reclaimed heart pine

reclaimed heart pine Installation Instructions

product use

Your new Pre-finished Antique Heart Pine engineered plank flooring can be installed Above-Grade, On-Grade or Below-Grade. It may be glued down over a plywood or concrete sub-floor. It also may be simply nailed or stapled down over a plywood floor, using specially designed hardwood floor nailers.

pre-installation warranty: important, please read!

It is the duty of the installer, whether professional or DIY (do it yourself), to inspect all flooring before installation. If the installer or buyer feels the flooring is the wrong color, improperly manufactured, has finish problems, is off-grade or is the wrong gloss level, do NOT install the flooring. Please immediately contact the retailer from which the flooring was purchased. No claim will be accepted for flooring which is visibly wrong if such flooring is installed. Installed flooring is deemed to be visibly acceptable. Since wood is a product of nature, not plastic, standard industry practice allows for up to 5% of flooring shipped to have milling, handling, finish and/or grade defects. This warranty applies only to material that is in excess of this 5%. We will replace or refund the purchase price of material deemed to be defective in excess of this 5%. PLEASE NOTE: It is the duty of the installer/home owner to judge the suitability of any piece for placement in an obvious area of the room. If you feel a piece is not suitable, either do not install it or install it in an inconspicuous place.

jobsite requirements

All work involving water or moisture should be completed before installing hardwood flooring. For any new construction or remodeling project, hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed. The jobsite should be monitored for consistent, normal room temperature of 60-70 F (16 – 22 C) and relative humidity of 35-55% for at least one week before installation. This engineered flooring should be kept in the shrink wrapped boxes until immediately before installation. Do NOT remove from packaging and acclimate like solid hardwood floors! This can make the flooring very difficult to install, as tolerances between the tongue and groove are so exact. Do not install in areas subject to moisture, such as bathrooms or laundry rooms. Although this engineered plank flooring can be glued directly to concrete, do not use a concrete sealer nor install over one. The concrete must be high compressive strength. All concrete sub-floors should be tested for moisture content. Visual checks are not reliable. Acceptable test methods for sub-floor moisture content include:

Calcium Chloride test. The maximum moisture transfer must not exceed 3lbs. /1000 Square feet with this test.

Tramex concrete moisture encounter meter. Moisture reading should not exceed 4.5 on the upper scale.

A "DRY" SLAB, AS DEFINED BY THESE TESTS CAN BE WET AT OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR. THESE TESTS DO NOT GUARANTEE A DRY SLAB.

installation instructions:

all sub-floors must be level and clean.

The maximum tolerance is 3/16" per 10'. If necessary, level down any irregularities using #20 grit paper and fill any uneven spots with leveling compound. Remove all paint, wax, oil, plaster, "sheetrock mud", and previous or existing glues and adhesives. Grind concrete with #3 1/2 grit sandpaper if needed then sweep or vacuum thoroughly.

wood sub-floor must be:

Dry and well secured with a moisture content under 12%.
Nailed down or screwed down every 6 inches along the joist to avoid squeaking.
Leave 1/8" gap around perimeter.
Leveled by sanding down high spots and filling in low spots with an underlayment patch as necessary.

Concrete subfloor must be:

Fully cured for at least 60 days.
Installed properly with minimum 6-mil Polyfilm between concrete and ground.
Dry all year round. Do not install over concrete if you are not sure it will remain dry.
Tested for moisture by using moisture meter.

Sheet vinyl must be:

Well bonded to the floor.
In good condition.
Clean and level, no debris.
Do not install over vinyl tiles.

Preparing for installation:

Undercut or notch-out door casings to fit flooring underneath by placing a piece of flooring on the sub-floor as a height guide for sawing. Remove door thresholds and base moldings and replace after flooring installation. Always leave at least ½" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects. Use a hammer and tapping block and tap against the tongue to pull planks together. Never tap against the groove of the plank. When near a wall, use a crow or pull bar to close end joints. Be careful not to damage flooring edge.

All ecofinishes® engineered reclaimed heart pine plank flooring is milled to very exacting standards, so pieces that do not go together easily usually have debris in a groove, the tongue and/or groove has been damaged, or the board is a little bowed and you just need to flatten it out, rather than forcing pieces together.

starting installation:

For aesthetical purposes, wood flooring is often laid to the longest wall. However, owner upon the advice of the professional installer should make the final decision which direction the planks will run. Most professional installers will begin installation next to an outside wall, which is usually the straightest wall and used as a reference point in establishing a straight working line. A good way to establish a working line is to measure an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snap a chalk line. Measure distance from the wall at the width of the plank plus another ½" for expansion space for establishing your working line. It is advisable to dry lay a few rows before actually using glue to confirm your directional layout decision and working line. Adjustment of the working line may be necessary if the outside wall or other working line reference is out of square. This can be done by scribe cutting the first row of planks to match the wall and creating a straight working line.

glue down installation:

For glue down installation we recommend:

- Bostik's Best or BST adhesives
- Franklin 811
- Capitol Woody 600
- Stauf Ultra-Mastic PUM-950

