

Legante Hardwood Flooring

Hardwood Flooring Installation Instructions

PLEASE READ BEFORE INSTALLATION

INSTALLATION WARNING:

Legante Hardwood Flooring MUST be installed according to the National Wood Flooring Association's (NWFA) installation guidelines for the Limited Warranties to be valid. The most current publication of the NWFA guidelines is available to all NWFA members and can be found at www.nwfa.org or by calling them at (800) 422-4556. Installation conditions including subfloor, temperature, humidity and sun exposure will affect this product's performance over time. Installation outside of the NWFA recommended ranges of 30% to 50% relative humidity and a normal living temperature range of 60°F to 80°F or over a wet subfloor will likely cause movement in the flooring; including potential shrinkage, edge-raising, gapping between pieces, cupping and possibly face-checking. It is the responsibility of the owner and installer to determine whether their site conditions and the flooring is appropriate before installation begins.

Installer's /Owner's Responsibility

As a natural product authentic hardwood contains inherent variations in color, grain, mineral deposits, knots and other visual imperfections. Legante Hardwood Flooring is manufactured in accordance with the industry standard which permits 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 5% cutting or grading allowance be added to the total square footage when calculating the quantity of the flooring required.

It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all the flooring prior to installation. All pieces of flooring should be examined for quality of manufacture, finish, grade, character and color acceptance. If the product quality 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 owner.** Manufacturer is not responsible for issues arising from incorrect or improper site preparations, installation procedures or material with any visible defects once installed. The use of color coordinated putty, filler stick or similar products are acceptable during the installation and life of a genuine hardwood floor.

Site Preparation:

- The building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and secured.
- All concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting and other wet work is complete and has been allowed to cure and dry completely.
- Basements and crawlspaces are dry. Crawlspaces must have no standing water and have a vapor barrier installed and sufficient ventilation in accordance with local building codes or NWFA guidelines.
- Exterior surface drainage is directing water away from the house.
- Interior heat and humidity levels can be controlled and maintained at recommended levels for the duration of the acclimatization, installation and life of the product.
- Sub-floor is properly prepared and dry for installation.
-

Flooring Acclimation and Climate Control

- There is no one size fits all approach to acclimation as relative humidity varies in various parts of the country along with unique differences from jobsite to jobsite. **Proper acclimation of the flooring prior to installation is one of the most important considerations to achieve a successful installation.** Acclimation is not a function of a predetermined time, but is best left to a wood flooring professional familiar with the averages in your region, after carefully considering the site conditions, flooring materials and installation methods for that area. Improper acclimation can cause the floor to buckle and/or the boards to shrink, cup or crack after installation. Do not open packages during the acclimation period. Leave boxes sealed until ready to start installation and then open only as needed.

Subfloor Prep

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

All sub-floors must be clean, dry structurally sound and flat to within 1/8" in 8'. All subfloors should be tested for moisture content according to NWFA guidelines.

Plywood sub-floors must meet local building code requirements. 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 subfloor and the flooring boards must not exceed 4%.

Expansion Space

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

Note: In climates with extreme variations in humidity it may be necessary to leave a larger expansion space.

Nail or Staple Down Installation Guidelines:

PLEASE NOTE WHEN INSTALLING ½” ENGINEERED FLOORING, A MANUAL OR PNEUMATIC NAIL GUN OR PNEUMATIC STAPLE GUN DESIGNED FOR USE WITH ½” ENGINEERED FLOORING MUST BE USED. **Test a sample to determine the correct angle and pressure to not dimple the floor and be sure proper seating has occurred to reduce squeaking.** Fastener schedule is at least every 4” for staples or 6” using cleats per NWFA guidelines and 2” from each end joint. When utilizing the Nail or Staple installation method, some squeaking or crackling noises are inherent compared to a direct glue down method and are not a defect covered under warranty and should be expected. Environmental changes also effect this issue. To assist in minimizing this be sure the subfloor is structurally sound, flat, has little to no deflection, is swept clean and the angle and penetration of the fastener is carefully checked. **Glue Assist method of installation must be utilized.** Information available at www.nfwa.org.

