

# INSTALLATION GUIDE

## HARDWOOD FLOORS ENGINEERING UNFIXED CLICK

### Introduction

Please read all instructions before beginning installation of the floor. Improper installation may void the warranty.

### Product Specifications

American Wide Plank Flooring laminated flooring can be installed click on the first floor, ground floor or in the basement. Their composition can be installed on a subfloor of wood concrete, or over a subfloor provided with a radiant heat system. Floors click American Wide Plank Flooring can also be installed on an existing floor covering such as linoleum [linoleum], asphalt tile, vinyl asbestos, vinyl, rubber, marble or ceramic as long as these materials meet the requirements and recommendations in this guide. Click the floors **should never be** installed on a carpet or other surface of resilient flooring.

Installation requires no set at all times the recommended waterproof acoustic membrane.

### Responsibility of the installer and the owner

Before installation, the installer and the owner must ensure that the environment work and subfloors meet or exceed the minimum requirements specified in this installation guide.

The industry provides a margin of error of 5% for natural imperfections and manufacturing defects. Before installation, the installer and the owner must make final inspection of the grade, the color, quality manufacturing and finishing wood blades for ensure that the flooring to install complies with the product purchased. Every floor blade installed will be considered accepted by the installer and the owner, that the latter is present or not at the time of installation. When control the amount of hardwood required for a floor, it should be added surplus to offset losses from the cuts.

## Elements of Prevention

For information on maintaining the floor, see the Residential Care on the website [www.americanwideplankflooring.ca](http://www.americanwideplankflooring.ca)

## Tools

### Recommended Tools and Accessories

- Vacuum or broom
- Scraper
- Levelling bar Membrane recommended
- Waterproof Tape
- Bumpers
- Mitre
- Handsaw
- Hammer
- Square 16 "x 24"
- Tape Measure
- Chalk "chalk line"
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- Level
- Leveling compound [if needed]
- Sandpaper 20 [if needed]
- wood moisturemeter [concrete and if necessary]

## Preventive

### Expansion space required

The wood needs some room to expand and contract during variations of moisture. The floor must be attached to any surface or at any point. An expansion space of at least 1/2 "[13 mm must also be provided for all fixed elements of the room [walls, moldings, columns, pipes, steel door frames, heavy objects, etc.]. Use bumpers on each wall to ensure adequate expansion space. When a part exceeds the dimensions using a T-molding for extra storage required for the expansion joint. In areas of irregular shapes [L-forms, F, G or T], using a T-molding for intersections.

## Preparation

### Handling and seasoning

Don't forget as installation a hardwood floor finish requires a little more time and care in handling the unvarnished floors. Manipulate boards with care to avoid damaging components, and the surface finish.

**Acclimatization:** Store in sealed wooden boxes in the room where the floor will be installed at least 24 hours before installation. This period will allow the wood to acclimate to recommended indoor environmental conditions.

## Preparation of the Site

### Environment

- Installation of hardwood floors should be the last step of a construction or renovation.
- The heating system must be functional and the room temperature must be maintained at  $\pm 22^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $\pm 72^{\circ}\text{F}$ ] for a week.
- The subfloor must be dry and basement well ventilated to avoid damage caused by a source of moisture.
- When installed in the basement, make sure that all parts or objects adjacent ground [walls, subfloor, pipes, etc.] are tight.
- **Keep the relative humidity to  $\pm 45\%$  [40 to 60%].**
- **Conditions relating to the radiant heating system:**
- The system must have been tested and in operation for a few weeks before installing the floor.
- The temperature of the wood surface must never exceed  $27^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $80^{\circ}\text{F}$ ].
- If the pipes are visible or exposed to the floor, you must cover plywood with a  $3/8$ " [10mm] to distribute the heat evenly.

## Procedure

### Subfloor wood:

Using a moisture meter for wood, available from your authorized dealer. Make sure **the moisture content of wood subfloor does not exceed 9%** and that it not differ by more than 2% of that of the floor which will be installed. If the humidity is too high, find the source and correct it if necessary, delaying the installation of the floor and raise the heating and ventilation. Otherwise install a membrane vapor barrier.

