



L'ARTISTE

COLLECTION

8 5/8" Width x 86 5/8" Length x 3/4" Thick
Engineered European Hardwood

L'ARTISTE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

GLUE DOWN / NAIL OR STAPLE / FLOAT

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES BEFORE
PROCEEDING WITH INSTALLATION**

A. INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY - IMPORTANT

Inspect all flooring material carefully for correct product and visible defects **BEFORE INSTALLATION**. Warranties do not cover visible defects once they are installed. (Based on industry standards a defect/irregular tolerance of up to 5% is allowed).

As all wood is unique, with no two pieces alike, review and compare the new flooring with the "sample board" from which the floor was selected to ensure it meets the homeowners expectations prior to the installation. If flooring is not acceptable, **DO NOT INSTALL** and contact your distributor immediately and arrange for replacement.

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to ensure subfloor and jobsite conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for wood floor installation. Problems or failures related to deficiencies in subfloor or job site damage after installation are not covered by our warranty.

- Receive the floor and make sure it meets owner's expectations.
- Grade out and separate any pieces with visible defects/irregularities.
- Test the subfloor and jobsite itself, including ambient temperature/relative humidity and all other variables that may adversely affect a wood floor.
- Record the flooring moisture content upon delivery and at time of installation - **RETAIN THESE RECORDS**
- Acclimate flooring to appropriate site conditions. *Follow NWFA Installation Guidelines for Acclimation on Jobsite (Section I, Chapter 2)*
- Record and retain a permanent job record.

It is **important** to record and retain jobsite and acclimation records as they may be required in any future claim issues.

IMPORTANT: Urbanfloor's L'artiste Collection is designed to perform within a typical residential environment. Wood installed in areas where relative humidity is below 30% may cup and shrink. (A humidifier may be necessary to keep the relative humidity within recommended levels of 30% to 50% year round.) Flooring installed on wet subfloors may crown and buckle.

**CORRECT ANY OVERLY DRY OR WET CONDITIONS BEFORE
INSTALLATION**

B. PRE INSTALLATION/JOB SITE REQUIREMENTS

ACCLIMATION IS CRITICAL

Allow floors to acclimate to the appropriate jobsite conditions. Proper acclimation is particularly important in extremely dry climates (e.g. Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Colorado). See *NWFA Installation Guidelines, Section I, Chapter 2* for more acclimation details.

Upon delivery, check wood flooring moisture content (MC) with a moisture meter to establish a baseline for required acclimation. Record MC at time of delivery AND at time of installation. **RETAIN THESE RECORDS.**

Out of the box acclimation is the most effective and recommended by Urbanfloor. If out-of-box acclimation is not possible, open boxes at both ends to allow air to circulate through planks. If planks are covered with plastic wrap, cut plastic at both ends to allow for proper air circulation. Allow planks to lay flat for a minimum of 3-5 days, or as long as necessary for the planks to meet the job site moisture conditions. Use a moisture meter to monitor the flooring and job-site conditions as they acclimate.

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 30% to 50% should be maintained year-round.

The moisture content (MC) of hardwood should generally be between 6% to 9%. If plywood is used for subfloor, the MC should be no more than 2% between L'artiste wood flooring and plywood subfloor.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

Hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed on any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before installation of flooring.

Do not deliver wood flooring to the job site until the building is entirely closed and until appropriate temperature and humidity conditions have been achieved. Appropriate temperature and humidity conditions are defined as those conditions to be experienced in the building after occupancy.

HVAC should be in operation before, and during installation (refer to *NWFA Installation Guidelines Section I, Chapter 1, Part 1* for further information).

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 60-80°F and a humidity range of 30%-50% is recommended year-round.

KEEP FLOORING DRY: Protect flooring from moisture during storage and transportation. Store material in a flat, dry and totally enclosed area. Garages, exterior patios, for example are not acceptable areas to store wood flooring.

The moisture content (MC) of hardwood should generally be between 6% to 9%. For wide width flooring (3 1/4" or wider), there should be no more than 2% difference in moisture content between properly acclimated wood flooring and wood subfloor.

