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## Pre-Installation Guidelines:

Hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed on a job. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustical ceilings, drywall taping, etc.) should be completed prior to wood flooring being installed.

3/8" Engineered flooring can be installed on, above, or below the outside soil line.

Below-soil installations and installations in structures that have planters attached to adjoining walls require that not only the floor, but all surfaces exposed to the ground be effectively water-proofed.

The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 60-70 degrees (F.) for a minimum of 5 days prior to installation of any hardwood flooring product.

## Sub-Floor Types:

APA approved 5/8" or better plywood, exterior grade

When installing approved plywood, refer to specific structural panel and manufacturer's instructions.

3/4 (23/32) OSB-PS2-92

Over existing wood floors, install at 90 degrees.

Unsealed concrete slabs

## Sub-Floor:

Must Be Clean: Scrape and/or sand, then broom clean and smooth. Your sub-floor should be free of wax, grease, paint, oil, sealers, and other debris. Make sure there are no loose areas and that the sub-floor is structurally sound.

Must Be Level/Flat: Within 3/16" in 10' radius and/or 1/8" in 6' radius. Sand high areas and/or joints. Fill low areas (no more than 1/8") with cement type filler no less than 3,000 psi strength.

Must Be Structurally Sound: Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any water-damaged sub flooring or underlayments.

Must Be Dry: Check moisture of sub floor. Moisture content of sub floor must not exceed 14% on a wood moisture meter, or read more than a 5% difference than moisture level of product being installed.

## Concrete Slabs:

You can glue 3-ply and 5-ply flooring directly to the concrete.

DO NOT use a concrete sealer.

All concrete sub floors should be tested for moisture content. Initial moisture testing can be done with Phenolphthalein (available at a pharmacy), 3% solution in denatured grain alcohol. Chip the concrete and apply 3 or more drops of the solution to the area. DO NOT APPLY DIRECTLY TO THE SURFACE OF THE CONCRETE, AS THE TEST WILL NOT BE RELIABLE. If the color changes to pink or red, the presence of moisture is indicated. Test several areas, especially near exterior walls and walls containing plumbing.

## Wood Type Floors:

Make sure sub floor is dry and well nailed or screwed down every 6" to avoid squeaking or popping before the floor is installed. Level any raised edges by rough sanding. When installing over old wood floors, install the new flooring at a right angle to sub floor.

## Resilient Tile & Resilient Sheet Vinyl:

Make sure the vinyl or tile is well bonded to the sub floor. If vinyl or tiles are loose, crumbles, or in poor condition, install an underlayment directly over the sheet vinyl (linoleum) or vinyl tiles (Note: Do not sand any resilient products, since they may contain asbestos fibers, which may be harmful.)

If the tiles or sheet goods are well bonded, clean the surface thoroughly with a good quality household detergent. If vinyl appears to have a wax coating, you must remove wax with an appropriate floor wax stripper. Allow ample drying time.

## Step 1: Marking Your Starting Line

We recommend you install your flooring parallel to the longer outside wall in the room. Measure out 5-1/4' for 5' products. Snap a chalk line. Do not work off the newly installed flooring.

## Step 2: Spread The Adhesive

The DRI-TAC adhesive should not be applied if sub floor or room temperature is below 60 degrees F.

Spread sufficient amount of DRI-TAC adhesive with a 3/16" x 1/4" x 1/2" notch steel trowel in an area that can be covered in 30 minutes.

Hold trowel at a 45 degree angle. The trowel will leave ridges of DRI-TAC adhesive and will leave very little adhesive between the ridges. This will give you the recommended spread rate of approximately 50 sq. ft. per gallon. If DRI-TAC adhesive dries quickly, remove and spread DRI-TAC adhesive to achieve proper bonding to the sub floor. OPEN TIME MAY VARY DUE TO INDIVIDUAL CLIMATE CONDITIONS.

During the installation, occasionally remove a flooring unit from the sub floor and inspect the back for proper DRI-TAC adhesive transfer. Glue transfer of at least 80% is necessary to ensure sufficient holding strength.

## Step 3: Installation of Flooring

Always refer to the specific instructions on the DRI-TAC adhesive label. Flash time/set up times may vary with low solvent adhesives.

Ensure the correct set up time utilized prior to installing the planks.

