

Installation Instructions Dekora Engineered

Glue Down Only

Recommended Glues:

- Franklin 811 Advantage Urethane Wood Flooring Adhesive
- Bostic's Best Urethane Wood Flooring Adhesive
- SIKA – Sikabond T55 Urethane Wood Flooring Adhesive

Do NOT use water based adhesives as they will cause the floor to fail.

Recommended Cleaners:

- Bona Swedish Formula Hardwood Floor Cleaner + Refresher
- Adhesive Remover Recommended by Adhesive Manufacturer

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

Beautiful hardwood floors are a product of nature and therefore, not perfect. Our wood floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit grading errors not to exceed 5%. These grading errors may be of a manufacturing or natural type.

- The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of all flooring should be done before installation. Carefully examine flooring for colour, finish and quality before installing it. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately.
- Prior to installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the job-site environment and the sub-surfaces involved meet or exceed all applicable standards. Recommendations of the construction and materials industries as well as local codes must be followed. These instructions recommend that the construction and sub floor be dry, stiff and flat. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with sub-surface, sub flooring or job-site environmental deficiencies.
- Prior to installation, the installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with defects, whatever the cause.
- Use of stain, filler or putty stick for touch-up during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- When flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and grading allowance.
- Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece. PLEASE NOTE: height difference up to 8/100 of an inch per board at the time of installation is allowed, and is not considered a manufacturing defect.
- Use of appropriate products for correcting sub floor voids should be accepted as a normal industry practice.

TOOLS & ACCESSORIES NEEDED FOR INSTALLATION

- Broom • Trowel as per adhesive manufacturers recommendations (minimum ¼"ridging height) • 3M 2090 Blue Mask Tape • Tape Measure • Chalk Line & Chalk • Hammer • Hand Saw or Jamb Saw • Electric Power Saw • Moisture Meter (wood, concrete or both) • Recommended Hardwood Floor Cleaner • Recommended Urethane Wood Flooring Adhesive(s) • Adhesive Remover Recommended by Adhesive Manufacturer • Safety Glasses • Ear Plugs

PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES FOR JOB SITE INSPECTION

- The building should be closed in with all outside doors and windows in place. All concrete, masonry, framing members, drywall, paint and other "wet" work should be thoroughly dry. The wall coverings should be in place and the painting completed except for the final coat on the base molding. When possible, delay installation of base molding until flooring installation is complete. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated.
- Exterior grading should be complete with surface drainage offering a minimum drop of 3" in 10' to direct flow of water away from the structure. All gutters and downspouts should be in place.
- Dekora engineered wood flooring may be installed on or above grade level. Do not install in full bathrooms, below grade or on radiant heated sub-floors, unless concrete subfloor. See *Warranty section for more information regarding installation over radiant heat.*
- Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 24" (600 mm) from the ground to underside of joists. A ground cover of 6-8 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapour barrier with joints lapped six inches and taped. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
- Subfloor must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate testing method.
- Permanent air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operational. The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 60-75° F and humidity of 35-55% for 14 days prior, during and until occupied, to allow for proper acclimation.

STORAGE & HANDLING

Handle and unload with care. Store in a dry place being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under cartons which are stored upon "on-grade" concrete floors. Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors in place and until cement work, plastering and all other "wet" work is completed and dry. Concrete should be at least 60 days old. Dekora engineered wood flooring should be stored in the environment in which it is expected to perform. Air conditioning/heating systems should be in place and in operation at least 14 days prior, during and after installation of the flooring. Check adhesive label for storage limitations

INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS

- Recommended adhesive(s) and trowel per adhesive manufacturers recommendations, minimum ¼" ridging height

NOTE: DO NOT INSTALL WITH MECHANICAL FASTENERS.

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS MUST BE:

- CLEAN - Scrape, broom clean, and smooth. Free of wax, paint, oil, sealers, adhesives, curing agents and other debris.
- LEVEL/FLAT - Within 3/16" in 10' and/or 1/8" in 6'. Sand high areas or joints. If the floor is to be glued down, fill low areas (no more than 1/8" at a time) with a cementitious levelling compound or milk additive latex patch of 3,000-PSI minimum compressive strength. Follow the instructions of the levelling compound manufacturer. Ascertain that levelling compounds are completely cured and DRY before beginning installation.
- STRUCTURALLY SOUND - Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated sub flooring or underlayments. Avoid sub floors with excessive vertical movement.
- DRY - Check moisture content of the subfloor with the appropriate moisture meter.

