers, T-molds, and stair nosing. Flooring is a natural product that exhibits color variations. It is advisable to select boards that are as close to the desired color as possible. **DO NOT FASTEN MOLDINGS TO THE FLOORING** but rather attach to the wall or baseboard. Ensure that there is adequate space between the bottom of the molding and the flooring to allow it to freely expand and contract.

The first step is to find a starting line from the wall the width of 2 or 3 boards plus expansion space. Nail or fasten a holding board, i.e. 1" x 2' (1-inch x 2 feet) or 1" x 4' (1-inch by 4-feet) length of straight wood along the line, this will help keep the first rows straight and firmly in place. Apply the adhesive to the subfloor and place the first plank down up against the holding board with the groove side facing the wall. Continue laying the first row using the tongue and groove method. Tighten all joints using a wooden or plastic tapping block and soft mallet. Gently knock the boards in from the tongue side. Never use a hammer directly on the plank as this can cause damage to the finish. Use a pull-bar to pull the last row into place and tighten joints. Remember to clean surplus adhesive as you work. Continue laying the second row, staggering end joints of boards from row-to-row a minimum of 8"-10" apart. If necessary, use installers tape designed for use on hardwood floors to maintain a tight floor. Repeat row-by-row using the same method until the entire section is complete. Remove the holding boards and complete the area from the starting boards to the wall. **COMPLETING THE JOB:** Roll every 2 to 3 hours and on completion with a 100lb. to 150lb. roller to ensure all planks are flat and in contact with the adhesive. Remove hardwood installers tape within 3 hours. Remove any spacer wedges. Cover all expansion spaces along walls with coordinated or painted moldings. Always nail moldings to the adjacent wall, not the flooring! Clean, sweep, and vacuum installed flooring before use.

NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION

Use a 15.5 gauge or 16-gauge pneumatic flooring stapler or cleat nailer. Fasten every 4" – 6" and 1" – 2" from board ends. Follow NWFA guidelines for glue assist and adhesive manufacturer's trowel recommendations. Undercut door casings and jambs for proper expansion. Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, accounting for expansion space. Distribute lengths randomly and pull from multiple bundles. Avoid "H" patterns when possible. Avoid any discernible pattern in adjacent runs such as blatant stair-steps or equal end-joint offsets in sequential rows. Cutting a variety of starter boards from full length boards will assist on "randomizing" joints in products of equal or limited lengths.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

A premium moisture barrier wood flooring adhesive is required when installing over concrete slabs. Follow adhesive manufacturer trowel requirements and installation procedures. Frequently lift boards to verify proper adhesive transfer. Undercut door casings and jambs for proper expansion. Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, accounting for expansion space. Distribute lengths randomly and pull from multiple bundles. Avoid "H" patterns when possible. Avoid any discernible pattern in adjacent runs such as blatant stair-steps or equal end-joint offsets in sequential rows. Cutting a variety of starter boards from full length boards will assist on "randomizing" joints in products of equal or limited lengths.

POST INSTALLATION

Today's hardwood floors are quick and easy to maintain; and with a little preventative maintenance, can look beautiful for years to come. All hardwood floors should be cleaned regularly. Simply sweep, dust mop, or vacuum to remove grit and dirt. When necessary, clean floor with Bona® hardwood floor cleaning product (carefully follow Bona cleaning instructions). Do not use steam mop or wet mop as over time this can damage the finish. Remember: Water and wood do not mix.

DO's

- Sweep, vacuum, or dust mop regularly.
- Trim pets claws regularly
- Immediately wipe up liquid spills with cloth or paper towels.
- Maintain with Bona® hardwood floor cleaner for un-waxed/un-oiled finishes.
- Use felt protectors or furniture coasters under heavy furniture.
- Close curtains or blinds to limit direct sun exposure.
- Maintain room temperature (60-80°F).
- Maintain relative humidity in room/building between 40-60% year-Round with target of 50%.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters a protective mat should be placed under office chairs.
- In areas with icy or snowy winters, extra protection against salt and grit may be needed.
- Place mats and throw rugs at doorways, exteriors and interiors to help prevent the tracking of grit, dirt, and sand.
- Remember that cleats, sports shoes and high heels can dent any floor surface.
- Place an area rug in front of the kitchen sink to catch water.

DONT's:

- Use oil base soaps.
- Use paste wax-based products (NEVER wax a urethane finished floor).
- Drag sharp wooden legs or metal furniture legs as it can scratch/ dent hardwood floors.
- Expose to direct sunlight for extended periods of time as it may dry/ fade natural wood. It can also crack the board.

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- Use steam cleaners. They are not recommended for use on natural flooring.
- Place porous flowerpots or vases on the floor.
- Use steel wool or scourers.
- Move heavy furniture without protecting wood flooring by slipping a piece of cloth or pile under the legs or bottom of items.
- Wet mop a wood floor. Standing water can dull the finish, damage the wood and leave a discoloring residue.

COLOR CHANGE:

Normal exposure to sunlight, heat, air conditioners, etc. will bring about natural changes in the original color as the floor ages. If possible, use blinds or drapes to protect floor from excessive sunlight. When some areas of the floor are covered, as in large furniture pieces and area rugs, the change under these pieces can be lighter than the surrounding floor, as they are not exposed to the same conditions. This is normal and is not a defect. Rotating the position of area rugs and furniture from time to time will allow the covered areas to slowly adjust in color to the surrounding floor.

SURFACE CHECKS: During the winter months of low humidity, minor surface cracks (checks) may appear in wood flooring, then often close again in the summer months when the humidity is higher. This is a normal characteristic of natural wood and not a basis of a complaint against the manufacturer, especially if there is no structural failure. To minimize checking, follow the guidelines for maintaining the environment in the home.

SEASONAL GAPS: Seasonal gapping can be expected, especially on wider planks. This is normal and not a defect. Throughout its life wood will naturally expand and contract in response to the wet and dry seasons and from the environmental conditions in the home. To keep these dimensional changes to a minimum, maintain the home temperature and relative humidity within the range outlined in earlier section.

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WARRANTY DISCLAIMER

Wood is a natural product and will expand and contract with seasonal environmental changes. Installer and owner are responsible for ensuring all NWFA guidelines, adhesive manufacturer instructions, and local building codes are followed.