

ENGINEERED FLOORING

Glue, Staple/Nail Down, Or Floating Installation

Southern Wholesale Engineered Flooring can be installed over most sub-floors, and are engineered to be dimensionally stable, making them suitable for installation over all grade levels. See information and installation guidelines below.

ATTENTION !! INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Inspect ALL materials carefully BEFORE installation. Wood is a natural product containing variations in color, tone and graining. Some variation in color is to be expected in a natural wood floor. Even though our product goes through many inspections before it leaves the plant, it is the customer and installer's responsibility for final inspection prior to installation. Southern Wholesale Flooring warranties DO NOT cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.

TOOLS

Broom or vacuum*, 3M blue tape, tape measure, utility knife, hammer, pry bar, chalk line, hand saw or jig saw, nylon/plastic tapping block, hardwood flooring cleaner, miter saw, moisture meter, eye protection, straight edge.

Extra Tools Needed for Glue Down:

Recommended flooring adhesive, 3/16" x 1/4" x 1/2" x 5/16" trowel

Extra Tools Needed For Staple Down:

Bostitch Floor Runner (S3297-LHFZ) using 1" Bostitch staple (S1397) (or equivalent equipment recommended by your flooring retailer) or Power Nailer – 50C nailer using 1 1/2" power cleats (use the 3/8" or 1/2" adapter as appropriate) (or equivalent equipment recommended by your flooring retailer), compressor, inline regulator.

Caution: Improper use of a power nailer can mark the surface of the flooring.

JOBSITE CONDITIONS

It is the responsibility of the installers/owner to determine if the job site sub-floor and job site conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for wood floor installation. Southern Wholesale Flooring does not accept responsibility for wood failure resulting from or connected with sub-floor, subsurface, job site damage or deficiencies after flooring has been installed.

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

Concrete Sub-Floors

New concrete slabs require a minimum of 60 days curing time before covering them with a wood floor. Concrete sub-floors must be dry, smooth (level with 3/16" in a 10 foot. Radius 1/8" in 6") and free of structural defects. Hand scrape or sand with a 20 grit #3-1/2 open face paper to remove loose, flaky concrete. Grind high spots in concrete and fill low spots with a Portland based leveling compound (min. 3,000 p.s.i.). Concrete must be free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax grease, dirt and curing compounds. These may be removed chemically or mechanically, but do not use solvent-based strippers under any circumstances. The use of residual solvents can prohibit the satisfactory bond of flooring adhesives. It is important to ensure a proper bond between the adhesives and the concrete, and planks or strips. Southern Wholesale Engineered flooring may be installed on-grade, above grade, as well as below grade where moisture conditions do not exist. To ensure a long lasting bond, make sure that the perimeter of the foundation has adequate drainage and vapor barrier.

Wood sub-floors

Wood sub-floors need to be well nailed or secured with screws. Nails should be ring shanks and screws need to be counter sunk. The wood sub-floor needs to be structurally sound and dry. They should not exceed 14% moisture prior to installation. If the sub-floor is single layer, less than 3/4" thick, add a single cross layer for strength and stability (minimum 5/16" thick for a total 1" thickness). This is to reduce the possibility of squeaking. Wood sub-floors must be free of paint, oil, existing adhesive, wax, grease, dirt and urethane, varnish etc. Underlayment grade OSB (not the wax side) is also suitable sub-floors. Particleboard is not an acceptable sub-floor for staple or nail down installation but can be used as a sub-floor in glue-down installations. When installing over existing wood flooring, install at right angles to the existing floor.

Sub-floor moisture check

A wood flooring adhesive may be used for above, on, and below grade applications and on all common substrates. On, and below-grade applications are susceptible to moisture and should be tested for moisture prior to installation in several locations within the installation area. Acceptable conditions for above, on, and below-grade applications are:

- Less than 3lbs./100 sq. ft./24 hrs. on calcium chloride test.
- Less than a reading of 5.0 on a Trames Concrete Moisture Encounter (moisture meter).