C. SUBFLOOR TYPES AND CONDITIONS

Types: (Refer to *NWFA Installation Guidelines, Section II for Subfloor Information*)

- CD: Exposure 1 plywood, minimum 3/4" thick.
- Solid board: 1" x 6" wide, square edge, kiln dried.
- OSB: Exposure 1 (minimum 3/4" thick).
- Concrete: (refer to *NWFA Installation Guidelines, Section II, Chapter 5 & 6*).

Particleboard is NOT an approved subfloor for nail down or glue down applications. The subfloor must be clean, dry, and flat to within 3/16" per 10' radius. If necessary, sand or plane high spots, and fill low areas using a

cement based patching/leveling compound. Secure any loose boards or panels to prevent squeaking. The surface temperature of the subfloor, at time of installation should be at least 59°F but never exceed 80°F.

Damage due to moisture issues is not a product failure and is not covered by our warranty.

Minimum plywood sub flooring requirements: 4' x 8' sheets of ¾" CDX grade underlayment with a maximum 16" on center joint construction. If joist system is spaced over 16" on center, an additional layer of ½" CDX plywood underlayment - laid diagonal or perpendicular - will be required.

ASBESTOS WARNING

Do not sand existing resilient tile, sheet flooring, backing, or felt linings as these products may contain asbestos fibers that are not easily identified. The inhalation of asbestos dust can cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Check with local, state, and federal laws for handling hazardous material prior to attempting the removal of these floors.

Damage due to moisture issues is not a product failure and is not covered by our warranty.

BASEMENT AND CRAWL SPACES: Keep dry and ventilated. Crawl spaces 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.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR: New concrete should be completely cured for at least 50-60 days. Test for excessive moisture. A reading of over 3lbs./1000 sq. ft. by Calcium Chloride test requires the application of a vapor retarder.

Insitu Test: Relative humidity probes should read 75% relative humidity or less in all areas.

Ensure concrete has a minimum of 3000 PSI Compression. Over a lightweight concrete (less than 3000 PSI) use a floating installation. To check for lightweight concrete, draw a nail across the top. If it scratches or indents, it is probably a lightweight concrete.

WOOD SUBFLOOR: When floating over a wood subfloor, cover wall to wall with an underlayment overlapped 8" at seams (follow underlayment manufacturing instructions). It is recommended to tape overlapped edges with a cellophane tape. To prepare wood subfloor for installation, re-nail any loose areas to prevent squeaking. Sand or plane high spots and fill low areas.

It is very important to nail or screw any area of loose or moving sub floor that will cause squeaks. Manufacturer recommends the use of nails or screws with panels fastened every 12" along the joists or intermediate supports to ensure soundness of floor when complete.

The moisture content (MC) of a wood subfloor should not exceed 12%. 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.

D. GENERAL INSTALLATION

REFER TO NWEA *INSTALLATION GUIDELINES, SECTION III, CHAPTER 9*

NWEA - National Wood Flooring Association
800-422-4556 (USA) / 800-848-8824 (Canada)

L'artiste can be installed above, on-grade or below-grade. Installation methods can be either: Direct Glue, Floating or Nail/Staple.

DO NOT INSTALL over radiant heat system.

▲ IMPORTANT

Due to the extra width and length of planks, it is recommended to glue all end joints, regardless of the installation method. This can reduce excessive seasonal gapping. Use Dri-Tac 8100 or Titebond T&G glue.

Plan the layout: "Rack" out (dry-lay) the flooring before installing to avoid close end joints and to blend color and grain patterns. To blend the visual differences from board to board it is recommended to work from several cartons alternatively. Leave ½" expansion gap at all vertical objects; use expansion shims to maintain the gap during installation. Undercut all door jams.

GLUE DOWN METHOD

Urbanfloor recommends Simple Spread urethane adhesive, Urban-FOUR, or Urban Eco Smart for the installation of our products. Carefully read and follow the instructions provided by the adhesive manufacturer for the use and application of the product. Check with your flooring retailer for other adhesives and sealers that are compatible with engineered floors.