Use the trowel recommended by the adhesive manufacturer, since tooth size is important for best adherence to the sub-floor. Usually this is 1/4" x 1/8". Always allow for adequate cross ventilation when working with flooring adhesive. Follow adhesive instruction regarding proper set time before affixing wood floor planks. With a towel at a 45-degree angle, spread as much adhesive as can be covered by flooring in one hour or as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer's instructions. Start at the outside wall. Once adhesive has set per instructions, lay the first row of flooring with the groove facing the wall. Continue laying flooring until adhesive is covered with flooring. Remember to always check the alignment with the working line, being careful not to move the installed floor on the wet adhesive. Use a tapping block to fit the planks together. When the first section is completed, continue by repeating process section by section until installation is complete. Immediately remove any adhesive that gets on the flooring surface by using a damp cloth or manufacturer's adhesive remover. Don't forget to stagger joints. When required use weights to hold the flooring planks on the perimeter until adhesive cures enough.

Finishing the Job:

Remove expansion spacers. Reinstall base and/or quarter round moldings to cover the expansion space. Install transitions pieces such as reducer strips and T-moldings as needed. Do not allow any foot traffic or heavy furniture for at least 24 hours.

Clean and remove all dirt and debris on floor by dust mopping or vacuuming. Follow floor care and maintenance guide to ensure longevity and lasting beauty of your new Engineered Plank Floor.

staple or nail down installation:

Tools & Materials: Power saw, hammer, chalk line and tool listed below
Staple Gun: Stanley Mark 3
Staples: Grecian: 1 1/4" staples, Patrician and Milano Series: 1 1/2" staples

Acceptable sub-floors are the following:

5/8" minimum thickness, preferred 3/4" or thicker exterior plywood installed with long edges at right angle to floor joists and staggered so that end joints in adjacent panels break over different joists.
1" x 4" to 6" wide, square edged, kiln dried coniferous lumber, laid diagonally over 16"on center wooden joists. The ends of all boards are to be cut parallel to the center of the joists for solid bearing.
3/4 inch minimum O.S.B. on 19.2 inch center floor joists system properly nailed.

New wood type sub-floors should be checked for moisture using a moisture meter. In general wood or plywood sub-floors should not exceed 14% moisture content, or 4% moisture content difference between hardwood flooring and sub-floor. Adequate and proper nailing as well as soundness of the sub-floor should be ascertained. Foreign material shall be removed from the sub-floor surface and swept clean. The clean sub-floor should be covered, wall-to-wall, with 15-lb asphalt saturated felt. Lap edges of this felt 4" when positioning it. Double the felt around heat ducts in the floor. Basement and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated. Crawl spaces must have a vapor barrier below sub-floor on ground (6 or 8 mil. Poly)

General Installation Instructions (see NWFA for more details):

Flooring should be laid at right angles to the floor joists and, if possible, in the direction of the longest dimension of the room.
Flooring has a UV-cured factory finish. It is important to make sure that the nail gun face plate will not damage the surface finish. 3M Blue tape can be placed on the faceplate to prevent damage.

Starting to lay flooring: Begin laying plank flooring in a room corner with the long groove of the plank facing the wall. Provide expansion space of 1/2 inch between the floor planks and the adjacent wall.
End joints of plank: These should be staggered to achieve the best appearance in the finished floor. (minimum 6")

Nailing schedule for flooring: The first run should be face-nailed then counter sunk. All other runs to be nailed at an angle of 50° on 8" centers at the tongue, also nail within 2" of each end joint.

Important Notes:

Baseboards should be installed so that their lower edge is slightly above the level of the finished floor, but not nailed into the floor.
Before installing over radiant heat floors contact ecofinishes® to discuss suitability
Do not install any product with visible defects
To avoid movement in hardwood floor, relative humidity should be maintained year round at 35% - 55% Relative Humidity.
The use of color coordinated wood floor putty to cover small cracks and gaps is considered normal in hardwood flooring installations.
See ecofinishes® Maintenance Guide for more information regarding helpful tips on keeping your floor new for years to come.
Molding Tip: Before installation, match the closest board in color and grain to the adjoining molding profile color and grain. Save the board(s) and use next to the molding piece.

floating installation:

Underlayment Choices

Underlayment material discussed here is for a floating installation method and is different than structural underlayment required for subfloor stability and to eliminate deflection in the substrate. This underlayment is designed and required to provide a cushion between the subfloor and the flooring. This material can be a foam product, cork or wood and can include a barrier that can inhibit moisture in a below grade or a concrete slab application. It can also be designed to
decrease sound transfer from floor to floor. Your choice will depend on the application.

note:

While there is no such thing as a moisture barrier that can completely protect the flooring from subfloor moisture, SBP DOES recommend that you use an underlayment with a vapor barrier when installing the flooring below-grade for maximum protection.

important:

While the floating method offers some advantages, there are some things you should be aware of:

- The floor may have a hollow sound when walking on it.

- The wood rests on the subfloor with its own weight. This may cause the floor to have slight vertical movement when it is walked on.

