

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

SOLID HARDWOOD PLANK

18mm Solid hardwood flooring

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING THE INSTALLATION

ABODE floors must be installed in accordance with the following instructions. Failure to do so may void the product warranty. Professional installation is recommended for floating floor or nail down application, and required for glue down application.

Product Use & Installation Options

PRODUCT USE

This floor may be installed:

- On or above grade only
- With nail down installation
- Over OSB, plywood

This floor should not be installed:

- With floating floor or glue down installation
- In any location below grade (basements)
- Over radiant heating systems.

This floor should **NOT** be installed in a bathroom, laundry room or any area that may experience elevated humidity (sauna, sunroom, etc) Such use will void the product warranty.

ABODE floors are for indoor use only, in residential or light commercial applications. The use of a certified installer is recommended for all installations.

Before Installation – Product Inspection & Site Preparation

INSTALLER'S / CUSTOMER'S RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the installer and/or customer to ensure that the ABODE product meets or exceeds their expectations for visual appearance and manufacturing quality.

Because ABODE floors are made from real wood, every piece of ABODE flooring will have a unique appearance, often with naturally-occurring variations in color, texture and grain pattern. Showroom samples and photographic reproductions may not represent the full range of color, texture and grain variations and milling tolerances which can occur in the product itself. **It is strongly recommended that, prior to commencing installation, the customer and installer open several boxes of product and loose lay the boards on the floor. Examine the product carefully to ensure that it meets the customer's expectations for appearance, color and visual character and quality before proceeding with the installation.**

If the visual appearance or manufacturing quality of the product is deemed unacceptable, it should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and customer, even if the customer is not present at the time of installation. Every piece of flooring should be inspected and if any piece does not meet expectations of quality, it should not be installed.

Note

ABODE floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry practices which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. These defects may be the result of manufacturing or naturally occurring characteristics of the material. It is recommended that a minimum 5% cutting or grading allowance be added to the total square footage when calculating the quantity of flooring required. Boards that are judged to be defective should not be installed or should be installed in an inconspicuous location where they will not be noticeable (e.g. inside a closet).

It is the sole responsibility of the installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor and installation tools and materials meet or exceed these instructions and any applicable industry standards. ABODE accepts no responsibility for problems arising from incorrect or improper site preparation or installation procedures.

For further information on installation standards and guidelines, call:

In Canada: 1-800-992-3163

In the US: 1-800-851-7056

or email info@metrofloors.com

SITE PREPARATION:

INSTALLATION IN NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED HOME

Installation of wood flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing a wood floor, the following conditions must be met:

- The building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to house interior
- All concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting, tiling and other wet work is complete and dry
- Basements must be dry, within recommended temperature and humidity ranges, with no standing water and adequate cross-ventilation in accordance with local building codes
- Crawl spaces must be dry, with no standing water and adequate cross-ventilation in accordance with local building codes. Exposed earth crawl spaces must also have a vapor barrier installed to NWFA guidelines
- Gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building
- Landscaping is directing water away from the building
- HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home, and have been operating for a minimum of 5 days prior to installation
- Subfloor is properly inspected and prepared for installation in accordance with these instructions

INSTALLATION IN EXISTING HOME (RENOVATION)

Installation in an existing home must meet the same conditions as a new home. If part of a larger remodeling project, ensure that all wet work (painting, wallpapering, texturing, etc.) is completed and thoroughly dry before commencing flooring installation. In addition:

- Remove all furniture, artwork and other valuables from installation area

- Remove baseboards and moldings
- Undercut door casings and jambs (use a piece of the flooring as a depth gauge)
- Remove existing flooring, if necessary
- If installing over radiant heat, it is strongly recommended that a radiant heat technician be consulted prior to installation to ensure that the heating system can be operated effectively at temperatures acceptable to the wood flooring. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone

CLIMATE CONTROL

Conditions at the job site must be maintained with the temperature between 60 - 80°F (15 - 26°C) and humidity at 30-50% before, during and after the installation.

Note

In areas with extreme climate conditions it may be necessary to use humidifiers or dehumidifiers to ensure the humidity is kept within the recommended range.