To correct any sub-floor problems concerning moisture, either wait until the sub-floor dries to meet specifications or use an appropriate moisture barrier. Ask your flooring retailer for more information.

Sub-floors other than wood or concrete

Note: Perimeter glued resilient vinyl and rubber tiles are unacceptable underlayments and must be removed.

Terrazzo, tile and any other hard surfaces that are dry, structurally sound and level, as described above, are suitable as a sub-floor for Southern Wholesale Engineered hardwood flooring installation. As above, the surface must be sound, tight and free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax, grease and dirt. Terrazzo and ceramic tile must be abraded to assure adhesion.

Warning! Do not sand existing resilient tile, sheet flooring, backing, or felt linings. These products may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Inhalation of asbestos dust can cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Check with local, state and federal laws for handling hazardous material before attempting the removal of these floors.

Radiant Heated Sub-floors

Before installing over a radiant-heated floor turn off heat and wait until the floor has reached room temperature. After installing the floor return the heat to the previous setting.

Caution: The slab surface must never exceed 85° F. in temperature.

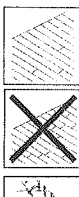
PREPARATION

Remove all moldings and wall-base and undercut all door casings with a hand or power jig saw using a scrap piece of flooring as a guide.

"Racking the Floor"

Whether you choose to install the floor with glue, nails, or staples start by using random length planks from the carton or by cutting four to five planks in random lengths, differing by at least 6". As you continue working across the floor be sure to maintain the 6" minimum between end joints on all adjacent rows. Never waste material; use the left over pieces from the fill cuts to start the next row or to complete a row.

Note: When installing a pre-finished wood floor be sure to blend the wood from several cartons to ensure a good grain and shading mixture throughout the installation.



Recommended Staplers and Nailers

Bostitch Floor Runner (S3297-LHFZ) using 1" Bostitch staple (S1397) or equivalent equipment recommended by your flooring retailer.

Power Nailer – 50C nailer using 1 1/2" power cleats (use the 3/8" or 1/2" adapter as appropriate) or equivalent equipment recommended by your flooring retailer.

Step 1

You must staple or nail 1" – 2" from the ends and every 4" – 6" along the edges. This will help insure a satisfactory installation. It is best to set the compressor PSI at 80 – 85 lbs. to keep the staples from going through or breaking the tongues. Improper stapling techniques can cause squeaks in the floor.

Adjustments may be necessary to provide adequate penetration of the nail or staple into the nail bed. You want it flush in the nail pocket. Use a scrap piece of flooring material to set tools properly before installation.

Before installation of the engineered flooring begins, install a 6 mil polyethylene layer over the sub-floor. This will retard moisture from below and may also help prevent squeaks. Keep in mind there is no complete moisture barrier system for staple or nail down installations.

Note: 15lb roofing felt or resin paper may be substituted for the polyethylene and installed as below.

Installing 6 mil polyethylene

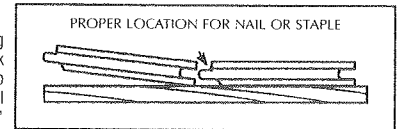
Install the polyethylene parallel to the direction of the flooring and allow a 3" overhang, at the perimeter. Make sure each run of polyethylene overlaps the previous run by 3" or more.

Layout the job

Measure out from the ends of your starting wall 2" when installing 2" strip flooring or 3" when installing 3" planks and mark both ends. Where possible lay the flooring at 90° angles to the floor joists. Make a chalk line along the starting wall using the marks you made.

Beginning installation

Place the planks with the tongue facing away from the wall and along your chalk line. Use brads or small finishing nails to secure the first starter row along the wall edge 1" – 2" from the ends and every 4" – 6" along the side. Counter sink the nails and fill with appropriate filler that blends with the flooring. Place the nails in a dark grain spot in the board. The base board molding will cover the nails when installed after completion of the installation.