- A damaged plank cannot be replaced as simply as in a staple/nail-down, or glue-down installation.

1. Install one sheet of underlayment along the starting wall. Unroll and lay only one sheet at a time during plank installation to prevent damaging the underlayment. If any part of the underlayment is punctured or damaged during installation, seal the area with duct tape.

NOTE: Once the first sheet of underlayment is covered with wood flooring, install the second sheet by butting the two edges together and sealing them together with tape supplied by the underlayment manufacturer or using duct tape along the entire seam.

2. Position 5/16" spacing wedges around the entire work area (put two wedges together, face to face, and place on edge against vertical surfaces). This will help prevent squeaking and rubbing against the walls due to the potential vertical movement of the floor.

3. DRY LAY FIRST TWO ROWS. Before starting to glue planks, dry-lay the entire first TWO rows on top of the underpayment. Begin in the upper right corner of the work area (when looking at the starter wall from the work area) and lay the planks with the groove side toward the starter wall. Place spacer wedges along the walls on both the ends and sides of all planks.

4. Mark the final plank and cut to length. An easy way to mark the last plank in a row is to place the plank in position with the tongue against the tongue of the previously laid plank and the end of the plank against the spacing wedge. Mark across the plank with a pencil and saw along this line. Place cut plank with cut end toward wall and pull into place with a pry bar.

5. Begin the next row being certain to rack the floor as described previously.

6. Now lay the remainder of the second row and tap into place with a tapping block.

NOTE: If any plank is shorter than 8" in length do not install it. Instead cut a new piece to measure at least 8" long.

7. After you cut and dry laid the first two rows cut the adhesive applicator nozzle at a 450 angle with a utility knife. DO NOT off any part of the cap locking ring around the nozzle.

note:

SBP recommends the use of Franklin Laminate Flooring Glue from Franklin International. This glue provides a superior bond at the tongue and groove. It is non-toxic and nonflammable, making it safe to use and environmentally friendly.

important:

In a floating floor installation, the flooring is NOT nailed or glued to the underlayment, but is glued in the plank's groove only. Apply Franklin Laminate Flooring Glue to the bottom of groove along the entire length and on the end of each plank. However, DO NOT completely fill the groove with adhesive.

extremely important:

The installation sequence is critical and provides stability to the first two rows. Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can ruin the entire installation. Closely follow the next several steps to achieve the proper gluing sequence for the first few rows of planks.

9. To start, glue the first plank in the second row to the first plank in the starter row, and so on.

10. Use a tapping block to tap glued planks together until no gaps are seen. Immediately wipe away any excess adhesive with a glue scraper or a clean damp cloth. CAUTION: Never use a hammer or mallet directly on the flooring.

11. Glue the next plank to the plank in the previous row. Apply adhesive only to grooves being attached together. Tap the planks together carefully with a tapping block. Remember to continually remove adhesive squeezed up between the joints with a glue scraper or a clean damp cloth.

12. Glue the next plank in the same row to the previously glued plank from the previous row. Apply adhesive to both the length and width edges of the plank.

note:

As stated earlier, it is extremely important to blend planks from several cartons to ensure a good balance of color and graining.

13. Continue to install the planks using this stair-stepping method. Simply install each subsequent plank accordingly

note:

Be sure to continue using 5/16" spacing wedges at all walls and obstructions throughout the installation.

warning:

DO NOT walk on newly installed flooring until the adhesive cures (Approximately 24 hours). Walking on planks before adhesive is cured can cause planks to move, causing gapping. It is also NOT advisable to use ANY type of tape on the top finish of the planks. Gapping of planks, do to movement and damage caused by the use of ANY tape on the finish are NOT warrantable defects.

14. The last row will most likely require cutting to width but it should be no less than 1 1/2" wide. To mark the width required, lay the plank on top of, and edge-to-edge with, the plank in the next-to-the-last row. Trace the wall contour on the last plank using a scrap piece of plank and cut as required.

15. Install cut planks and pull into place with a pry bar. Install spacing wedges between planks and wall. Allow the flooring to dry for a minimum of 12 hours before removing all spacing wedges and allowing foot traffic. IMPORTANT: Retain several leftover planks in case a repair is ever required.

cleanup

Clean any wet adhesive from the flooring as soon as possible with a damp cloth. If the adhesive has dried, use a small amount of mineral spirits on a clean cloth if necessary.

final inspection

After the floor has been cleaned, inspect the floor for nicks, scratches, gaps or planks that may have moved during installation, as well as any other imperfections that need attention. Touch up nicks and scratches with quality touch-up products. In typical climates, the new floor can accept foot traffic within 24 hours. In areas where additional curing time is required, more time may be needed.

floor protection during construction

If your flooring is installed during construction (we recommend that the flooring be installed after all construction is complete) ALWAYS protect the surface of the installed flooring during construction by laying a quality brown "kraft-type", rosin paper or other paper that will allow the floor to breathe, over the floor and taping it to the baseboards. NEVER use plastic or polyethylene sheeting to cover the floor since they will trap moisture that will damage the flooring.