▲ CAUTION

Adhesive that is allowed to dry on the plank surface can be difficult to remove and may leave a haze. Be sure to clean any surplus adhesive off surface of plank as you go. Use a Urethane Adhesive remover for this purpose.

1. Determine starting wall and direction to lay boards. An outside wall is normally best as it is most likely straight and square with the room. With a raised foundation wood should be installed perpendicular to the joists. In cases of existing wooden floor, boards should be laid crosswise or at a 45 degree angle.
2. Begin the installation by DRY FITTING the first row as follows. Begin installing the first row in the right corner of the base wall. Install the first board so the short grooved side is against the expansion shims to your right and the long grooved length of the board is against the expansion shims in front of you.
3. Maintain expansion gap of ½" between first board and the wall by using spacers regularly along the length of the wall. Determine straightness of wall by snapping a chalk line. If starting wall is not straight, make notation on first row and saw to shape.
4. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned against the shims. Use the hammer/rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. **Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board.**
5. Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete.
6. You will need to cut off the end of the final board, save the remaining piece for the next row as long as it is at least 8" long. Use the last board Puller to ensure the last board is tight against the preceding board. Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use the shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile.
7. Once the first row has been cut and fit, remove the flooring and set it aside. Snap a chalk line the face width of the wood flooring plus ½" for expansion space out from the starting wall. Starting from the edge of the chalk line, apply an even layer of adhesive as instructed by the adhesive manufacturer. Only spread adhesive the width and length of the one row that was dry fit.

A NOTE ON ADHESIVE:

Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for use in this application. Wear rubber gloves and proceed carefully during adhesive application. Cured mastic is very hard and sometimes impossible to remove from the flooring as well as the tools. DO NOT allow any spilled or excess adhesive to remain anywhere but between the boards and the subfloor at any time during the installation. Clean up spills immediately as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. The flooring manufacturer will not be responsible in any way for adhesive that is not removed from the hardwood flooring immediately. Any damage to the flooring caused by the adhesive allowing to cure on the surface will be the sole responsibility of the installation mechanic.

Stay off glued floor for a minimum of 12 hours after installations.

8. Re-install the pre-cut boards from the dry fit as follows. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned. Use the hammer/rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board. If necessary, use a low adhesive, *blue installers tape to maintain a tight joint (Remove tape within 3 hours and remove any tape adhesive residue. * - use 3M 2080 EL Painters Tape)

9. Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete.

10. Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use the shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile. For best results, allow the adhesive to dry before continuing with the rest of the installation.

11. Start each new row on the right side with remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 8" long; otherwise cut a new starter board. Stagger end joints (at least 18") and randomly install different lengths to ensure natural appearance. Do not create discernible patterns such as "H" or "steps". Select boards to create a uniform appearance without clusters of short lengths or sections of light or dark planks. Do not install any objectionable boards that have visual defects or are not consistent with the grade being installed.

12. The end joint must be at least 18" from the end joint in the row before it. A minimum of one end joint is required in every row, regardless of width (e.g. hallways.)

13. Trowel adhesive onto the subfloor as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer (including the T&G adhesive 8100 in end joints), place the next board in position, match the tongue and groove at the end only, then, beginning at the opposite end of the board, tap the board onto the previous row with the tapping block. Move the tapping block back toward the right side of the board until you get near the connections with the previous board. Before you finish tapping the board onto the previous row, you must be sure the end joint is tight. If the end joint is not completely tight you will not be able to do so once the long seam is tight.

14. Continue process across the room. The last board should be sawn to appropriate width allowing for 1/2" expansion space against walls and all vertical obstructions. The last board puller will be used to install the last row.

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 blue installers tape within 3 hours. Remove any spacer wedges. Cover all expansion spaces along walls with Urbanfloor coordinated moldings.

Always fasten base moldings to the adjacent wall, not the flooring.

FLOATING METHOD

When choosing the floating method for engineered wood, it is critical that the subfloor is flat to within 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 Section C: Subfloor Types and Conditions on page 1).

▲ IMPORTANT

Tongue & Groove adhesive must be used FULL LENGTH on ALL joints when utilizing the floating installation method. Use Dri-Tac 8100 or Titebond T&G Glue for grooves.

1. Determine starting wall and direction to lay boards. An outside wall is normally best as it is most likely straight and square with the room.

For floating installation, a 6 mil. age-resistant polyethylene plastic sheet is require as a moisture barrier. Lap up wall 4". It is also required that a 15 lb. asphalt saturated felt (rag paper) be used as an underlayment above the moisture barrier to reduce sound. You can also use a 2 in 1 product that incorporates both a moisture barrier and sound barrier in ONE sheet, e.g. Volara foam 1/4" or Floor Muffler products. Follow underlayment manufacturer's instructions.

2. Lay underlayment in same direction as boards using a combination of polyethylene and foam underlayment or a 2 in 1 combined product making sure to tape the seams and overlap the poly edges by 4" (do not overlap the actual foam pad). The vapor barrier must be continuous without cuts or punctures. Tape any tears, cuts and seams.

3. Use expansion shims to maintain a 1/2" expansion gap between flooring and all vertical surfaces.

4. Begin installing the first row in the right corner of the base wall. Install the first board so the short grooved side is against the expansion shims to your right and the long grooved length of the board is against the expansion shims in front of you.

5. Maintain expansion gap of 1/2" between first board and the wall by using shims regularly along the length of the wall. Determine straightness of wall by snapping a chalk line. If starting wall is not straight, make notation on first row and saw to shape.

6. Holding the board finished side down, apply 1/8" bead of tongue and groove adhesive to bottom of the groove on the end of the second board. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned against the shims. Use the hammer/rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. **Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board.**

7. Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete.

8. Remember to clean surplus adhesive as you work! Any excess of glue is squeezed to the surface should be immediately wiped off with a damp cloth. You will need to cut off the end of the final board, save the remaining piece for the next row as long as it is at least 8" long. Use the last board Puller to ensure the last board is tight against the preceding board. Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use the shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile.

9. Start each new row on the right side with the remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 8" long; otherwise cut a new starter board. Stagger end joints (at least 18") and randomly install different lengths to ensure natural appearance. Do not create discernible patterns such as "H" or "steps". Select boards to create a uniform appearance without clusters of short lengths or sections of light or dark planks. Do not install any objectionable boards that have visual defects or are not consistent with the grade being installed.

10. The end joint must be at least 18" from the end joint in the row before it. A minimum of one end joint is required in every row, regardless of width (e.g.hallways).

11. Holding the board finished side down, apply 1/8" bead of tongue and groove adhesive to bottom of the short end and long side grooves and position the next board, match the tongue and groove at the end only, then, beginning at the opposite end of the board, tap the board onto the previous row with the tapping block. Move the tapping block back toward the right side of the board until you get near the connections with the previous board. Before you finish tapping the board onto the previous row, you must be sure the end joint is tight. If the end joint is not completely tight you may not be able to do so once the long seam is tight.

12. Continue process across the room. The last board should be sawn to appropriate width allowing for 1/2" expansion space against walls and all vertical obstructions.

13. Do not install floating floors in excess of 30 feet in length or width without the use of transitions.

14. Use transitions at doorways and other adjacent floors.

15. Do not affix the floor to the subfloor at any point. When using the floating method in a narrow corridor, lay planks length wise along corridor.

COMPLETING THE JOB: Allow finished floor to be free of traffic for a minimum of 12 hours and before spacing shims 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.

STAPLE/NAIL DOWN METHOD

Note: Installer must verify fastener strength before proceeding. The quality/grade of the subfloor can negatively affect the fasteners hold strength. Issues with hold strength are not covered by flooring product warranty.

1. Determine starting wall and direction to lay boards. An outside wall is normally best as it most likely straight and square with the room. With a raised foundation wood should be installed perpendicular to the joists. In cases of existing wooden floor, boards should be laid crosswise or at a 45 degree angle.