Blind nails at a 45° degree angle through the tongues. It will be easier if you pre-drill the holes in the tongues. Nail 1" – 2" from the ends and every 4" – 6" along the sides. It will be necessary to blind nail the next 2 rows. A Stanley BT35 brad nailer with 1" – 1-3/8" brads (or equivalent equipment recommended by your flooring retailer) can also be used to blind nails without predrilling.

Continue the installation. Nail or staple the flooring 1" – 2" from the ends and every 4" – 6" along the edge tongues.

Floating Installation

Please ask your flooring retailer for instructions and suitability for your specific application of floating floor installation.

Final Touches

Install the proper trim molding at the doorways to achieve the transition and along the walls to cover the edges of any gaps along the wall due to irregularity.

Complete the job by an appropriate flooring filler that blends with the installed flooring to fill any gapping along the joints and clean the finished floor with an appropriate hardwood flooring cleaner in the manner described below.

MAINTENANCE

Southern Wholesale Engineered Hardwood Floors are very easily maintained. No wax, no mess. Simply use a floor cleaner recommended for hardwood flooring and a specialty terry cloth flooring mop available from flooring retailers.

Step 1: Sweep your floor to remove any particles that could scratch your floor.

*DO NOT use vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head as they can damage your wood floor.

Step 2: Apply the cleaner directly to the terry cloth flooring mop, not to the floor!

Step 3: Use a back and forth motion with the mop. When the terry cloth becomes soiled, simply replace it with a clean one. Cleaning the floor with a soiled cover could cause streaking. Many covers are re-usable so depending on the cover throw the cover, wash and dry its as you would any towel.

Tips & Warnings:

- Vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Periodically clean your Southern Wholesale floor with BonaKemi Brand cleaner (as recommended by NWWFA) and soft dry mop (the Dry Swiffer or similar product may be used).
- Remove spills promptly using a damp cloth and dry immediately using a soft cloth.
- Use felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture and chairs.
- Area rug use is recommended. do no use rugs with vinyl or rubber backing.
- Use protective mats at all exterior entrances.
- Keep animal nails trimmed.
- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances.
- Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage your floor.
- Never wet or damp mop your wood floors. Water can cause damage to wood flooring.
- Never use a wet type cleaning tool (wet vacuum or wet type mop).
- Never clean the floor using the following products: oil soaps, abrasive cleaning soaps, wax based products, detergents, bleach, polishes, acid based liquid (like vinegar) or other household products to clean your floor.
- Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across.

PRODUCT WARRANTY

Thank you for choosing Prefinished Engineered Flooring. Southern Wholesale Flooring offers

PREPARATION

Remove all moldings and wall-base and undercut all door casings with a hand or power jig saw using a scrap piece of flooring as a guide.

"Racking the Floor"

Whether you choose to install the floor with glue, nails, or staples start by using random length planks from the carton or by cutting four to five planks in random lengths, differing by at least 6". As you continue working across the floor be sure to maintain the 6" minimum between end joints on all adjacent rows. Never waste material; use the left over pieces from the fill cuts to start the next row or to complete a row.

Note: When installing a pre-finished wood floor be sure to blend the wood from several cartons to ensure a good grain and shading mixture throughout the installation.

Wet-Lay or Dry-Lay Glue Down Installation Guidelines

Caution: Whether you choose to install using the wet or dry method follow all guidelines set by the adhesive manufacturer as well as Southern Wholesale Flooring. By not adhering to the guidelines you can void your flooring warranties.

Step 1 - (Wet-Lay Method)

Select a starter wall. It is recommended to start the installation along an exterior wall; it's more likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from the wall the width of two planks plus 1/4" and mark each end of the room and snap your chalk line.

Step 2

Spread an appropriate flooring adhesive from the chalk line to the starter wall using the recommended trowel (3/16" x 1/4" x 1/2" notch). It is important to use the correct trowel at a 45° angle to get the proper spread of adhesive applied to the sub-floor, which will produce a proper and permanent bond. Improper bonding can cause loose or hollow spots.