DO NOT slide the planks through the DRI-TAC adhesive when placing them in position. Simply place the long tongue into the adjoining long groove as close as possible to the short adjoining and adjust into final position. Planks should be butted to adjoining plank.

A random mixing of the various surface-graining configurations is suggested to enhance the natural beauty of the floor. Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure a good color and shade mix.

The first row of planks should be installed with the edge of the groove lined up on the chalk line. The tongue should be facing the starting wall. The first row must be aligned and seated in the adhesive, as all additional rows will be pulled back to this original row. On additional rows, it may be necessary to align planks with a cut-off piece of scrap wood.

A soft rubber mallet can be used to tap the planks on the edge until they are pulled into proper position. Check for a tight fit between all edges and ends of each plank. End joints of adjacent rows should be staggered a minimum of 6 inches.

If you are installing over wood type sub floor, use small finishing nails to hold the first row in place. Set and fill the nail holes with latex filler, which is manufactured to blend with your flooring.

Complete the installation using the same procedures. Be sure not to spread the adhesive too far ahead of your work area.

It is not recommended to work on the newly installed flooring. If it is absolutely necessary to work on the newly installed flooring, use a kneeler board. The kneeler board will distribute your weight evenly over a wide area.

To eliminate minor shifting or grabbing of product during installation, the recommended tape is 3M 3000 Blue Tape to hold the planks together during installation.

As you are installing the floor, clean the DRI-TAC adhesive residue off the floor with soap, water, and a clean cloth. Avoid heavy foot traffic on the flooring for at least 24 hours. Move the furniture back into the room after 24 hours. Do not cover the floor for 7 days after installation to ensure proper cure of the DRI-TAC adhesive.

## Step 4: Complete the Job

Install any transition pieces that may be needed, such as reducer strips, T-moldings, or baby threshold. Re-install your base and/or quarter round moldings. Be certain to nail molding into the wall, not the floor.

## Clean Up:

Immediately clean up any adhesive on pre-finished flooring with a soft cloth and mineral spirits or specific cleaner before drying.

Clean tools and equipment with mineral spirits before adhesive cures. Wear rubber gloves when using adhesive. Removal of cured adhesive from pre-finished flooring, skin, tools and equipment is extremely difficult.

Use Bostik #94 Hand Cleaner for removal of uncured adhesive on skin.

## Trowel Clean Up Tip:

Before use, cover areas of trowel that are not used to spread adhesive with clear packaging tape or gray duct tape. After use, simply tear off tape before material cures. Clean remainder of trowel with a dry cloth or mineral spirits or adhesive cleaner.

## Care and Preservation Of Flooring:

Building interiors are affected by two distinct humidity seasons: heating and non-heating. Recognizing that wood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity within your building, care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35-55% range. To protect your investment and to ensure that your floor provides lasting satisfaction, we have provided our recommendations below.

Heating Season (Dry): Humidifier is recommended to prevent excessive shrinkage in wood floors due to low humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.

Non-Heating Season (Humid, Wet): Proper humidity levels can be maintained by use of an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically during the summer months. Avoid excessive exposure to water from tracking during periods of inclement weather. Do not obstruct in any way the expansion joints around the perimeter of your floor.

Floor Repair: Minor damage can be repaired with a Touch-Up Kit. Major damage will require board replacement, which can be done by a professional floor installer.

## Installer/Owner Responsibility:

Beautiful hardwood floors are a product of nature and, therefore, not perfect. These wood floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type.

The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of flooring should be done before installation. Carefully examine flooring for color, finish and quality before installing it. If material is not acceptable, contact the seller immediately.

Prior to installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the job/site environment and the sub surfaces involved meet or exceed all requirements as stipulated in installation instructions.

Manufacturer accepts no responsibility for job failure resulting from surface or job site environment deficiencies.

The installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as for grade, manufacture and factory finish. He/she must use responsible selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects, whatever the cause.

Use of stain, filler or putty stick for defect correction during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.

When flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting allowance.

Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.

As you work, immediately clean any adhesive from pre-finished flooring with a soft cloth (Be careful not to harm finish.)

Rolling is recommended for all installations. Flooring that is not flat should be tacked, weighted, or rolled to ensure proper contact between the flooring and the substrate.