RECOMMENDED SUBFLOOR SURFACES

- PREFERRED: 3/4" (19 mm) CDX grade plywood or • 3/4" chip, wafer board and particleboard 3/4" (23/32") OSB PS2 rated underlayment,
- Concrete slabs • Acoustic concrete
- Existing solid wood flooring • Ceramic, terrazzo, slate and marble
- Vinyl, resilient tile, cork flooring • Cork

CONCRETE SLABS

Dekora engineered wood flooring can be glued directly to high compressive strength concrete. All concrete subfloors should be tested for moisture content. Visual checks may not be reliable. Test several areas, especially near exterior and plumbing walls. Acceptable test methods for subfloor moisture content include:

- A 3% Phenolphthalein in Anhydrous alcohol solution. Chip the concrete at least 1/4" deep (do not apply directly to the concrete surface) and apply several drops of the solution to the chipped area. If any color change occurs, further testing is required.
- Calcium Chloride test. The maximum moisture transfer must not exceed 3 lbs/1000 square feet in 24 hours with this test.
- Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter meter. Moisture readings should not exceed 3.5 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. ALL CONCRETE SLABS SHOULD HAVE A MINIMUM OF 6 MIL POLY FILM MOISTURE BARRIER BETWEEN THE GROUND AND THE CONCRETE.

Moisture Barrier System: If moisture is present, inexpensive sheet vinyl or "slip-sheet" (PVC) may be installed. Use a premium grade, alkaline resistant adhesive and a full spread application system to properly bond the vinyl to the subfloor. Follow the sheet vinyl manufacturer instructions for installation procedures. A patch test may be required as an adhesion test. Install several small areas (3' x 3') and allow the vinyl to set for 72 hours. Remove the vinyl; if the backing remains attached to the concrete, the subfloor should be acceptable for sheet vinyl installation.

An alternative to sheet vinyl is to use the Franklin or Bostic Moisture Barrier Systems as they provide moisture warranties for you

ACOUSTIC CONCRETE

Acoustic concrete normally contains large quantities of gypsum that may inhibit the adhesive's capability to properly bond. Acoustic concrete must be primed with the concrete manufacturers recommended primer/surface hardener. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

WOOD SUBFLOORS & WOOD STRUCTURAL PANEL SUBFLOORS

Plywood: Must be APA grade rated sheathing or CDX minimum.

Oriented Strand Board (OSB): Must be PS2 rated installed sealed side down.

Particleboard: Must be a minimum 40-LB density, stamped underlayment grade and 3/4" thick.

Make sure existing floor or subfloor is dry and well nailed or screwed down every 6" along each joist to avoid squeaking or popping before the floor is installed. The wood subfloor must not exceed 10% moisture content.

Measure moisture content of both subfloor and wood flooring to determine proper moisture content with a reliable wood moisture meter. The difference between the moisture content of the wood subfloor and the wood flooring must not exceed 2%.

Optimum performance of hardwood floor covering products occurs when there is no horizontal or vertical movement of the sub floor. The MINIMUM sub floor recommendations described above are for 19.2" O/C joist spacing with minimum recommended spans. If the sub floor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete. Deflection may cause the floor to become loose creating a noisy floor or cause premature finish wear. Avoid installations over sub floors that do not meet this minimum criterion. As flooring manufacturers we are unable to evaluate each flooring system. Other spacing and spans as well as their engineering methods are the responsibility of the builder, engineer, architect or consumer who is better able to evaluate the expected result based on site related performance.

All underlayment panels should be spaced 1/8" apart to insure adequate expansion space or have the space cut around the perimeter using a circular saw. T&G panels normally have built in expansion; DO NOT cut around their perimeter. Do not install over nailed floors that exceed 3-1/4" that have not been overlaid with plywood. When installing over existing wood floors parallel with the flooring, it may be necessary to install an additional layer of plywood diagonal to the existing floor to stabilize the flooring or install the wood floor at right angles. Applicable standards and recommendations of the construction and materials industries must be met or exceeded.

