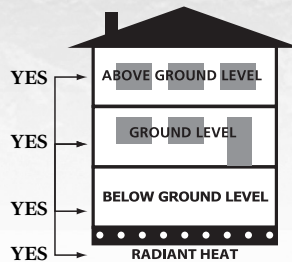


# Architectural Collection Installation Instructions

Included with every box of Architectural Collection Flooring is a complete installation instruction brochure. The following is an abbreviated version of the installation brochure.

Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring can be installed below grade, on grade, or above grade. Engineered Flooring can also be installed over radiant heat, providing installation requirements have been met.



\*Special Note about Radiant heat: Maximum water temperature in tubes is 129°F (54°C). The average tube temperature is 104°F (40°C). Maximum concrete temperature is 81°F (28°C). Application for radiant heat can be floating or direct glue down.

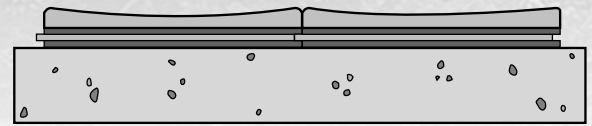
## STOP: JOB SITE INSPECTION

Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring should be one of the last items installed when renovating your home or condominium. For new construction, the heating system must be operating for at least one week (7 days) at normal residential temperatures (approx. 70°F / 21°C) prior to installation.

The relative humidity level in your home must be maintained at 50% (i.e. between 40%-60%) throughout the year. Where conditions in the home have high and low humidity levels, Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring is much more dimensionally stable in comparison to 3/4" solid hardwood flooring. SPECIAL NOTE: Although Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring is much more stable, it will however, react to changes in relative humidity according to season.

Moisture or lack of it is wood's worst enemy. If relative humidity is below 40% for a prolonged period of time, the floor will contract causing the surface of the board to cup (see Fig.#1 of cupping). Cupping is considered normal when relative humidity is too low. The floor should return to its normal state once the relative humidity is back to normal (40-60%). These variations can be minimized with proper ventilation, dehumidifying or heating. You may need to improve your humidification and/or dehumidification system in order to maintain the required 40-60% humidity levels. Using a hygrometer, available from your Authorized Muskoka Dealer.

Fig. #1



Check the moisture content of the sub-floor. The sub-floor should not exceed 12% and, must be within 4% of the moisture content of the wood being installed. If the moisture content of the sub-floor is too high, delay installation. Increasing ventilation, and turning up the heating system will assist in drying out the sub-floor. The concrete sub-floor must be dry and should be at least 60 days old before installing the Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring.

The installer and/or owner will take full responsibility for moisture testing to ensure that the wood sub-floor and the concrete slab (when applicable) are within acceptable moisture tolerance levels.

Preparation of Plywood Sub-Floor: Muskoka Hardwood Flooring recommends that all Engineered Floors be installed with a minimum of 5/8" A.P.A. approved, C.S.P/D.F.P. stamped plywood, or 23/32" O.S.B. Underlay grade PS2-92 rated. Consult your Authorized Muskoka Dealer for recommendations on your specific sub-floor application. Any failure of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring relating to improper sub-floors, or sub-floor preparation is not the responsibility of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring, and will not be covered under warranty. Sweep and vacuum sub-floors. Ensure that old carpets, oils, foreign particles, protruding nails, carpet glues, etc., are removed. For wood sub-floors, make sure they are level, clean, dry and securely fastened. Repair and/or replace any section that is rotted or damaged.

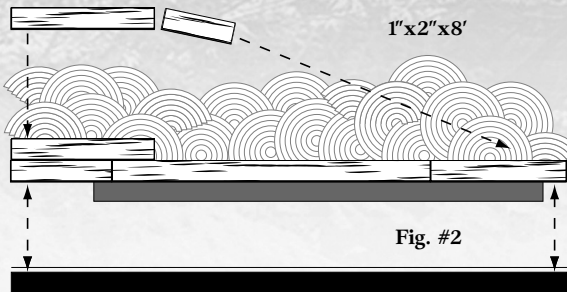
## GLUE DOWN – STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

For glue down application, the floor must be free of wax, oil, paint, adhesives, sealers, curing agents or any debris. Ensure surface is levelled by using levelling compound as recommended by the compound manufacturer. Also ensure the product is cured and dried prior to installation.

### Step #1 – Mark your starting line

Muskoka Hardwood Flooring recommends that your Muskoka Architectural Collection Floor be installed parallel to the longest, straightest wall in the room.

# Architectural Collection Installation Instructions



Start by measuring out from the wall 33–3/4" (860mm) for the 3.5" wide, and 35–3/4" (909mm) for the 5.5" wide product. These measurements allow for 3/8" (8mm) expansion gap. Using a chalk line draw a guideline parallel to the wall based on the above measurements. This will eliminate any ripping of material at the end of the job for the last row.