- Make sure to properly test subfloor before installation following subfloor preparation instructions previously discussed.
- A suitable underlayment or 15 lb. felt paper moisture barrier should be applied to the plywood subfloor with 6” overlaps before installing the new wood floor per ASTM D-4869.
- Create a working line parallel to the starting wall, in multiples of our engineered plank width, to set up the baseline of installation.
- Install the first row of wood with the groove side towards the wall using top nails or adhesive as necessary to hold the first-row firm and in place. Adjust as necessary.
- Use adjustable pneumatic power hammer or nailing machine with 1 1/2” – 2” nails as is required and make sure nailing foot is appropriate to the nails / staples used. To avoid damage to the tongue be sure to adjust for proper pressure on the compressor.
- Add each additional row of flooring, watching the pattern repeat and offsetting or staggering the joints as desired. (Generally, joints should either match in a specific pattern or be staggered by no less than six inches).
- Finished areas should be covered with a breathable protective paper (NEVER PLASTIC) immediately after installation to prevent damage. Do not tape protective paper to the finished surface of the wood for extended periods of time. ONLY use 3M Blue Tape for Delicate Surfaces (or equal) and only for the recommended time period.

Glue-down Installation Guidelines:

- Make sure to properly test subfloor before installation, following subfloor preparation instructions previously discussed.
- Apply a moisture barrier to slab. **DriTac** or equal is recommended.
- An adhesive such as **DriTac** Golden Bullet or Supreme Green are recommended.
- Read the glue manufacturer’s instructions (printed in detail on the glue container) to choose the correct size trowel.
- Create a working line parallel to the starting wall, in multiples of our engineered plank width, to set up the baseline of installation.

- Following the spread rate and curing time suggested by the glue manufacturer, spread glue evenly on the subfloor to cover an area appropriate to the number of planks that can be laid in time for best result of the glue.
- Lay one row of flooring planks along the entire length of the work line. Add each additional row of flooring, watching the pattern repeat and offsetting or staggering the joints as desired. (Generally, joints should either match in a specific pattern or be staggered by no less than six inches).
- A 1/2" expansion space should be left around the perimeter. Roll whole floor with a 150-lb. roller within 3-6 hours after installation.
- Finished areas should be covered with a breathable protective paper, NEVER PLASTIC, immediately after installation to prevent damage. Do not tape protective paper to the finished surface of the wood for extended periods of time. ONLY use 3M Blue Tape for Delicate Surfaces (or equal) and only for the recommended time period.
-

Floating Installation Guidelines:

- Make sure to properly test subfloor before installation. (Please follow manufacturer's subfloor preparation instructions).
- If needed apply a moisture barrier to slab. **DriTac** or an equal moisture barrier is recommended.
- After the moisture barrier has cured and dried apply a floating floor poly-foam underlayment, **Scuba Thermo Underlayment** is recommended. Please follow manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Floating a floor is generally a more difficult installation style to initiate as the boards will want to move. It is imperative that the first few rows be straight and gap free.
- Create a working line parallel to the starting wall, in multiples of our engineered plank width, to set up the baseline of installation. A bead of adhesive should be applied all along the TOP groove of each plank, any glue meeting European DIN EN 204 D3 standard is recommended.
- Lay one row of flooring planks along the entire length of the work line. Work with the tongue side outward. NEVER engage material by striking the groove edge, use a tapping block against the tongue or board puller to avoid edge damage while engaging plank. Add each additional row of flooring, watching the pattern repeat and offsetting or staggering the joints as desired. (Generally, joints should either match in a specific pattern or be staggered by no less than six inches).
- A minimum 1/2" expansion space should be left around the perimeter.
- Finished areas should be covered with a breathable protective paper (NEVER PLASTIC) immediately after installation to prevent damage. Do not tape protective paper to the finished surface of the wood for extended periods of time. ONLY use 3M Blue Tape for Delicate Surfaces (or equal) and only for the recommended time period.

Disclaimer: Upon completion of the floating installation of a random length engineered wood floor, the floors surface may not appear as continuously flat as compared to a traditional hardwood floor. Hollow sound and squeaking should be expected since the flooring is not secured to the subfloor by means of chemical fastening (gluing) or by mechanical fastening (staples, cleats or nails). Hollow sound is NOT a defect caused by manufacturing, but is the result of this installation method and is never covered by the warranty. Discuss the Pros and Cons of this type of installation with your installer and choose accordingly.