RESILIENT TILE, RESILIENT SHEET VINYL & CORK FLOORING

Make sure the vinyl or tile is full spread adhesive and well bonded to the subfloor. If the tiles or sheet goods are well bonded, clean the surface thoroughly with a good quality household detergent and rinse completely. De-gloss flooring as necessary, to create a good adhesive bond using an abrasive pad. If vinyl appears to have a coating of wax or other maintenance materials it must be removed with the appropriate floor stripper and rinsed completely. Allow ample drying time. **(Note: Do not sand any resilient products for they may contain asbestos fibers, which may be harmful.)** Do not install over floors that exceed two layers. Cork floors must have all sealers and surface treatments removed before installation begins. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

CERAMIC, TERRAZZO, SLATE & MARBLE

All grout joints and broken corners that exceed 3/16" must be filled with a cementitious levelling compound mixed with Latex additive. The surface should be cleaned and abraded to create a good bonding surface for the adhesive. Loose tiles must be re-adhered to the sub floor or filled as above. Remove all sealers and surface treatments. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

CORK

Dekora engineered wood flooring can be glued directly over full-spread permanently bonded acoustic cork. The cork should have a density of no less than 11.4 lb./cubic foot and no more than 13 lb./cubic foot. The cork, in general, should be pure cork combined with a polyurethane binder. Make sure that the cork has a binding strength that is sufficient to hold hardwood floors. Install cork in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

GENERAL INSTALLATION TIPS

- Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good colour and shade mixture.
- Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards in adjacent rows at least 6" when possible. This will help ensure a more favourable overall appearance of the floor.

STEP 1: DOORWAY & WALL PREPARATION

Undercut door casings and jambs. Remove any existing base, shoe mold or doorway thresholds. These items can be replaced after installation. All door casings and jambs should be undercut to avoid difficult scribe cuts.

STEP 2: ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT

- Installation parallel to the longest wall is recommended for best visual effects, however, the floor should be installed perpendicular to the flooring joists unless sub floor has been reinforced to reduce sub floor sagging. Find appropriate sub floor from "Sub floor Type" section in this instruction manual.
- Add 5/8" to the width of the product being installed to allow for 1/2" expansion and the width of the tongue.
- When possible, always begin layout or installation from an outside wall, as these are normally the straightest.
- In at least two places 12"-16" from the corner, measure out equal

distance from the starting wall and snap a chalk line.

GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION

- Maximum adhesive working time is 60 minutes
- Open times and curing times of ALL adhesives vary dependent upon sub floor porosity, air movement, humidity and room temperature. Urethane adhesive has a shortened work time in high humidity environments and longer in low humidity areas. Adjust the amount of adhesive spread accordingly.
- Spread sufficient amounts of recommended adhesive with the recommended trowel in an area that can be covered in 60-90 minutes. If the urethane adhesive is to be rolled do not do so until the adhesive has cured for 2 hours.

NOTE: Avoid installing from the surface of the flooring. If necessary distribute weight using a kneeler board.

STEP 3: SPREAD THE ADHESIVE

- The adhesive should not be applied if sub floor or room temperature is below 65° F (20° C).
- Spread sufficient amount of recommended adhesive with a 3/16" x 1/4" x 1/2" x 5/16" trowel in an area that can be covered in 60-90 minutes.
- Apply adhesive as per adhesive manufacturers recommendations.
- During the installation occasionally remove a piece of flooring from the sub floor and inspect the back for proper adhesive transfer. Adequate adhesive transfer is necessary to ensure sufficient holding strength.
- For additional application instructions, follow the recommendations on the adhesive container.
- Proper ventilation within the room must be provided. An electric fan is helpful.
- If the floor is to be covered, use a breathable material such as cardboard. Do not cover with plastic.

NOTE: Clean adhesive from the surface of the floor frequently using the recommended adhesive cleaner. Urethane adhesives become extremely difficult to remove when cured. Do not use blue tape before adhesive is removed. Use clean towel, changed frequently, to prevent haze and adhesive residue.