Using the straightest pieces of 1"x2"x8' length of wood and 2-inch concrete nails or screws, fasten the strips to the concrete. Your first row of starter boards will butt against this, so make sure that the strips are in line with the chalk line because this will determine how straight your floor will be.

## Step #2 – Spread the adhesive

NOTE: Muskoka Hardwood Flooring will only guarantee installation when a moisture-cured glue is used. Do not use latex based glues. Apply the recommended adhesive with a trowel according to the manufacturer's installation instructions (found on adhesive pail) for the specific adhesive that is being used. SPECIAL NOTE: Open time on adhesives vary from manufacturer to manufacturer so read instructions carefully before starting. Opening time can also be affected greatly depending on the temperature and humidity.

The trowel should be held at approximately 45 degrees to the floor when spreading the adhesive. This will give you the recommended spread rate of approximately 40 to 50 sq.ft. per gallon, depending on the adhesive manufacturer. Only spread adhesive over an area that can be covered in less than 1.5 to 2 hours, otherwise the adhesive may become dry and lose its ability to bond.

## Step #3 – Install the strips

You should inspect each piece of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring before installation. Boards that you may not like the look of, or with a flaw that you think will affect the look of the floor should be used as the cut pieces for your start and/or end pieces. You may

also choose to put these pieces in less conspicuous areas such as closets or under couches, etc.

Start your first piece with the tongue facing the area that will be completed last. Line up the tongue of the boards against the holding strip, and then press the board into the adhesive. Working from left to right, lay the next board and continue working towards the right, until you reach the wall and require a cut piece. Choose one of the pieces set aside for cutting and cut the desired

length. NOTE: If you are cutting a piece that has not been set aside for cutting, make sure it is long enough to yield your next rows starting piece. Leave 3/8" (8mm) between the wall and the end

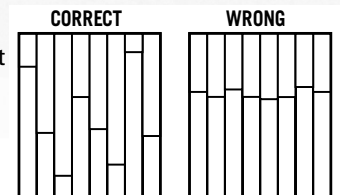


Fig. #3

of each strip in each row (see Fig.#2).

Start the second row with a strip of at least 6" (150mm) longer or shorter than the strip used in the first row. This will eliminate unsightly step effects (see Fig.#3). The remainder of the floor should follow this rule to insure an aesthetically clean looking floor.

Minimize glue from getting into the tongue or groove, otherwise, the strips of the flooring may not fit tightly. If glue gets on the finished side of the strips, clean immediately with appropriate cleaning products - see your Authorized Muskoka Dealer.

Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring pieces may require slight tapping in order to ensure a tight fit. You may use 3M's blue tape (if required), to hold pieces together until glue bond has developed.

## Step #4 – Installation of Accessories & Cleaning

After the floor has dried, you may install the quarter rounds. Make sure that the nails penetrate the wall and not the floor.

NOTE: Always keep left over pieces for future use. Flooring may become damaged and require replacing several pieces. It's a good idea to have the same production dates put aside.

Use a vacuum to pick up any dust and loose fibers. Using your Muskoka Cleaning Kit, available at all Authorized Muskoka Dealers, follow instructions and mop the whole floor.

# Architectural Collection Installation Instructions

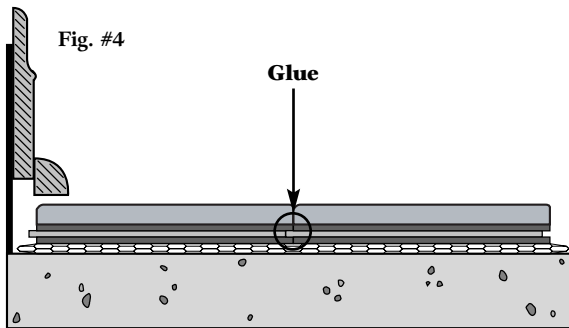
## FLOATING APPLICATION – STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Sweep and vacuum the sub-floor before laying any material. Make sure that any high points in the sub-floor are removed, cleaned and sanded.

\*\*\*When installing over a wood sub-floor, you should install your flooring perpendicular to the joist to avoid any sinking between the floor joists.

### Step #1 – Laying the under pad

Roll out a flexible acoustic cork or foam insulation under pad material (see your Authorized Muskoka Dealer) onto the sub-floor. Make sure the under pad is butted edge to edge, joining the lengths at the edges with a clear adhesive tape, and leaving a gap approx 1/4" (6mm) around the edges of the room butting up against the wall. If the insulation material selected is not effective against dampness rising from the sub-floor, put down a layer of 6mil polythene sheeting first. Your authorized Muskoka Dealer should provide a 4mm foam under pad that has a vapor backing. The shiny (vapor side) should be facing down against the sub-floor.



### Step #2 – Laying the wood floor

Using the longest pieces available, lay the first row against the longest and straightest wall. Carefully apply glue (see Fig.#4) to the upper edge of the tongues along the whole length of the piece, using recommended floor adhesive (available at your Authorized Muskoka Dealer). Lay the first piece with the grooved edge against the wall. If the wall is not square, use wedges/shims between the flooring strips and the wall to achieve the desired 3/8" (8mm) expansion gap.

Start the second row with a strip of at least 6" (150mm) longer or shorter than the strip used in the first row. This will eliminate unsightly step effects

(see Fig.#3). The remainder of the floor should follow this rule to insure an aesthetically looking floor. Clean any glue that gets on the finished side of the flooring before the glue dries.

Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring pieces may require slight tapping in order to insure a tight fit. You may use 3M's blue tape, if required, to hold pieces together until glue bond has fully developed.

Rip the strips for the last row to the required width, not forgetting to allow for expansion. Use a crowbar to insure tight fitting boards, use shims to hold in place until glue has dried. Remove the wedges 24 hours after laying.

### Step #3 – Installation of Accessories & Cleaning

After the floor has dried, you may install the quarter rounds. Make sure that the nails penetrate the wall and not the floor.

NOTE: Always keep left over pieces for future use. Flooring may become damaged and require replacing pieces. It is a good idea to have the same production dates put aside.

Use a vacuum to pick up any dust and loose fibers. Using your Muskoka Cleaning Kit, available at all Authorized Muskoka Dealers, follow instructions and mop the whole floor.

### IMPORTANT:

As the work proceeds, take care to leave the expansion gap along the walls and around any obstacle (pipe work, foot of stairs, post, fireplace etc.).

## NAILED DOWN APPLICATION – STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Special note for all nail down applications: You must use a model 2000 Pneumatic Powernailer with 1-1/2" U-1 Adapter Pad (or equivalent). Consult your Authorized Muskoka Dealer for the equivalent nailing equipment.

### Step #1 – Mark your starting line

Using chalk line, draw a guide line out from the starting wall at 3- 3/4" (95mm) for the 3-1/2" and a 5 3/4" (145mm) guide line for the 5-1/2". This line is where your first strip of flooring is going, and also allows for the 3/8" (8mm) expansion gap. It is very important for the starting line to be straight and square.

Although Muskoka Hardwood Flooring takes every

# Architectural Collection Installation Instructions

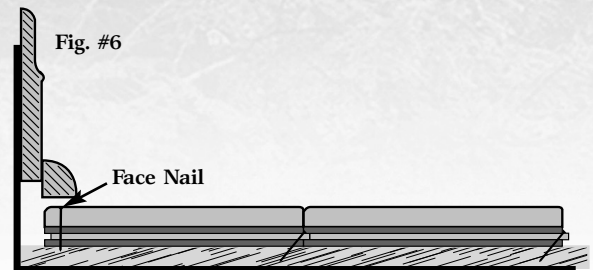
precaution to ensure that Architectural Collection Flooring is graded and shipped to industry standards, we suggest you inspect each piece of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring before installation. Boards that you may not like the look of, or contain a mark that you think will affect the look of the floor should be used as cut pieces for your start/end pieces. You may also use these pieces in less conspicuous areas such as in closets or under couches, etc.

## Step #2 – Install the strips

Face nail the first row of strips with the grooved side facing the wall; put the nails as close to the wall as possible, this way the quarter round will cover the nail heads. (see Fig.#6) Then manually nail at 45 degrees on the tongue the next two rows or before there is enough room to use the nail gun. It must be nailed down by hand rather than with the hardwood floor-nailing machine because of the vertical wall obstruction. When clearance allows the use of the hardwood floor nail gun, you may start using the nail gun. Nails should be spaced a minimum 4" (100mm) from both ends of the boards, and all other nails are spaced 4-6" (100-150mm) apart.

Measure and cut the strip to the required length to finish the first row. The remaining section should be used to start the second row, in order to minimize cut waste. The strip selection for completing the first row must be long enough to yield a remaining section of adequate length. Leave 3/8" (8mm) between the wall and the end of each strip in each row.

The subsequent rows must be installed in the same manner. Don't be afraid to waste a few strips in order to adjust and test the nailing machine.



When you reach the last few rows, you may not be able to complete these rows with the nail gun, due to vertical obstructions. Toe nail, face nail, or glue the last remaining rows. NOTE: You may have to rip the last strips along the wall in order for them to fit properly. Don't forget to leave 3/8" (8mm) minimum space for expansion.

Finally, install the transition pieces, or quarter round moldings. Following the initial installation, vacuum thoroughly and clean the floor with your Muskoka Hardwood Cleaning Kit.

Great attention to detail during fabrication on the part of the Muskoka Hardwood Flooring team ensures exceptional QUALITY in the finished product. Longevity of hardwood floors is directly related to proper installation and lifetime commitment to appropriate care and maintenance.



Architectural Collection

