



Simba Flooring Corp.

INSTALLATION GUIDE, CARE, MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS OF ENGINEERED FLOORING

Job site inspection & acclimation

This type of flooring can be installed below, at, or above ground level. However, it should not be installed in a bathroom.

In new construction, engineered flooring should be one of the last items to be installed. All work involving water or moisture, such as plumbing, acoustical ceilings, drywall taping, etc., should be completed before the wood flooring is installed. The heating and air conditioning system should be fully operational and maintain a consistent room temperature between **16°C and 27°C (60°F to 80°F)** and a constant relative humidity of **40% to 55%**.

Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been enclosed, and cement work, plastering, painting, and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 days old. Basements and under floor crawl spaces should be checked to ensure that they are dry and well-ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.

Handle the flooring with care and do not stand it on its ends. Store the flooring in a dry place, making sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under and around the cartons.

Do not store it directly on concrete or near outside walls. The cartons should be placed in the installation area.

The humidity level in the house must be maintained between 40% and 55% throughout the year. **Wood is a living product that reacts to variations in humidity levels.** During the summer, when the humidity level is at its highest, the wood naturally expands and absorbs humidity. These variations must be dealt with through adequate dehumidification. In winter, when the heating system is working, the humidity level is lower. It is then recommended to use a humidifier to minimize the extreme effects of shrinkage.

Note: The relative humidity of any room can be checked with a hygrometer.

Note on bowing: The boards may be slightly concave or convex when removed from the carton. Once they are properly installed, they will lay flat.

Owner / Installer responsibility

1. Customers and/or their installers must check the flooring before installing.
2. It is important to note that **all wood must be delivered to the premises where it will be installed at least 48 hours prior to installation to allow it to acclimate. Additionally, all plastering, cement work, and painting must be finished and completely dry before installation of the flooring.**
3. Any perceived problems must be reported to the dealer/supplier before installation takes place. Any wood that has been installed will be deemed acceptable to the customer/installer and cannot be returned, nor can any credit be given. What is laid must be paid.
4. Installers must follow correct installation procedures, use reasonable selectivity, and discard any pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause. We recommend that all installations be carried out by professional, certified installers. No matter how high the quality of the hardwood floor, a poor installation can jeopardize the value of the customer's investment.
5. Hardwood floors are a product of nature, and as such, they contain certain characteristics such as variations of color, tone, and graining. Manufacturers do not warrant against variations in color within a floor or variations between samples and purchased products. Furthermore, in accordance with industry standards, manufacturers are allowed a 5% defect/imperfection allowance.
6. Regular care, maintenance, and cleaning are essential to maintain the longevity, integrity, and value of the floor. **DO NOT** use furniture or dusting sprays, detergents, or any floor care products on the floor. Use bona fide or equivalent hardwood flooring cleaning products instead. Vacuum regularly to eliminate any abrasives such as sand, glass, salt, etc. Quickly wipe up all spills. Mats should be placed at entrances and in front of kitchen workstations as a preventative measure. Any furniture should be lifted when moving it, and pads must be placed under all furniture legs. Place protective rugs or Plexiglas mats under chairs with rollers. Do not roll casters directly onto the floor.

Note: Neglecting the proper installation, care, and maintenance instructions, and/or regular care and maintenance will void the warranty.

Float-in installation guide

Underlayment layer

Once the subfloor is dry, clean and flat, install the foam/rubber underlayment as specified by the underlayment manufacturer. Tape all seams completely as specified by underlayment manufacturer.

Position the first row

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 ½” expansion shims to your right and the long grooved length of the board is against the ½” expansion shims in front of you.

Apply tongue & groove glue to 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.

Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete. 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 12” 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.

Second and subsequent rows

Start each new row on the right side with the remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 12" long; otherwise cut a new starter board.

The end joint must be at least 16" from the end joint in the row before it. When maintaining the 16" offset of all end joints, the pattern should not repeat itself until the 4th or 5th row. Maintaining this offset is very important where rows are short, such as across the width of a narrow hallway.

Glue 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 will not be able to do so once the long seam is tight.

Continue with additional boards, cut the last board to fit and use the last board puller and tap block to install it as shown previously. Continue with the next row, as long as the piece remaining from the previous row is at least 12" and maintains the end joint offset from the previous row of at least 16".

The last row

In most cases, the entire length of the last row will need to be cut to fit into the remaining space while allowing for the ½" expansion space. The last board puller will be used to install the last row.

Installation through doorways and between rooms

The flooring may run continuously between rooms as long as the doorway/passageway is no less than 42" in width. If the doorway/passageway is less than 42" in width, a T-molding must be placed in the doorway/passageway to separate the two floors.

Pipes, floor vents, and other objects

Each case is unique, so the general rule is to carefully measure before cutting and remember to leave the ½" expansion space. The expansion space will be covered with pipe rings or molding when the installation is completed.