STEP 4: INSTALLATION OF FLOORING

- Use the longest boards available for the first two rows. The first row of strips should be installed with the edge of the groove lined up on the chalk line. The groove should be facing the starting wall. The first row must be aligned and seated in the adhesive, as all additional rows will be pushed back to this original row.
- When installing pieces, engage the end-joint first as close to side (long) tongue and groove as possible and then slide together tightly to engage side (long) joint tongue and groove. To avoid adhesive bleed-through and memory pull-back, avoid sliding pieces through the adhesive as much as possible when placing them in position.
- Check for a tight fit between all edges and ends of each plank. End-joints of adjacent rows should be staggered 6" when possible to ensure a more favourable overall appearance.
- If necessary, nail a sacrificial row with 1" nails on the dry side of your chalk line to help hold the first row in place.

- It may be necessary to align product with a cut-off piece of scrap as shown - Keep scrap angle low to avoid edge damage.
- To eliminate minor shifting or gapping of product during installation, use 3M 2090 Blue Mask Tape to hold the planks together. After installation is complete, remove all the 3M 2090 Blue Mask Tape from surface of newly installed flooring. Do not let tape remain on flooring longer than 24 hours. Avoid use of masking tape, which leaves an adhesive residue.
- Be sure not to spread adhesive too far ahead of your work area.
- Complete the installation using this same technique for the remainder of the floor.
- Avoid heavy foot traffic on the floor for at least 24 hours. Lift the furniture or fixtures back into place after 24 hours.

STEP 5: COMPLETE THE JOB

- Clean floor with the recommended wood flooring cleaner. (See adhesive container for specific information)
- Re-install any transition pieces that may be needed, such as Reducer Strips, T-moldings, or Thresholds. The products are available pre-finished to blend with your flooring.
- Re-install all base and/or quarter round moldings. Nail or screw moldings into the wall, not the floor. Inspect the floor, filling all minor gaps with the appropriate blended filler.
- Leave warranty and floor care information with the owner. Advise them of the product name and code number of the flooring they purchased.
- To prevent surface damage avoid rolling heavy furniture and appliances on the floor. Use plywood, hardboard or appliance lifts if necessary.

MOLDINGS

- **Reducer Strip:** a teardrop shaped molding, used around fireplaces, doorways, as a room divider, or as a transition between wood flooring and adjacent floor coverings that are less thick. Fasten down with adhesive, small nails or double-faced tape.
- **Threshold:** a molding undercut for use against sliding door tracks, fireplaces, carpet, ceramic tile, or existing thresholds to allow for expansion space and to provide a smooth transition in height difference. Fasten to subfloor with adhesive and/or nails through the heel. Pre-drill nail holes to prevent splitting.
- **Stair Nosing:** a molding undercut for use as a stair landings trim, elevated floor perimeters, and stair steps. Fasten down firmly with adhesive and nails or screws. Pre-drill nail holes to prevent splitting.
- **Quarter Round:** a molding used to cover expansion space next to baseboards, case goods, and stair steps. Pre-drill and nail to the vertical surface, not into the floor.
- **T-Molding:** a molding used as a transition piece from one flooring to another of equal height or to gain expansion spaces. Fasten at the heel in the center of the molding. Additional support may need to be added to the heel of the molding dependent upon the thickness of the goods covered.

INSTALLERS - ADVISE YOUR CUSTOMER OF THE FOLLOWING

SEASONS: HEATING AND NON-HEATING

Recognizing that wood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of

humidity within your building, care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35-55% range. To protect your investment and to assure that your floors provide lasting satisfaction, we have provided our recommendations below.

Heating Season (Dry) - A humidifier is recommended to prevent excessive shrinkage in wood floors due to low humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.

Non-Heating Season (Humid, Wet) - Proper humidity levels can be maintained by use of an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically during the summer months. Avoid excessive exposure to water from tracking during periods of inclement weather. Do not obstruct in any way the expansion joint around the perimeter of your floor.

FLOOR REPAIR

Minor damage can be repaired with a touch-up kit or filler. Major damage will require board replacement, which can be done by a professional floor installer.

FOR PROFESSIONAL INSTALLERS

CAUTION: WOOD DUST: Sawing, sanding and wood products can produce wood dust. Airborne wood dust can cause respiratory, eye and skin irritation.

Precautionary Measures: If power tools are used, they should be equipped with a dust collector. If high dust levels are encountered, use an appropriate NIOSH-designated dust mask. Avoid dust contact with eye and skin.

First Aid Measures in case of Irritation: In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes.