



GLUEDOWN INSTALLATION

Note: These instructions are intended to provide a thorough description of the **gluedown** method of wood floor installation including details that may or may not pertain to your individual jobsite. 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 warrantee, which depends on the proper use of materials and tools. Failure to follow installation instructions and recommendations will void the warrantee coverage.

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

For GLUEDOWN installation, you will need the following tools:

Mastic	Pry or Pull Bar
Hammer	Chalk Line
Tape Measure	Pencil
Safety Glasses	Broom
Hand or electric saw	Notched Trowel
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.

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.

Starter Row: If you have a wood or a plywood subfloor, wood 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 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.

Once the first row is ready, snap a chalkline the distance from the starting wall equal to the width of the flooring plus 1/2". Planet Hardwood recommends Sika (P4 or P5 trowel), UZIN or equal. Follow manufacturer's instructions. Planet Hardwood does not recommend any adhesive with a high water content. Follow subfloor prep recommendations. Follow the specific directions of the mastic manufacturer, careful not to conceal the chalk line with the mastic. Set the tongue side of the first board up to the chalk line. This should leave 1/2" expansion space between the groove side and the starter wall. Set 1/2" shims every 12", and at least two per plank between the flooring and walls. Leave the shims in place throughout the installation to avoid movement of flooring during installation. Check for a tight fit between boards. 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.

OPTION: You can snap the line approximately two to three feet from the starter wall (a multiple of the flooring width(s) plus 1/2" expansion space) to allow yourself a "dry" area from which to lay the floor. The "dry" area then becomes the last area to be installed, requiring you to reverse direction. Flooring scribed to the starter wall then becomes the last row installed. If you choose to leave yourself a "dry" area, follow the same directions as above, except you can no longer depend on the shims against the starter wall to maintain the first row during installation. You will have to wait for the first row of flooring + or - 3' from the starter wall to adhere sufficiently so as to provide a solid reference line to build the rest of the floor.

Subsequent Rows: Start each new row with the cut-off end of the previous row, making sure ends of the flooring are staggered at least 1½ times the width to simulate a solid wood installation. Using a Last Board Puller, or a softwood "knocking block" and Rubber Mallet, gently tap the flooring in place tight against the adjacent pieces. Never tap directly against the groove, as that may damage the surface of the flooring. Lay the flooring row by row following these procedures: Start with the cutoff board from the previous row, leaving 1/2" expansion joint between flooring and the wall. 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 a Last Board Puller, or a softwood "knocking block" and Rubber Mallet, gently tap the new board into place working towards the interlocked end joint from the opposite end. 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. Apply adhesive in intervals as necessary with a trowel following specific directions of the adhesive manufacturer.

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 pry bar. 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 adjusting 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.