



installation guides

glue down • floating • nail / staple down



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Urbanfloor wood flooring is covered by a 25-year Limited Residential Warranty. However, warranty coverage may be lost due to failure to strictly follow all installation instructions and recommendations or the use of improper materials or tools. PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

preparation and general procedures

Urbanfloor engineered floors can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings, except for carpet. Any existing wood flooring that is glued to the concrete must be removed before installation.

It is very important to acclimate the wood to the room temperature before installation. Open boxes at both ends to allow air to circulate through planks. If planks are covered with a plastic wrap, cut plastic at both ends to allow proper air circulation. Allow planks to lay flat in cartons for 48 to 72 hours prior to installation (or longer in extreme climates).

Air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operating 14 days before installation, keeping room temperature maintained within a range of 60° to 80° F year round.

Relative humidity in the room/building should be maintained between 30% to 50% year round. The proper use of a humidifier or de-humidifier is recommended.

Urbanfloor wood planks can be installed using any method over wood, concrete and other approved subfloors. Above grade, on grade or below grade.

Depending on the species, the visual differences from board to board might be pronounced. It is recommended working from several cartons alternatively. Select the most appealing blend of colors and grain for best overall appearance. It is also recommended that the direction of the flooring is parallel to the longest wall in the room or hallway.

Always allow a minimum of $\frac{3}{8}$ " expansion space between walls and flooring edge. Use temporary spacing wedges for this purpose (remove upon completion).

pre-installation inspection

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to inspect each board for visible defects before installation. Any boards with visible defects will be replaced at no cost. If the defective board has been installed, no cost of labor will be paid for repair or replacement. Please refer to *installer/owner responsibility on page 7* on this booklet.

Urbanfloor maintains the highest manufacturing standards, however hardwood flooring is a natural product, and may have occasional natural characteristics that have irregularities within the wood and/or manufacturing defects.

Based on accepted standards within the industry, a defect/irregular tolerance up to 5% is allowed. When ordering floor, a MINIMUM of 5% should be added to the actual square footage needed, to allow for cutting and grading.

sub-floor preparations

CONCRETE SUB-FLOOR:

Sub-floor must be structurally sound, dry, and clean. Be sure any new concrete is completely cured for at least 50-60 days (about 8 weeks). Ensure the concrete has minimum of 3000 psi compression. Over a lightweight concrete (less than 3000 psi) please use a floating installation method (*page 5*).

Sub-floor should be flat to $\frac{3}{16}$ " per 10' radius. If necessary, hills should be sanded down and valleys should be filled with a recommended underlayment patch.

Do not sand sub-surface such as vinyl or synthetic tiles as they may contain asbestos.

Before installing over concrete or concrete covered with existing ceramics, marble, stone, vinyl tile, or linoleum, test floor for excessive moisture. Use of a moisture meter is recommended.

A reading of over 3 lbs./1000 sq.ft./24 hours by Calcium Chloride test requires the application of a vapor retarder. Another method to test for excessive moisture is to cut 3" x 3" squares of polyurethane plastic and spread those around different areas of the floor for a more accurate evaluation. Tape all edges down, firmly sealing them directly to the floor. Leave down for 24 to 48 hours. If moisture forms under the plastic or if the cement darkens, seal with a concrete sealer. Urbanfloor recommends Moisture Stop concrete moisture sealer.

WOOD SUB-FLOOR:

In most areas, a dry wood sub-floor that is ready to work on has a moisture content (MC) of 12% or less. To prepare sub-floor for installation, re-nail any loose areas to prevent squeaking. Sand or plane high spots, and fill low areas. The sub-floor should be flat and should not vary more than $\frac{3}{16}$ " in a 10' radius. Check the variance by using the edge of an Urbanfloor plank to find high or low spots.

OVER RADIANT HEATED FLOOR:

System must be fully operating at normal temperature for a minimum of 21 days prior to floor installation to dry out residual moisture.

The heating system must then be turned off 24 hours prior to installation and must remain off for 24 hours after installation so that adhesive does not cure excessively fast.

24 hours after installation is completed, systems temperature can be gradually raised again (over 7 days period) up to the desired level. The MAXIMUM allowable sub-surface temperature over radiant heated floor is 85°F.