2. Lay 30-30 Kraft or 15 lb. asphalt saturated felt (roofing felt that meets ASTM Standard D-4869) in same direction as boards making sure to tape the seams and overlap edges by 4". The vapor barrier must be continuous without cuts or punctures. Tape any tears, cuts, or seams.

Due to extra long lengths, add a tongue & groove glue into the groove of the short side of each plank. This can reduce excessive seasonal gapping. Use Dri-Tac 8100 or Titebond T&G glue.

3. Begin installing the first row in the right corner of the base wall. Install the first board so the short grooved side is against the expansion shims to your right and the long grooved length of the board is against expansion shims in front of you.

4. Maintain expansion gap of 1/2" between first board and the wall by using shims regularly along the length of the wall. Determine straightness of wall by snapping a chalk line. If starting wall is not straight, make notation on first row and saw to shape.

5. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned against the shims. Use the hammer /rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. **Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board.**

6. Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete.

7. You will need to cut off the end of the final board, save the remaining piece for the next row as long as it is at least 8" long. Use the last board Puller to ensure the last board is tight against the preceding board. Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile.

8. After pre-drilling holes, carefully top nail the first row of boards to the subfloor using 6d finish nails where the boards meet the wall (This will be on three sides of the first and last rows of the installation and on the two ends for all other rows). Place the nails as close to the edge of the boards as possible so they will be covered by the transition and /or wall molding. If this cannot be done, set the nails with a nail punch and fill holes with wood filler. Finish nails should be placed at 8" intervals along the wall.

9. With the flooring stapler/nailer, fasten through the tongues of the first row. Staples should be placed 3" to 4" apart, cleats every 4" to 6" apart, and all fasteners within 1"-2" of end joints.. If the stapler/nailer cannot be used due to interference with the wall, pre-drill and hand nail through the tongue of the board at a 45° angle. Be sure the nail is positioned in the nail pocket. Set the nail with a punch.

Note: Proper setup of your nailer/stapler is crucial to proper nail/staple placement in tongue. Improper set up can result in damaged edges, dimpled top veneer, shallow penetration, crushed tongues, loose and squeaking floors. Check you're set up before beginning install and from time to time during install.

10. Start each new row on the right side with the remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 8" long; otherwise cut a new starter board. Do not create discernible patterns such as "H" or clusters of short lengths or sections of light or dark planks. Do not install any objectionable boards that have visual defects or are not consistent with the grade being installed.

11. The end joint must be at least 16" from the end joint in the row before it. A minimum of one end joint is required in every row, regardless of width (e.g. hallways).

12. Position the next board, match the tongue and groove at the end only, then, beginning at the opposite end of the board, tap the board onto the previous row with the tapping block. Move the tapping block back toward the right side of the board until you get near the connections with the previous board. Before you finish tapping the board onto the previous row, you must be sure the end joint is tight. If the end joint is not completely tight you may not be able to do so once the long seam is tight. With the flooring stapler/nailer, fasten through the tongues of the boards. Staples should be placed 3" to 4" apart, cleats every 4" to 6" apart, and all fasteners within 1"-2" of end joints.

13. Continue process across the room. The last board should be sawn to appropriate width allowing for 1/2" expansion space against walls and all vertical obstructions. The last board puller will be used to install the last row.

14. Top nail the last row with finish nails against the wall as was done with the first row

Warranty exclusion - squeaking, popping, or crackling from a staple or nail down installation is not covered by product warranty.

▲ IMPORTANT

THE FLOORING INSTALLER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING IF THE NAILER/STAPLER TO BE USED IS SPECIFIED FOR THE PARTICULAR PRODUCT BEING INSTALLED AND IS ADJUSTED PROPERLY TO AVOID DAMAGE TO THE FLOORING. CONTACT POWERNAIL (1-800-323-1653) OR WWW.POWERNAIL.COM FOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND DEALER LOCATOR. CONTACT SPOTNAIL (1-800-973-2239) OR WWW.SPOTNAIL.COM FOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AND DEALER LOCATOR.