Flooring material should not be delivered to job site until these conditions have been met and maintained for five days prior to installation.

Following installation, these conditions should be maintained at all times to ensure proper performance of the floor. See Warranty for details.

Required interior conditions for hardwood flooring are temperature of 60 - 80°F (15 - 26°C) and relative humidity of 30 to 50%. When these conditions have been established at the job site, material may be delivered to the site. **Do not deliver flooring to job site if climate conditions have not been met and maintained as described above otherwise damage to product may result.**

When flooring has been delivered to the jobsite, stack the boxes cross-stack to ensure good air flow between the layers. Leave the boxes closed until ready to commence the installation, and then open only as needed.

MOISTURE CONTENT

All wood flooring must be tested for moisture content prior to installation to ensure moisture content is within allowable limits. When ready to commence installation, open several boxes of product and test and record moisture content of the flooring using a reliable and accurate moisture testing device. Wood flooring should have a moisture content between 6 and 9 % or as expected for the environment in which the flooring will be used. If the moisture content is not within this range, allow the flooring to acclimate at the climate controlled job site until the moisture content comes to within the acceptable range.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The installer is responsible for ensuring that the subfloor is suitable for the flooring application and properly prepared for installation.

All subfloors must be flat, clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. The subfloor must be flat to within 3/16" over 10 feet, or 1/8" in 6 feet radius.

Plywood or OSB subfloors must meet local building code requirements. (US: minimum 3/4" T&G Exposure 1 rated plywood or 23/32" T&G Exposure 1 rated OSB. Canada: minimum 5/8" T&G Exposure 1 rated plywood or 23/32" T&G Exposure 1 rated OSB installed over joists 16" on center or less.) They must be secure to the joists, free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%, and the variance in moisture content between the full thickness of the subfloor and the flooring boards must not exceed 2 percentage points, based on a minimum of 20 tests per 1000sf.

RACKING

Real wood flooring contains natural variations in color and grain pattern. In order to prevent color clustering or repetitive grain patterns in the finished floor, it is recommended that boards be racked (visually sorted) before installation to create a satisfactory and pleasing color arrangement.

Immediately prior to installation, unpack several cartons to get a sense of the range of color variation and arrange the planks to achieve a satisfactory appearance.

When racking, distribute lengths where possible. Avoid 'H' patterns, stair-steps and other discernible patterns in adjacent rows. When racking, a general rule is to stagger the end joints by a minimum of double the board width (e.g. for boards 5" / 125mm wide stagger joints a minimum of 10" / 250mm).

For products 3 - 5" (8 - 13cm) in width, do not use boards of less than 6" (15cm) in length.

For products over 5" (13cm) in width, do not use boards of less than 12" (30cm) in length.

When racking, inspect all boards for visible manufacturing defects. Boards with manufacturing defects in excess of industry standards (5% of total quantity) may be replaced by the dealer under the terms of the product warranty. Once installed, boards will be considered to have been accepted by the customer and will not be eligible for replacement. (See Warranty for details.)

EXPANSION SPACE

Wood flooring will expand and contract with changes in ambient temperature and humidity. To allow for this, during installation leave a 1/2" expansion space around the entire perimeter of the floor between the flooring and the walls. Also leave expansion space where the flooring will meet any vertical obstruction, such as stairs, pipes, door sills, tiles, cabinets etc.

Nail Down Installation - Standard Width (<7"/180mm)

Nail down installation requires three different nailing systems:

- A pneumatic or manual nailer
- A pneumatic finish nailer
- A brad nailer for top-nailing
- A tapping block

	<i>Fastener</i>	<i>Gauge</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Nail Spacing</i>	<i>Distance from end</i>
Solid Hardwood 18mm [3/4"] thick	Cleat	15 ½	2"	6 - 8"	2 - 3"
	Staple	16	2"	6 - 8"	2 - 3"

For more information consult the Kentwood Recommended Fasteners guide available at kentwoodfloors.com

Note

During installation of flooring pieces, push or gently tap boards flush to the previous row. Tap against the tongue; tapping the groove may damage the edge. To prevent damage to the finish, avoid tapping the face of the board with a rubber mallet. Use of tapping block is recommended to avoid splintering, and edge damage

Check nail gun to make sure the depth is set for the appropriate thickness of the flooring. Ensure the nailer is not scratching the floor surface.

