



FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDE

A FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR
SUPERIOR ENHANCED AND ENGINEERED FLOORS.

STORAGE & HANDLING

Your hardwood floor is a natural organic product which is affected by the humidity levels in the air around it. Both before and after installation it will absorb or release moisture. Wood is a natural material that seeks to be in balance with its surroundings. Hardwood destined for use in wood floors is carefully kiln-dried for that purpose. Typically, hardwood will expand during the summer months and shrink in the winter. Acceptable humidity levels (**Chart 1**) should be maintained at all times in the rooms where your floor is installed. You will receive the wood for your floor in specially designed cartons that have been stored in a controlled environment. These conditions must be maintained throughout shipping, installation, and thereafter.

The following considerations are important, and failure to follow them will void your warranty.

ACCLIMATION

Herwynen Sawmill Ltd. will not warranty Superior or Enhanced Flooring products that aren't stored and installed within the relative humidity range specified in Chart 1. Superior and Enhanced Flooring products cannot be stored on the construction site or acclimatized before install, doing so will void your warranty.

SUBFLOOR MOISTURE CONTENT

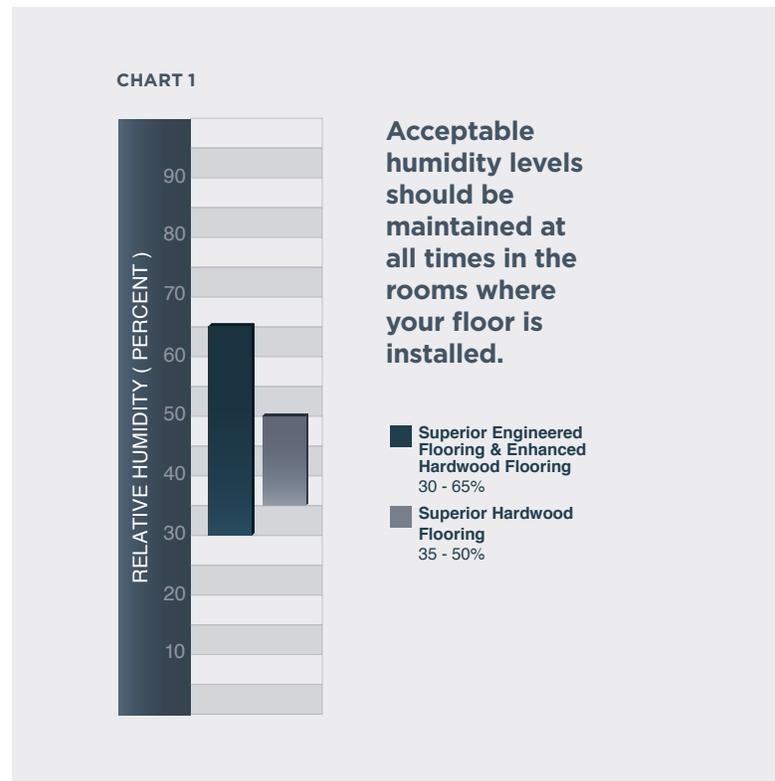
Measure the moisture content of the sub floor and the hardwood to be installed using a moisture meter. The moisture reading of the sub floor must be between 6% and 12% maximum. Hardwood strips must be under 2% maximum difference when compared to the sub floor. If the moisture content of the sub-floor is too low or high, postpone installation. Increase ventilation or use a humidifier or dehumidifier to adjust moisture levels before installation.

SUBFLOOR DESIGN

For wood sub-floors, hardwood flooring must be installed on plywood or OSB over joists. If the existing sub floor consists of particle board, then it will be necessary to overlay it with at least 5/8" plywood before installation. Be sure hardwood flooring is installed over industry standard sub-floors and underlayment, which as a minimum standard, must be 5/8" A.P.A. approved C.S.P/D.F.P. plywood C.O.F.I stamped, 23/32" or thicker O.S.B. underlay grade PS2-92, or 5/8" tongue and groove boards.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Drywall, plaster and concrete must be completely dry and the heating system fully operational with the temperature maintained at 22°C for one to two weeks before the flooring is delivered to the site. All concrete in the structure must have cured for at least 30 days.



GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

It is imperative that your new floating floor not be fastened to any surface or submitted to any movement restrictions.

Expansion gaps play a fundamental role in the performance of a floating floor installation. They allow the flooring room to expand and contract freely in relation to changes in ambient humidity and prevent damage that can affect the aesthetics and structural integrity of the floor. When the room humidity varies strongly, cumulative expansion and contraction can become damaging for the aesthetics and durability of the floor.

