



FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION

Note: These instructions are intended to provide a thorough description of the **floating** method of wood floor installation including details that may or may not pertain to your individual jobsite. In all cases, the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations prevail, although we have yet to discover a conflict. If you have any questions, you can email them to info@planethardwood.com, or call Planet Hardwood's home office in Vermont at 802-482-4404.

Do not open flooring packages until you are ready to begin installation. Make sure the moisture content of the room and the sub-floor is appropriate for a wood flooring installation. Please check your flooring to make sure the correct species, style, and quantity match your order, and the bill of lading. Check each piece of flooring for any manufacturing defects or factory damage **before installation**, and put aside for replacement. Only install flooring deemed acceptable. Once the flooring has been installed, it is deemed acceptable of anything visible or apparent. Flooring from Planet Hardwood is covered under a manufacturer's warranty, which depends on the proper use of materials and tools. Failure to follow installation instructions and recommendations will void the warranty coverage.

Perform jobsite and subfloor evaluation as described in **GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**, and correct any problems. Floating floor installation is appropriate over a wood, plywood, or concrete subfloor, and can be installed anywhere in the house and over radiant heat. Additional instructions apply for installation over radiant heat. Refer to **SUBFLOOR CONDITIONS RADIANT HEAT** in **GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**. Prepare subfloor for installation.

Along with your flooring and barrier-foam underlayment, you will need the following (for "click" floors, no glue or glue cleaner is required):

Glue	Pry or Pull Bar
Hammer	Chalk Line
Tape Measure	Pencil
Safety Glasses	Broom
Hand or electric saw	Softwood Tapping Block
Square	1/2" Expansion Shims
Utility Knife	Water and/or Mineral Spirits (to clean excess glue)

Carefully remove any horizontal trim like baseboards, doorway thresholds, or shoe moldings, as they can be re-used once the floor has been installed. Door casings and vertical trim that runs to the floor should be undercut to avoid difficult scribing. A piece of flooring can act as a saw guide. Thoroughly sweep and vacuum all debris from the subfloor.

Next, lay out the vapor barrier-foam underlayment covering the whole floor, and duct tape the joints. Do not overlap the joints.

Starter Row: If you have a wood or a plywood subfloor, flooring should be installed perpendicular to the direction of the floor joists. Start with the groove side of the flooring facing the wall on the left side of the room. Lay the first row "dry" to reveal any irregularities in the starting wall. If the starting wall is irregular, not straight, or out of square, scribe the first plank to match the variation. With a jigsaw, cut along the variation and "square up" the first row with the rest of the room. The first row of planks establishes the basis for building the rest of the floor, so it is very important that the first row is square and true. Allow for at least 1/2" expansion space (to be covered later with a baseboard or molding) between the edge of the

flooring and any fixed element in the room like walls, columns, islands, casework, etc. A temporary 1/2" shim between the floor and the wall will maintain the expansion space.

TIP: You may leave the baseboards in place and use an additional moulding to cover the 1/2" expansion space. Place the 1/2" shims against the baseboard instead of the wall and use a quarter-round or shoe moulding to conceal the expansion gap.

Once the first row is ready, snap a chalk line 1/2" from the starting wall. Set the first board up to the chalk line leaving 1/2" expansion space. Set 1/2" shims every 12" between the flooring and walls, and leave in place throughout installation to avoid movement of flooring during installation.

For Glue-Together Floating Floors: Apply a continuous 1/8" bead of floating floor glue to the top and bottom edge of the groove on the end of the next board and interlock with the first board. Check for a tight fit between boards and remove any excess glue immediately with a damp cloth. Continue the first row, cutting the last piece allowing for the 1/2" expansion space. Make sure shims are in place at each end of the installation, and along the starter wall. Usually you can start each new row with the cut-off end of the previous row. Try to make sure the ends of the flooring are staggered at least 8". Place a softwood "knocking block" against the tongue to gently tap the flooring in place, tight against adjacent pieces. Today's finishes are exceedingly hard and can actually shatter slightly if the flooring is driven together too aggressively. Never tap against the groove, as that may also damage the surface of the flooring.

For "Clic" Glueless Floating Floors: Clic-together floating floors are attached to the adjacent pieces by virtue of the shape of the profile instead of glue. Other than that, the installation is the same as for glue-together floating floors. The different "clic" profiles have individual recommendations but in most cases the long edge attaches to the previous row with a hinging motion close to the piece next to it, and the flooring board is tapped sideways to engage end to end.

Subsequent Rows: Lay the flooring row by row following these procedures:

Start with the cutoff board from the previous row, leaving 1/2" expansion space between the end of the flooring and the wall. Apply a continuous 1/8" bead of floating floor glue to the top corner of the edge groove and tap snug. Glue end and edge joint on next full board on the upper corner of the groove as described previously.

Place the board tight to the end joint only of the first board in the row (the cut-off), leaving a small space between the long edge of the new board and the previous row. Using the softwood block, gently tap the new board into place working towards the interlocked end joint from the opposite end. It is very difficult to adjust the end-joint once the long seam is set.

Make sure all seams are tight, and proceed with the next board.

At the end of each row, cut the excess length (leaving 1/2" expansion space), and use it for the beginning of the next row.

TIP:

Sometimes it becomes necessary to change the direction of the flooring starting from the groove side. On those occasions when the floor must be laid groove to groove, a spline that mimics the shape of the tongue must be glued into the groove of the secured flooring, converting a groove edge to a tongue edge. This will allow you to continue in this direction, tapping only the tongue side, using the installation procedures described previously.

Last Row: Usually, the last row does not allow a full width board. Scribe the last row to accommodate any irregularities in the wall, leaving the 1/2" expansion joint. Pull last row tight with a pullbar. If the wall is straight, an easy way to size the width of the last row is to lay a row of flooring unglued directly on top of the last installed row, facing the tongue towards the wall. Take a short piece of flooring, tongue side facing the wall, and place it face down on top of the unglued row, with the tongue against the wall. Draw a pencil line along the unglued row moving down the wall. The line will define the width of the last row.

TIP: Sometimes the dimension of the room and the width of the flooring result in a very narrow last row. You can adjust the last row width by ripping down the width of the first row. This is usually done if a full width first row, results in a last row that is less than 1" wide.

After Installation: Remove all expansion space shims, and apply standing and running trim to cover expansion spaces. Never attach trim to flooring.