Test nail a piece of scrap to make sure the nailer is correctly set up, and that the fasteners are being properly positioned and set.



Ensure plywood subfloor is suitable and properly prepared. Verify moisture content of both subfloor and flooring is within allowable limits before commencing installation. Open several packages of flooring and rack and inspect boards. (See Racking, above.)

If the installation is over an unfinished crawlspace, basement or exterior space (eg: above a carport) a vapor retarder must be used. Before proceeding, place a vapor retarder (IRC-rated Perm Class 2 or 3, permeance rating 0.7 – 10) over the subfloor. Kentwood recommends AquabarB or equivalent. Wax paper is not an approved vapor retarder. Install according to underlay manufacturer’s instructions.

Set the first row in place. If required, snap a chalk guideline on the surface of the vapor retarder to act as a guide. If starting the installation against a wall, place boards with the groove side facing the wall and remember to allow expansion space.

Top nail along the groove edge with the brad nailer using minimum 18g 1½” fasteners set 10 to 12” apart, with a fastener 1 to 3” from each end of each board. Keep the nailer perpendicular to the direction of the flooring and set nails no less 1/4” in from the edge of the board.

Using a pneumatic finish nailer, blind nail along the tongue edge at a 45° angle. Follow the nailing schedule specified above, spacing the recommended fasteners as indicated. Ensure a fastener is placed as indicated near the end of each board.

At the end of the row, cut a board to fit, allowing 1/2” expansion space.

Note

It is a common practice among some installers to use a ‘full spread glue down’ on the first and last few rows of a nail down installation in order to avoid top nailing. This practice is not recommended by Kentwood for any nail down installation. Any use of full spread glue down on first and/or last rows within a nail down installation will automatically void the product warranty.

Set the second row in place and set the tongue and groove joints. Use offcuts if lengths are suitable and stagger end joints as required (see above). Apply glue assist and glued butt joint procedures. Blind nail along the tongue as before or, if working space permits, use the nail gun.

Continue with subsequent rows. To avoid a repetitive or predictable board patterns, cut some boards to random lengths to begin rows. Open new packages several at a time and rack and inspect boards as described above. Ensure 1/2” expansion space is maintained at all perimeter walls and other vertical obstacles. Maintain nailing schedule and keep butt joints staggered as described above.

In the last couple of rows, there may not be space to use the nail gun, so revert to using the finish nailer as before, blind nailing through the tongue. For the final row, measure the gap to the wall, allowing expansion space, and rip a row of boards to the required width. Top nail the final row into place using brads or finishing nails placed 1/4” in from the edge. Install moldings and transitions as required.

After Installation

ON COMPLETION OF THE INSTALLATION:

- Sweep or vacuum the floor and clean lightly with Therapy by Kentwood Spray Cleanser to ensure the floor is delivered to the customer looking its best

- Use of steam assisted cleaning mops will cause damage and void warranty.
- Ensure the homeowner or site supervisor is cognizant of the need to maintain heat and humidity at the required levels at all times
- Ensure the homeowner or site supervisor has been given a copy of the Kentwood care & maintenance guidelines (available online at kentwoodfloors.com)
- Complete a visual inspection of the installation with the homeowner or site supervisor. Inspect the floor from a standing position in non-reflected light. Touch up nail holes or slight imperfections with appropriate touch up putty or stain according to accepted industry practice
- Complete the installation record form for future reference

If the floor is not being put into use immediately, the use of a floor protection membrane is strongly recommended. Use a material with a Perm Class 3 vapor permeance rating to avoid trapping moisture/vapor on or within the floor. When using floor protection, be sure to:

- Cover the entire floor to avoid exposing a partial area to sunlight causing an uneven color change
- Overlap the seams of the membrane and tape them to each other. Never tape the membrane directly to the floor
- Run membrane to the perimeter walls and tape to the base or shoe mouldings using low adhesion masking tape

Notes