## Subfloor **of concrete**

: The concrete subfloor must be cured for a minimum 30 days, but preferably between 45 and 90 days. Using a tester moisture to concrete, check for presence of moisture. If so, the calcium chloride test must be made. **The moisture content of concrete subfloor must not exceed 7 lbs 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours.** Never install a hardwood floor if chloride test calcium demonstrates a moisture content of more than 7 lb per 1 000 ft<sup>2</sup> per 24 hours. If the slab concrete is directly located on the ground, be sure that the slab is completely sealed against any form of moisture and must be isolated.

**Note: The installer and the owner has full responsibility to verify the rate moisture and sealing the subfloor and make sure it is and remains in recommended limits.**

## Subfloor

- The subfloor must be made of plywood with a minimum of 5/8 "[16 mm] thick, or particle board "OSB" approved 3/4 "[19 mm].
- **Structural condition:** Screw the subfloor to the joists to prevent movements and crackle. Replace the existing floor or subfloor that could have been damaged by water or have structural weaknesses. The concrete must be in good structural condition.
- **In level:** The surface must be flat. The maximum tolerance is 3/32 "[2 mm] of change 7 '[2 m]. If applicable, sand elevations with sandpaper or 20 uneven spots with leveling compound.
- **Dry:** The moisture of the subfloor must be within the recommended limits.
- **Clean:** The subfloor must be completely swept, smooth and free of debris, staples, visible nails, old adhesives or other dried products.

### Preparation:

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- Prepare sketch of the installation to avoid unpleasant surprises.
- Determine the wall or starting point.
- Determine which direction the planks will be installed.
- The planks of the last row must have a minimum width of 1-1/2 " [38 mm] to fix them properly. If the width of the last row was be less than 1-1/2 "[38 mm], you must reduce the first row so that it and the last row meet this minimum requirement.
- Remove baseboards, door sills and the old floor covering if necessary.
- Using a hand saw, remove the necessary space at the bottom of door frames, which will insert the planks under the bumpers.
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### Installation

#### Tips

Very important to start straight and square. Using a chalk, draw a guide line parallel to the starting wall. This line must be perpendicular to the adjacent wall. Let the planks in their original packaging until you are ready to use.

To optimize the visual appearance, use multiple boxes at once and mix planks to ensure a variation of colors, shades and lengths.

From the start, select planks that blend best with the moldings transition that will be installed.

Never force the insertion of a plank. Loosen or remove anything that might obstruct the insertion of the tab.

## Procedure

1. Cover the entire surface of the subfloor as well as the base of the walls [about 2 "(51 mm)] with the membrane recommended. Lay the strips of the membrane in the opposite planks to be installed without overlapping. The recommended membrane includes an adhesive flap. Use the waterproof tape to attach strips on the short side. [You should consult the documentation that accompanies the membrane in order to follow its recommended installation method.]

2. Begin in the left corner of the room by placing the first plank, next to the groove facing you. Let a space between the wall and sides of the board.

This space will be covered by a molding that is attached to the wall and not the floor.

3. Install the next board in towards the right. Place the tab vertically end in the end groove of the first board. Continue the same way until you have to rip the last board to complete the first row.

4. The board selected to complete the first row should have a length sufficient to start the second row with the tip, so that remaining minimize losses caused by the cut. Provide an expansion space so that the floor is able to expand in all directions.

5. Begin the second row with the remaining end of the board which should have at least 6 "[150 mm] longer or shorter than the board used in the first row.

6. The offset of end joints of one row to another must be at least 6 "[150 mm]. Avoid the effect of alignment or too regular joints.

7. Insert the tab side of the board in the groove of the board of the first row at an angle of 45 °. Align the left end, remove the board and apply a slight pressure to lock the restraint system. Install the rows subsequent in the same way.

8. Since it is still possible to move the floor after installation of the third

row, it is recommended to measure and correct the alignment with the bumpers if takes place.

9. The planks of the last row must be a minimum of 1-1/2 "[38 mm] width remembering to leave space for expansion required.

10. If an obstacle prevents the last board, cut the lock system retaining groove with a chisel.
11. Apply wood glue to the groove and insert the final board.

### Finishing the installation

If the case is applicable, install transition moldings, stair nosings and reducers.

Remove the bumpers.

Reinstall the moldings, quarter rounds, through the membrane. - -

Nailing to walls and not to floor [to allow free floor movement].

Cut the membrane that exceeds the moldings.

### Maintenance

- Set a few planks of the floor box in reserve for possible repairs.
- The installation is completed, vacuum floor thoroughly. Follow the maintenance guide American Wide Plank Flooring.