We recommend, if possible the use of a NWEA (National Wood Flooring Association) certified professional when installing Urbanfloor.

After installation it is important to maintain the environmental conditions in the home within the ranges outlined in these instructions (see *PRE-INSTALLATION/JOBSITE REQUIREMENT, Section B on page 1*). Failure to keep the humidity and temperature within the recommended ranges can result in damage to the floor.

E. CARE & MAINTENANCE

You have purchased a high quality engineered floor product with formaldehyde free, UV Oiled finish, which is ready for installation and does not require any special treatment directly after installation. What you have to be aware of is that even pre-finished engineered flooring will naturally get worn over time; therefore, regular maintenance is very important to protect and preserve its surface.

Please make sure that a healthy room climate with about 30-50% air humidity and a temperature of 60-80°F can be provided. This kind of climate is good for both your health as well as for the well-being of the engineered floor. Ensure that any moisture spillage is immediately cleaned and dried up. Do not allow any moisture to sit on the surface, as this will cause damage to the floor.

NOTE: Observe the maintenance product manufacturer's instructions prior to using their product on your floor. Depending on the rate of traffic on the floor, maintenance may need to be done more often in line with the traffic intensity.

Daily cleaning should be done with a vacuum cleaner fitted with felt pads to avoid scratching, a static mop or a smooth floor broom. If vacuum has a "beater bar" (i.e. bristle roller), turn beater bar off before using. Any sand

or dirt should be immediately removed because they can cause scratches and damage the floor surface.

Whenever necessary, the floor surface can also be cleaned with a damp mop or a special spot remover/cleaner to remove stains, grease, shoe tracks, etc. Cleaning products can be obtained from WOCA, Osmo, or Bona*. Never use the traditional wax or steel wool on your floor. When mopping with a well-wrung damp mop, ensure that the residual water evaporates within 1 minute. If it takes longer, then there is too much moisture on the mop.

It is highly recommended to put some felt pieces under any furniture bases or chair legs etc. to protect the floor surface. For the entrance area of e.g. Boutique, Halls, Corridors etc. a good floor mat is also recommended and will be very useful to help preserve your floor. In case of any damage on the oiled surface (e.g. by furniture movement etc.), acquire advice and help from a qualified installer or tradesman that is knowledgeable with engineered flooring.

The Lartiste Collection has a UV oil finish. We recommend that the floor be treated with an oil refresher product (e.g. from WOCA, Osmo, or Bona*) every 3 to 6 months, or as and when you feel the floor needs revitalizing. Please follow the product manufacturer's instructions prior to applying it to the floor. Testing should be done on part of the floor in a hidden area (e.g., in walk-in closets or cabinets) to ensure suitability and adhesion and sheen/gloss level of the refresher product.

Wood is a living material, which swells if the moisture or humidity is raised and also shrinks if the moisture or humidity is lowered. This not only shows that your floor is a natural product; but can also lead to some irreversible damage to the floor if the room climate and humidity is left too high or too low for an extended period of time. This can happen if e.g. - in the wintertime - the humidity (RH) in a heated room goes below the specified 30 % or in summertime when temperature goes above 80° F. In this case you should install an Air Humidifier in order to prevent damages to your floor. The same may also be necessary with Air Conditioning.

Wood is also affected by UV light and therefore will change color over time. Floor coverings such as rugs and mats should not be placed immediately after laying. The floor should be allowed to stabilize for a few weeks.

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.

NOISY FLOORS: Minor, occasional noise (such as squeaking) within the flooring is inherent to all hardwood flooring installations and can occur as environmental conditions change with the seasons.

SURFACE CHECKS: During the winter months of low humidity, minor surface cracks (checks) may appear in wood flooring, then often close up 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 on *page 1*.

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 also 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 *Section B, Pre-installation Job Site Requirements on page 1*.

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Visit their websites: <http://www.dritac.com>; <http://www.titebond.com>; <http://www.bona.com> and <http://www.woodcareusa.com> to find out more about their products.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.URBANFLOOR.COM
FOR ANY RECENT UPDATES OF INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Questions or Concerns?



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