



Plantation Hardwood Floors® Installation Guidelines follow published NWFA Guidelines, 2012 revision.
Additional installation notes:

Subfloor

- New slab needs a minimum of 90 days of drying time before installing subfloors or wood floors.
- Subfloors must be cleaned of all oils, waxes, dirt, existing adhesives or any other residue.
- Check moisture. Concrete calcium chloride test should be 3lbs per 1000 sq ft after 24 hrs and no greater than 5% on a hand held moisture meter.
- Plywood should be ¾" exterior grade, and not exceed 12% MC.
- Upon installation leave ¼" gaps between each panel and walls to allow for expansion.
- There should not be more than a 4% moisture content difference between the subfloor and the finished flooring for strip flooring, and 2% difference for wide plank flooring.
- Do not install flooring directly to light weight concrete.
- Do not install over vinyl/rubber tiles or sheeting. They must be removed, and the subfloor must be cleaned before installing.
- When installing directly to concrete (engineered or parquet only), a moisture barrier is required (see NWFA vapor barrier guidelines).

Installation

- Acclimate flooring for at least five days within the installation space, until stable MC between subfloor and flooring is achieved. Flooring shall be acclimated with HVAC operational and living space closed-in. To avoid excessive interior humidity, so-called "wet" trades (painting, plastering, etc.) should be completed before wood flooring installation.
- For glue-down applications, use a urethane-based adhesive only (Bostik's Best recommended). Use the glue manufacturer's recommendations for trowel size, coverage, and spread time. Be sure to spread glue evenly to insure proper and uniform bond. Clean up glue on exposed areas before it cures. Use glue manufacturer's recommended cleaner.
- Create a straight, starting work line. Exterior walls usually provide a suitable work line. Once a work line is established, lay the first row the entire length of the work line. Lay one row at a time to insure tight joints. Stagger joints to avoid creating a repeat pattern. Leave minimum 3/8" gaps around perimeter to allow for expansion.
- For nail-down only applications: use a pneumatic power nailer or stapler, using 1 ½" – 2" nails. Insure that nailer is adjusted to avoid damage to the tongue on the flooring.
- Use vapor barrier compliant with NWFA Guidelines for perm rate. Overlap edges min 4" and secure to subfloor.
- Covered areas should remain covered until installation is complete and glue is fully cured (see glue manufacturer's cure time).