Note: Change the trowel every 2000 to 3000 square feet due to wear down of the notches. This assures you always get the proper spread of adhesive.

Step 3

Install the first row of starter planks with the tongue facing the starter wall and secure into position. Alignment is critical and can be achieved by top nailing the first row with finishing nails (wood sub-floor), or spring/pin nails (concrete sub-floor). This prevents slippage of the planks that can cause misalignment.

Note: The planks along the wall may have to be cut to fit since most walls are not straight, and leaving an expansion space is not necessary with Southern Wholesale Engineered Flooring.

Step 4

Once the starter rows are secure spread 2-1/2 to 3 feet of adhesive the length of the room. (Never lay more adhesive than can be covered in approximately 2 hrs.)

Place tongue into groove of plank or strips and press firmly into adhesive. Never slide planks or strips through adhesive. Use a tapping block to fit planks snug together at side and butt-ends.

Test for proper bond by occasionally lifting a board and looking for good coverage (90%), then replace it into the adhesive.

Clean any adhesive off the surface before it cures.

Use 3M Blue Mask Tape to hold planks securely in place as you are installing and continue the process throughout the installation. Use caution when using a rubber mallet to butt material together, it can damage the finish. Note: Never work on top of the flooring when installing with the wet lay method.

Step 1 - (Dry-Lay Method)

Start by selecting your starter wall and measure out from the wall 27" when installing 2 1/4" strip flooring and 30" when installing 3" planks. This will allow adequate working space. Snap chalk line.

Step 2

Apply adhesive from the chalk line out 2'-3'. Allow adhesive to flash as per its instructions. Appropriate flash time is based on the temperature and humidity.

Secure your starter rows with a straight edge. Install planks and secure with 3M Blue Mask Tape as you continue throughout your installation. If you must work on top of the newly laid flooring use kneeling board.

Once the remainder of the floor has been installed go back to the beginning and remove straight edges and spread adhesive on the remainder of the open sub-floor, allow to flash for the appropriate time and lay flooring as instructed. Remember that the planks closest to the wall may need cutting to fit due to irregularities along the wall. Use a flooring adhesive that does not require the floor to be rolled.

Clean Up

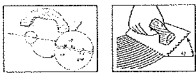
Clean up flooring adhesive as you go. Adhesive that has cured on the surface of the flooring can be difficult to remove and will require a specific flooring adhesive remover recommended by your retailer. Once the floor is completed, clean the flooring with an appropriate hardwood flooring cleaner.

Light foot traffic is allowed after 12 hours but wait 24 hours after installation to remove the 3M blue masking tape. Once the tape is removed clean any adhesive residue left from the tape with an appropriate adhesive remover.

Staple or Nail Down Installations

Southern Wholesale Engineered hardwood floors may be installed over wood sub-floors using staples or nailing cleats.

When installing Southern Wholesale Engineered Flooring by nailing or stapling, it is necessary to use the proper type of flooring stapler or nailing gun.



- Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage your floor.
- Never wet or damp mop your wood floors. Water can cause damage to wood flooring.
- Never use a wet type cleaning tool (wet vacuum or wet type mop).
- Never clean the floor using the following products: oil soaps, abrasive cleaning soaps, wax based products, detergents, bleach, polishes, acid based liquid (like vinegar) or other household products to clean your floor.
- Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across.

PRODUCT WARRANTY

Thank you for choosing Prefinished Engineered Flooring. Southern Wholesale Flooring offers a fifteen-year (15) warranty on prefinished engineered hardwood flooring. Under the terms of this warranty, Southern Wholesale Flooring, agrees to, at its discretion, either replace or repair manufacturing defects of any product covered by warranty and subject to the following conditions and exclusions.