Molding and floor vents

Complete the installation by allowing the tongue & groove adhesive to dry as specified on the bottle, removes the expansion shims, and installs floor vents, transition molding, and wall molding as needed. See your dealer/distributor for available products.

Staple-down installation guide:

Underlayment layer:

Once the subfloor is dry, clean, and flat, install the red rosin paper or 15 lb. asphalt-saturated felt (roofing felt). Tape all seams completely with underlayment seam tape.

Position the first row:

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 ½" expansion shims to your right, and the long grooved length of the board is against the ½" expansion shims in front of you.

Apply tongue & groove glue to 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.

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

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 12" 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.

Carefully top nail the first row of boards to the subfloor ONLY 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.

Now put a side nail with the flooring stapler through the tongues of the first row at 8" intervals and 2-3" from the end of each board.

Second and subsequent rows:

Start each new row on the right side with the remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 12" long; otherwise, cut a new starter board.

The end joint must be at least 16" from the end joint in the row before it. When maintaining the 16" offset of all end joints, the pattern should not repeat itself until the 4th or 5th row.

Glue the short end groove of the next board and place it 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.

Continue with additional boards, cut the last board to fit and use the last board puller and tap block to install it as shown previously. Continue with the next row, as long as the piece remaining from the previous row is at least 12" and maintains the end joint offset from the previous row of at least 16".

Now put a side nail with the flooring stapler through the tongues of the boards at 8" intervals and 2-3" from the end of each board.

The last row

In most cases, the entire length of the last row will need to be cut to fit into the remaining space while allowing for a 1/2" expansion space.

The last board puller should be used to install the last row.

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

Installation through doorways and between rooms

Flooring can run continuously between rooms, or a T-molding can be placed in the doorway/passageway to separate the two floors.

Pipes, floor vents, and other objects

Each case is unique. The general rule is to carefully measure before cutting and to remember to leave the 1/2" expansion space. The expansion space will be covered with pipe rings or molding when the installation is complete

Molding and floor vents

Complete the installation by allowing the tongue and groove adhesive to dry as specified on the bottle. Remove the expansion shims and install floor vents, transition molding, and wall molding as needed. Please see your dealer/distributor for available products.

Glue-down installation guide

Once the subfloor is dry, clean, and flat, you may proceed with the installation.

Position the first row

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 ½” expansion shims to your right, and the long-grooved length of the board is against the ½” expansion shims in front of you. Always dry fit the first row before you begin gluing the boards down.

Once the first row has been cut and fit, remove the flooring and set it aside. Snap a chalk line ½” 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 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 flooring immediately. Any damage to the flooring caused by the adhesive allowing curing on the surface will be the sole responsibility of the installation mechanic.

Re-install the pre-cut boards from the dry fit as follows. Apply tongue & groove glue to 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.

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

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 12” 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. For best results, allow the adhesive on the subfloor and the tongue & groove glue to dry before continuing with the rest of the installation.

Second and subsequent rows

Start each new row on the right side with the remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 12” long. Otherwise, cut a new starter board.

The end joint must be at least 16 inches from the end joint in the row before it. When maintaining the 16-inch offset of all end joints, the pattern should not repeat itself until the 4th or 5th row.

To install the flooring, first trowel adhesive onto the subfloor as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Then, glue the short end groove of the next board and place it in position. Match the tongue and groove at the end only, and 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, make 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.

Continue with additional boards, cutting the last board to fit and using the last board puller and tapping block to install it as shown previously. Continue with the next row, if the piece remaining from the previous row is at least 12 inches and maintains the end joint offset from the previous row of at least 16 inches.

The last row

The entire length of the last row in most cases will need to be cut to fit into the remaining space while allowing the ½” expansion space.

The last board puller will be used to install the last row.

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

Installation through doorways and between rooms

Flooring may run continuously between rooms, or a t-molding may be placed in the doorway / passageway to separate the two floors.

Pipes, floor vents and other objects

Each case is unique, the general rule is to carefully measure before you cut and remember to leave the ½” expansion space. Expansion space will be covered with pipe rings or molding when the installation is completed.

Molding and floor vents

Complete the installation by allowing the tongue & groove adhesive to dry as specified on the bottle, remove the expansion shims and install floor vents, transition molding and wall molding as needed. See your dealer/distributor for available products.

Maintenance

Follow the floor care guide and warranty information for proper care, protection, and maintenance of your floor.

Recommended Maintenance Schedule for urethane finishes.

Note: Always follow the manufacturer's specific guidelines.

Daily - Sweep or dust mop, wipe up spills locally.

Weekly - Vacuum using the bare floor setting.

Monthly - Clean (damp mop, not wet mop) with recommended wood flooring cleaner.

Every 3 - 5 Years (or as necessary) - add a maintenance coat.

Every 10 years (or as necessary) - Sand and refinish.