If the radiant heat system has a concrete subfloor, a 6 mil or better vapor retarder should be installed (this may be part of the flooring underlayment. e.g. a 2 in 1). A foam or resilient underlayment must be installed prior to installation of wood floor.

installation guide: glue down

Urbanfloor recommends Simple Spread urethane adhesive and, if required, Moisture Stop concrete sealer for the installation of our products. Carefully read and follow the instructions provided by the adhesive manufacturers for the use and application of their product.

Check with your flooring retailer for other adhesives and sealers that are compatible with engineered floors.

Be sure to clean any surplus adhesive off surface of plank as you go. Do not let it dry. Use a Urethane adhesive remover for this purpose.

The first step is to find a starting line. Snap a line from the wall the width of 2 or 3 boards plus a $\frac{3}{8}$ " expansion space. Nail a holding board, i.e. 1" x 2" or 1" x 4" length of straight wood along the line, this will help keep the first rows straight and firmly in place.

Apply the adhesive and place the first plank down up against the holding board with the groove side facing the wall. Continue laying the planks using the tongue and groove method. Gently tap the planks together using a rubber mallet and press down into the adhesive. Be sure to leave expansion gap at beginning and end of row.

Continue laying the second row, staggering end joints of boards from row to row a minimum of 8" and 10" apart. If necessary use blue installers tape to maintain a tight floor.

Repeat row-by-row using the same method until the entire section is complete. Remove the starting board and complete the area from the starting board to the wall.

COMPLETING THE JOB

Roll every 2 to 3 hours and on completion with a 100-lb. to 150-lb. roller to ensure all planks are flat and in contact with the adhesive. Please remove blue installers tape within 3 hours. Remove any spacer wedges. Cover all expansion spaces along walls with Urbanfloor matching moldings. Always nail moldings to the adjacent wall, not the flooring! Clean, sweep and vacuum installed flooring before use.

installation guide: floating

When choosing the floating method for engineered wood, the subfloor must be flat to within $\frac{3}{16}$ " per 10' radius. Urbanfloor will not honor warranty claims for products damaged due to plank movement or flexing due to an uneven floor. (See *Subfloor Preparations pages 2-3*).

Once subfloor preparation is complete, install moisture barrier over concrete subfloor (this may be part of the cushioning underlayment, e.g. 2-in-1 product). Lap up the wall 4". The plastic can be trimmed at the walls after molding is installed. Use adhesive tape to tape the seams. Overlap the seams 8".

Cover entire subfloor with a foam or resilient underlayment (follow underlayment manufacturer's instructions for installation).

Install cushioning underlayment running the same lengthwise direction you plan to install the flooring. Butt the edges being sure not to overlap the edges. Tape the seams with adhesive tape (Follow Underlayment Manufacturers Instructions).

Decide which direction the flooring will run. (*refer to diagram on page 8*) Starting from left to right across the floor, begin by snapping a chalk line the width of the plank (e.g. 5") plus the expansion space, off the starting wall. Lay the first plank with groove facing the wall and align it with the chalk line. Use spacing wedges to maintain the expansion space at ends of plank edge.

Take second plank and apply a tongue and groove wood adhesive (follow adhesive manufacturer's instructions) to the groove on boards end, and join to first plank. Continue same steps until first row is completed. When reaching the end of first row cut the last board to fit, maintaining expansion space between wall and end of plank. Make sure all end joints are tight and square. Remember to clean adhesive as you work.

Start the second row by using left over planks from the first row or use a fresh board —cut if necessary— to ensure a staggered end joint of approximately 6" to 10" between end joints of adjacent planks.

Apply tongue and groove adhesives to end and side grooves; join to first row, repeat until second row is complete. The floor can be installed in successive rows or with a stair step approach. The stairstep approach ensures a tighter fit for the first few rows and limit board separation during the initial set up.

Always use a random pattern to begin installation. Tighten all joints by the use of a wooden tapping block to gently knock the boards in from the tongue side. Do not use excessive force and never use hammer directly on the plank. Use special pull bar to tighten joints from the sides. Use clamps or blue installers tape to hold joints together (Please remove blue tape within 3 hours and remove any tape adhesive residue). Undercut doorjamb and slide plank under the cut for a cleaner look.

Repeat all steps and install the rest of floor. The last row may need cutting lengthwise to fit (remember to allow expansion space). Use a pull bar to pull last row in place and tighten joints. Use spacing wedges to maintain the space.

