

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Important note; the project should be installed by a professional flooring contractor or highly skilled tradesperson. The installation process and method selected is the responsibility of the contractor and you must be satisfied that the contractor is qualified to carry out your site installation.

Please also ensure that the installation does not occur during extreme weather conditions or in rooms that are unlikely to have uncovered window or door openings for any lengthy period of time. Should you have any concerns either contact your retailer for advice. A thorough understanding and inspection of the specific site conditions needs to be undertaken by the installer prior to commencing work. Site specific circumstances such as proximity to water, river systems, coastal regions along with other climatic extremes may require more complex installations methods and maintenance. If applicable, under floor inspections should be carried out before installation.

Please note: Elk Falls Hickory Flooring is suitable for Hydronic Under-Floor in-slab heating only. No other type of floor heating will be covered by our warranty provisions. Floor performance remains at owner's risk if you proceed.

LAYING INSTRUCTIONS: CLICK INSTALL FLOATING

Please read the following instructions thoroughly and carefully before laying the floor:

- **The product is designed to be installed floating without glue. The click system allows the plank to be joined without the need for adhesive or nailing fixing to the sub-floor accept in certain circumstances, (see notes).**
- The bundles of planks must be stored in a cool, shaded and protected dry place (ambient temperature of 18 – 25 Degrees Celsius). Never open the packs until the day of installation as to avoid moisture pickup of the parquet.
- During winter months bundles in their original unopened packaging should be acclimatised to the room temperature for at least 48 hours.
- **Each plank should be carefully checked prior to installation: never install any damaged planks.** Do alignment inspections as you continue the installation.
- To better blend and balance the natural batch variation the installer should always work from several open cartons of product to create a balanced and natural visual for your new installation. Planning the install areas is a critical part of the project.
- **The surface-temperature of the sub-floor at the time of installation should be at least 15°C but never exceed 27°C. For optimum performance the ideal relative humidity should be 45% to 55 % but never below 30% or consistently exceeding 60%.**
- The sub-floor should be dry, clean, and free of any cracks. Irregularities on the sub-floor should not exceed 3 mm in every 3 meters, in all directions.
- In case there is a need to level concrete sub-floor, a cement-based floor-filler should be used and allowed to dry.
- A recognised acoustic underlay with a minimum thickness of, 2 or 3 mm incorporating a PE Moisture barrier or similar must be used on the flooring to reduce sound transmission and to reduce moisture ingress. This should be placed over a dry, flat substrate, with joints neatly taped. Joining between the plastic sheets should have sufficient overlap and /or tight joints to avoid leakage of vapour from underneath. Recommended overlap should be at least 20cm.
- **If you are using an alternate acoustic underlay that does not incorporate a Moisture Film** an age resistant polyethylene membrane plastic sheets (0.2mm thickness) for vapour barrier is required and necessary for a floating-system installation.
- The Underlay / Moisture Film should be kicked up the skirting boards on perimeter walls.
- Ensure that the sub floor is thoroughly cleaned to avoid mould growth. Should the RH of the sub-floor be above 95%, no flooring should be installed. **This is strictly prohibited.**
- An allowance of at least 12 -15 mm on each edge / perimeter should be provided to accommodate floor expansion. Please allow for expansion around heating tube outlets, connection with tiles and any fixed items where the floor is installed. Room to room expansion at doorways is recommended.
- Use spacing-wedges during the installation to assist in maintaining the correct expansions gaps.
- Bigger rooms (e.g. halls; assembly-room; dancing-floors) will definitely need bigger allowance for expansion join. We highly recommend an expansion join within an appropriate section of the room. As a general guide room widths greater than 6-8 m will require increased expansion provisions. Length runs over 10 m will require increased expansion provisions.
- **If the client objects to these inclusions we recommend the installer keep a record that the client did not wish to include expansion trims. Wherever possible each room should be treated as a separate install, this will assist in reducing floor movement.**
- The widely used formula to calculate the expansion (for floating-system) across the width of the installed floor is 1.5 - 2 mm expansion for every 1 meter of floor width.
- **Do not install Kitchen Island Benches or similar on top of a floating floor installation. The floor needs to be cut in around the bench or under fascia so the floor can move freely as intended. Scotia or similar maybe required do not caulk gap as it will restrict movement.**

ELK FALLS

HARDWOOD

GENUINE APPALACHIAN HICKORY

- We recommend that all flooring be installed lengthwise against the longest wall of the room, starting from the corner furthest from the entrance. This will enhance the visual appearance of the room and will enable the installer to work professionally in the workspace whilst the floor is being installed.
- Note; the plank in the last row must not be less than 500 mm. Therefore measure and plan the floor before installation begins to calculate the first and last plank set out.
- **REMEMBER: Check your floor continuously** during installation. Installed defective boards can be easily replaced. No claims will be entertained for any surface or plank defects after installation. **If in doubt leave it out ...or cut it out!**
- **When installing the floor through several adjoining-rooms, expansion-joints must be provided at every doorway to allow for normal expansion and contraction.**
- When using the floating-system installation in a corridors and hallways, length-wise installation is required.
- When a floating-method of installation is employed, skirting-boards should be installed by screwing / fixing them directly to the adjacent wall, never fix them onto the floor-boards. This is to allow the floor to move freely without restrictions from skirting or door jambs etc.
- Your prefinished floor is ready to walk on immediately after installation. If the floor requires cleaning immediately after installation please make sure cleaning and maintenance is done as per the instructions detailed below. Any cleaning should be done using a damp-dry mop, **never use a wet mop/ cloth or stem mop to clean the floor. Excessive moisture will damage your timber floor.**
- Claims regarding visible defective floor planks must be made prior to installation. Each plank should be inspected to ensure that the quality is acceptable. No claims relating to surface defects can be accepted after installation.

DIAGRAMS FOR FLOATING CLICK INSTALATION

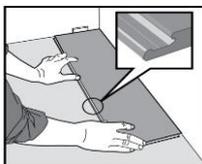


Fig 1. First plank, first row.
Place a spacer of 12-15 mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances \approx 15 mm.

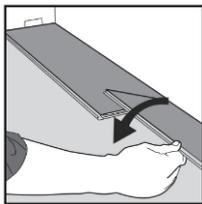


Fig 3. Fold the panel down in a single action movement. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other. Afterwards press down or slightly tap down at the short end just installed till it clicks. No major force is required.

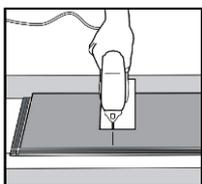


Fig 5. Cut with a jig saw – hardwood face turned down to eliminate/reduce damage to the face panel. Or if cutting using a hand saw, cut it with the hardwood visible face up. Then install it as previous plank.

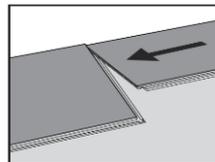


Fig 2. Second plank, first row place this plank gently and tight to the short end of the first one.

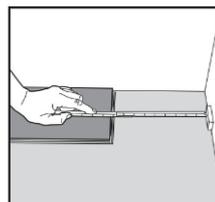


Fig 4. At the end of the first row, put a spacer \approx 15 mm, to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.

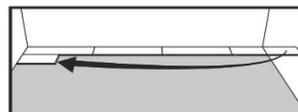


Fig 6. Starting the Second row First plank should be a min length of 500 mm. Put a 15mm spacer against the wall and measure the last piece. If it is shorter than 500mm a new starter piece should be used. Insert the plank at an angle into the previous row and tap (on the long side) it in using a tapping block till flat.

ELK FALLS

HARDWOOD

GENUINE APPALACHIAN HICKORY

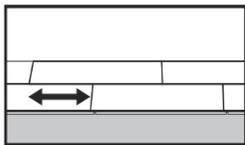


Fig 7. General distances between short ends. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 500 mm. This improves the stability of the floor.

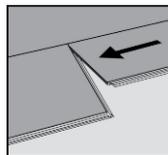


Fig 8a Second plank, second row place the panel at an angle into the groove of the previous row making sure that the end of the panel is tight/flush to the short end of the previous panel.

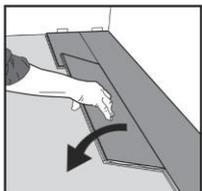


Fig 8b Fold the panel down in a single action movement with a slight press to the left to the short end of the previous panel. Again using the tapping block tap it against the long end into the previous row. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other.



Figs 8c As it flattens itself to the floor press or gently tap the top of the short end of the installed panel until it clicks. Finish installing this plank by tapping it with a tapping block on the long side to ensure secure installation.

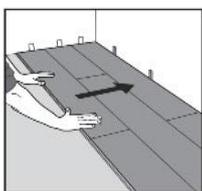


Fig 9. After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacer's \approx 15 mm. Once the adjustment is done against the main wall, continue to install till the last row.

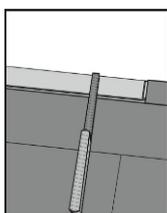
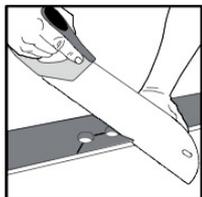
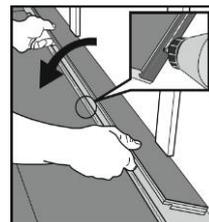


Fig 10. Last row (and perhaps also first row). The Minimum width of the last plank should be NOT LESS than 50 mm. Remember distance to wall is 15 mm. Tip! Put a spacer before measuring Cut the panels lengthwise and glue the short ends. See instructions below.