Expansion gaps are standard for floating installations of engineered floors. The expansion gaps must be respected on all walls, columns, doorways, moulding, or any fixed elements. The use of spacers during installation insures that the appropriate expansion gaps will be used.

See reference table below.

REQUIRED EXPANSION GAP	MAXIMUM ROOM WIDTH	MAXIMUM ROOM LENGTH
1/2" (13 mm)	Up to 26' (8 m)	Up to 52' (16 m)
3/4" (19 mm)	Between 26' - 40' (8 to 12 m)	Between 52' - 80' (14 to 24 m)

NOTE: The installation of a t-moulding might be necessary for any room exceeding 40' in length or width. If necessary, drywall can be undercut to obtain expansion space.



PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Remove baseboards, quarter rounds and then screw down subfloors securely to avoid squeaking if necessary. The subfloor must be clean, dry, smooth and flat.
- Undercut any door-jamb on the bottom of the door frames if needed to permit a strip to be inserted under them.
- Clean the bottom of any footwear worn during installation.
- For the optimal stability and acoustic performance, we recommend you use vapor-barrier underlayment with a maximum thickness of 1/8" (3mm) and 20% minimum compression.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Your starting location should be the longest and straightest wall within the room.
- Hardwood flooring must be installed across the joists at a 90-degree or 45-degree angle for support.
- Installation should be done under natural light conditions.
- Adequate expansion space must be envisioned for the installation of all mouldings. Different installation methods require different expansions space.
- If heavy tools or other objects are dropped on the floor, they will damage it.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Roll out the underlayment the length of the room the same direction as the flooring, cut it so it touches the outside walls. Overlap the seams 3 - 5" or as recommended by the manufacturer. Tape the edges together (we recommend tuck tape).
2. Make sure that your starting wall is straight and perpendicular to the room. Leaving an expansion space between the walls and the flooring is imperative when doing a floating floor installation. Use a spacer or wedges against the starting wall to prevent the floor from shifting or moving during installation. (See next page for more information on expansion gaps).
3. Apply tongue & groove adhesive to the top of the tongue and the bottom of the groove as you install each board. If you experience glue squeeze out when you assemble the boards, simply wipe it off with a damp cloth. Check with the glue manufacturer for details.
4. Continue along installing the boards for the first row. When you come to the end of the row, cut off the board, leaving enough room for an expansion gap between the floor and the wall. Make sure your off-cut is at least 6" long so that you can use it to start the next row.
5. Be sure to glue both the tongue and groove on both the ends and the sides of each board as you install them.
6. Continue along with the next rows. If the off-cut from the previous row is too short, discard it and get a new piece. Use a tapping block to ensure that the boards are tightly joined. Never hit the groove side or the edge of the board as it may

cause damage to the boards. The use of a tool called a board puller may help to get the end joints tight.

7. Try to distribute the long and short pieces while insuring that no end joints are within 6" of each other to avoid getting a cluster of end joints in one area (**see Image 1**).
8. Use a table saw to rip the last row to width. Remember to leave room for the expansion gap.
9. Inspect and clean your floor as you work. Clean up any glue squeeze out as soon as you can so that it doesn't leave any residue on the finish of your new floor.

POST INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

- Never attach mouldings to the hardwood flooring (**see Image 1 on page 4**). Take care when installing the moulding to ensure that it will not inhibit the floor's ability to move. Quarter round and baseboards are to be nailed only to the wall.

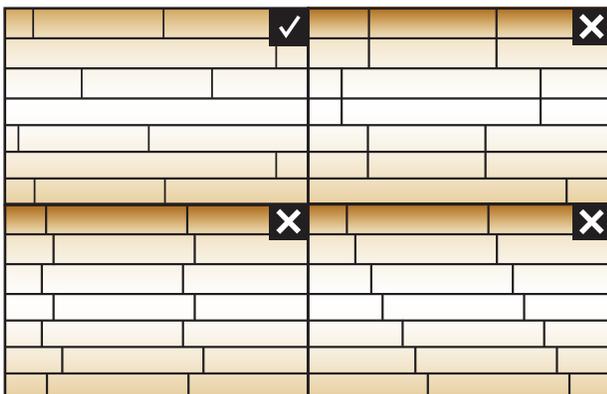


IMAGE 1





**SUPERIOR HARDWOOD FLOORING
BY HERWYNEN SAWMILL**

4936 7TH LINE
ROCKWOOD, ONTARIO, N0B 2K0

SUPERIORFLOORING.CA