Structural Defects

Engineered hardwood floors are manufactured from natural material, which are obviously not perfect. The warranty covers any manufacturing defects and classification errors, as well as defects in stain and aluminum-oxide finish application. The accepted industry standard of a 5% margin of imperfection shall not be considered a structural defect under the terms of this warranty.

Southern Wholesale flooring uses a high quality waterproof adhesive to laminate all the layers together. If any of the multiple layers that make up the piece of flooring separates (delamination), Southern Wholesale offers a lifetime warranty to the original purchaser. However, the warranty does not cover whole pieces of flooring that may come free from the sub-floor.

If the flooring is exposed to extreme variations in humidity, it may cause the flooring to shrink, swell, cup or crack which is not warrant for. Therefore, it is important to maintain a relative humidity of 40 to 55%. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 35%.

Wear

The UV aluminum oxide based finish has a fifteen-year (15) limited warranty, from date of purchase, against flaking, peeling and wearing through for as long as the original purchaser owns the house.

Warranty Conditions

This warranty applies only to prefinished engineered hardwood flooring that has been installed and used strictly and exclusively for residential purposes, not for commercial or industrial use. In addition, the flooring must be installed in compliance with this installation and maintenance guide. Installation must be done by a specialist recommended by an authorized dealer for the warranty to be in effect.

Flooring installation

The installer, before installation, must inspect boards. Any board nailed in place (installed) shall be considered as accepted by the installer and/or the buyer, and as such, cannot be deemed defective in manufacture, classification or finish, under this warranty. If unhappy with wood grade or product quality, halt installation and contact your distributor or retailer immediately. Boards having an apparent defect should be set aside and will be considered a part of the 5 % accepted by the industry. Also, boards should, before installation, be exposed to the room's temperature and humidity (45 and 55 %) for 72 hours.

Warranty Exclusions

This warranty applies only to the original buyer and is non-transferable. When making a claim, proof of purchase or a receipt is required. The warranty against wear excludes any damage caused by water or use of wet cleaning tools. Damage caused by lack of maintenance or negligence, marks or scratches from heavy blows, furniture, house pet's nails, high-heels, rocks, sand and other abrasives, along with lack of adequate prevention or protection and excessive environmental conditions are not covered under this warranty. Also, worn flooring must cover more than 10% of floor surface.

Moreover, Southern Wholesale Flooring cannot guarantee its finish against fading due to normal wear. Discoloration from the sun is not covered under the warranty. To protect hardwood floors, it is recommended that felt pads, which should be cleaned or changed regularly, be glued to the bottom of furniture legs and that rugs be put in doorways, high traffic areas and places where water may be a problem (sinks). Wood expands and contracts with seasonal changes in temperature and humidity. Even when properly installed, slight gaps between boards may appear. These are not covered under the warranty.

This warranty does not cover damage sustained during transport, storage, installation or by any other cause not expressly covered by the warranty as described herein. This warranty does not cover labor costs or any other losses or expenses incurred as a result of a covered defect. The responsibility of Southern Wholesale Flooring, under the terms of the warranty, is limited to, at their discretion, replacing defective products or refunding the portion of the floor in question as covered under the warranty.

No Southern Wholesale Flooring distributor, retailer, installer, agent, salesperson or representative is authorized to modify, in any way, the conditions or duration of this warranty.

This warranty specifically replaces and excludes any other warranty in relation to Southern Wholesale Flooring, including the legal warranty in jurisdictions where exclusion of such warranties may be provided for by law. Under no circumstances may the product buyer exercise any type of recourse whatsoever against Southern Wholesale Flooring except for conditions specifically provided for in this warranty.

Warranty Claim Procedure

The consumer should contact the retailer and describe the problem. Southern Wholesale will provide the needed information to address any problems and make sure that every complaint is satisfied completely.

Please Note: Some jurisdictions do not allow exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, or limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation and exclusion may not apply to you. The warranty gives you specific rights and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.

IMPORTED BY: SOUTHERN WHOLESALE FLOORING
Kennesaw, GA, USA 30160
MADE IN INDONESIA