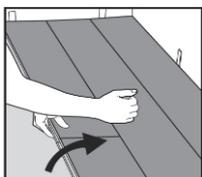


Special Notes installations - Small panel widths.

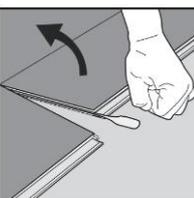
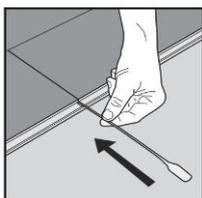
Joining at short ends length cut panels. Cut the tongue at the same time you cut the length of the panel and install as shown above. Please note that the smallest width of a panel is 50 mm at the last row. If it is not, the first row width must be adjusted. This can easily be calculated when measuring the room with before installation. Cut off the locking element with a chisel, push the planks horizontally together. If necessary, place some spacers between the last panel and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the glue.



Radiator pipes, installation at radiators. Drill the holes 20 mm larger than the diameter of the pipes. Cut out the panel (with the thinnest blade possible) as per diagram. Install the plank as per normal. Glue the cut out piece back again.



Disassembling (without tool). Your floor can very easy be disassembled, which enables replacement during installation and also during use. **Fig 11.** Separate the whole row by carefully lifting up and slightly knocking just above the joint. Fold up and release the whole long side. **Fig 12.** Disassemble the panels by sliding horizontally. (Do not fold up!)



Disassembling (with tool)

Fig 13. Place a special Válinge Release Tool into the joint.

Fig 14. Keep the left plank down to the floor and release the right plank - fold it up.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS:

It is important to note that regular care and maintenance responsibilities are required to better preserve the surface and its coating. If you follow these general cleaning and required maintenance guidelines your new floor will perform as intended for many years to come.

- Please ensure that an ideal room-climate with about 45-60% Air Humidity and 21°C is provided. This indoor climate is good for both your health and for the overall performance of the floor.
- Daily cleaning should be done with a vacuum cleaner, static mop or a smooth floor-broom. Any sand or dirt should be immediately removed because they can cause scratches and damage the floor surface. Please ensure no metal screws or sharp edges are evident on the vacuum head.
- Whenever necessary, the floor surface can be cleaned with a well-rung damp-dry mop. Do not use conventional household cleaning solutions as they will generally be abrasive and damage the surface coating. **Never use the traditional wax or steel-wool on your pre-finished floor.** PH neutral cleaning solutions are required. Bona Floor Care provides an excellent range of cleaning products to help maintain your floor throughout its lifecycle, please observe and follow manufacturer's instructions.
- **It is vitally important that you affix felt strips or suitable protection under any furniture-bases, chair-legs and commonly movable objects. At entry points and for high traffic areas the use of floor mats to remove entry grit and dirt is recommended and will be very useful to help preserve your floor surface coating.**
- Additional surface coatings are not required for your pre-finished floor. Once installed its ready to walk on.
- Natural timber is also affected by UV light and therefore will change colour when exposed for long durations. Floor coverings such as rugs and mats should not be placed immediately after installation. The floor should be allowed to stabilise for about 6- 8weeks.
- Window coverings and or Roller Sun Blinds are required to protect your floor from external heat and UV damage.
- In case of any damage on the lacquer-surface (e.g. by furniture movement etc.), acquire advice and assistance from a qualified installer or specialist retailer that is knowledgeable about timber flooring products.
- Remember, the warranty will not cover repairs undertaken without the distributor's agreement.

Your Elk Falls Hickory Timber Floor is a living material that will expand and contract in shape if moisture or humidity is raised. It may also shrink if moisture or humidity becomes very low. As a natural product damage from these circumstances may lead to irreversible deformation of the floor if the room climate and humidity is left too high or too low for an extended period of time. In winter months for example if the humidity (RH) in a heated room goes below the specified 45 % the floor may be subjected to conditions that may result in plank changes. In this case you should install an air humidifier to prevent damages to your floor. The same may also be necessary with air conditioned rooms.

Disclaimer: Preference Floors has used its reasonable endeavors to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained herein and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be liable for any inaccuracies, omissions or errors in this information nor for any actions taken in reliance on this information. Products must be installed in accordance with relevant installation recommendations and industry best practices.

© Homemirus Pty Ltd trading as Preference Floors. Head Office 02 97381188. www.preferencefloors.com.au

"The preferred choice"

Homemirus Pty Ltd trading as