COMPLETING THE JOB

Allow finished floor to be free of traffic for a minimum of 8 hours and before spacing wedges are removed. Be sure all expansion spaces are covered with appropriate moldings. Always nail moldings to the adjacent wall, not the flooring! Never attach any molding to a floating floor. Clean, sweep and vacuum installed flooring before use.

installation guide: staple/nail down

Carefully remove all baseboard trim around the perimeter of room. Save for replacement after floor is installed (If necessary add a vapor retarder/barrier). Snap a working line along the longest continuous wall allowing $\frac{3}{8}$ " expansion space. Direction of the planks should be at right angles to the joists for highest strength of floor.

Lay one row of plank along the entire length of line with groove facing the wall. If necessary, use spacing wedges to maintain expansion space. To blend the visual differences from board to board, it is recommended working from several cartons alternatively.

Top nail the first row, placing nails perpendicular to the surface as close as possible to the wall so that after completion the head of nail will be hidden by the base molding. Blind nail the other side of the plank through the tongue (use 1 1/2" length nails with a 3/4" ply sub-floor) with the nail slightly inclined and the head driven flush. Nails should be spaced 4" to 5" apart and within 1" to 2" from end joints. Hand nail the first row if necessary, then a nailing machine can be used.

Start second row in the same manner. If necessary, cut the first board to stagger end joints of boards a minimum of 8" to 10" from row to row. From second row onward nailing is done on the tongue side only. During installation push or gently tap boards flush to the previous row, tapping against the tongue side only.

The last row usually requires cutting the plank lengthwise to fit the space (remember to maintain the expansion gap). Nail the last row in same manner as first.

COMPLETING THE JOB

Once the nailing is complete, remove any spacing wedges and install the base molding. Always nail moldings to the adjacent wall, not the flooring! Clean, sweep and vacuum installed flooring before use.

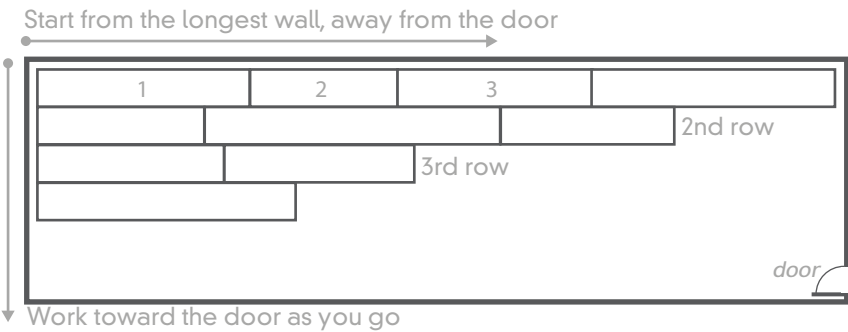
installer /owner responsibility

The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of all flooring should be done BEFORE installation. Carefully examine flooring for color, factory finish, manufacturing, and quality before installing it. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with defects. If material is not acceptable, do not install it. Contact the seller immediately.

Prior to installation, the installer must determine that the job-site environment and the subfloors involved meet or exceed all applicable standards and recommendations of the construction and materials industries. These instructions recommend that the subfloor be dry, firm and flat. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with sub-surface or job-site environmental deficiencies.

notes

diagram





moisture stop

Concrete moisture block and crack suppressant

- One-part concrete sealer system
- Crack suppressant
- Reduces moisture vapor transmission
- Easy to spread and apply
- Low VOC Content

4 U.S. Gallons (15.2 liters) container



simple spread

Premium urethane wood flooring adhesive

- Easy to spread
- Easy clean when wet
- VOC compliant
- Low odor
- Permanent bond
- Remain elastomeric

4 U.S. Gallons (15.2 liters) container



champion

Green all-in-one adhesive and concrete moisture sealer

- Crack suppressant
- Easy to apply and clean when wet
- Low odor
- Permanent bond
- Helps reduce noise transmission
- Reduces moisture vapor transmission

4 U.S. Gallons (15.2 liters) container

Please ask your flooring retailer for adhesives, sealers, and other products that are compatible with engineered floors.

Questions or concerns?



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Compiled by Urbanfloor Technical Department
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