



# Installation Instructions

Select one:

1. Gallery Collection
2. Architectural Collection

# Gallery Collection Installation Instructions.....

Prior to the installation of this hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the job site environment and the sub-surfaces involved are suitable. Tembec declines any responsibility for product failure resulting from or associated with subsurface or job site environment deficiencies. If you have any questions regarding the product or installation procedures, please contact your dealer.

## GENERAL SITE INSPECTION

- Hardwood flooring should be one of the last products installed at a construction site. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, masonry work, drywall taping, etc.) should be completed before wood flooring is delivered to the job site.
- Protect your flooring from high humidity at all times. Never unload your flooring in heavy rain or snow. Ensure your premium flooring is stored in a closed moisture controlled site at all times after purchase.
- Ensure your subfloor is dried to normal living conditions and appropriate moisture barriers are installed with the subfloor.
- Your job site should have a consistent room temperature of 60 - 70°F (16 - 22°C) and humidity of 40 - 55% for a minimum of five days prior to the installation of your hardwood flooring product. This environment should be maintained continuously thereafter.

## HUMIDITY

Building interiors are affected by two distinct humidity seasons - Heating and Non-Heating. Recognizing that wood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity in your building, take care to control humidity levels to within the 40 - 55% range. During the heating season, a humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage in wood floors due to low humidity levels. To avoid excessive gapping or splitting in the heating season, a humidifier may be required to sustain greater than 40% humidity levels. During the non-heating season, humidity levels can be maintained by using 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.

## ACCLIMATIZATION

Your hardwood flooring must undergo an acclimatization period (i.e. it must be stored in the room where it will be laid) for at least 72 hours prior to installation. The bundles must be opened completely and the hardwood laid flat on the subfloor.

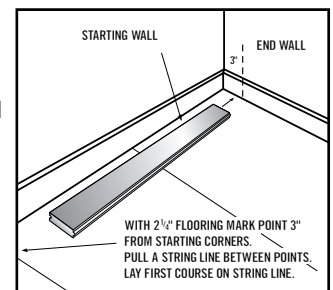
## INSTALLATION

### Tools Required:

- Safety goggles
- Chalk line
- Hammer
- Mitre saw
- Square
- Hand saw
- Broom
- Tape measure
- Level
- Vacuum cleaner
- Nail punch
- Jigsaw
- Drill (with bit set)
- #7 or #8 spiral nails
- Hardwood flooring nailer
- 2 inch barbed flooring nails
- Non-marking rubber hammer

**Important:** Using a broom and vacuum keep the floor free of dirt and sawdust at all times during the installation procedure.

1. The first strip should be laid next to the longest wall, at right angles to the joists. Mark its position with the chalk line, allowing an expansion space of 1/2" to 3/4" (13 to 19 mm) between the first flooring strip and the wall. The first row of strips will be laid along this chalk line. Do not follow the wall, since walls are rarely completely straight or true.

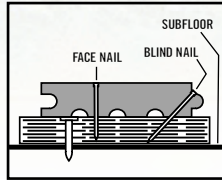


2. An expansion space is required only when a wall or other vertical obstruction such as a fireplace, posts, etc. are parallel to the direction of the flooring. Expansion spaces are not necessary at the end of each row of strips.



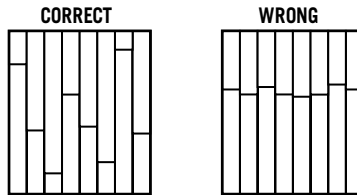
# Gallery Collection Installation Instructions.....

- Face nail the first strip after drilling holes every 8" to 12" (20 to 30 cm), at a distance of 1/2" (13 mm) from the edge of the strip next to the wall. Be careful not to drill a hole at a distance of less than 3" (8 cm) from the end of the strip. Use #7 or #8 spiral nails to fasten the flooring, and countersink the nails with the nail punch. The first row of nails will be hidden by mouldings. Repeat the nailing operation in the tongue of the strip, keeping the edge of the latter along the chalk line.

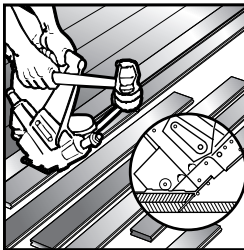


- Only nail the tongue of each subsequent strip. Do not face nail.

- Joints between the ends of strips in any given row should be offset at least 6" (15 cm) from the end-joints in adjacent rows. This will ensure a balanced appearance.



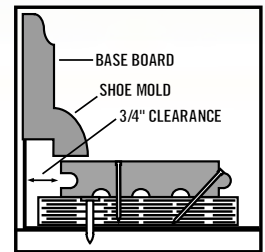
- After fastening a couple of rows of strips, use the hardwood flooring nailer. Use nails every 8" or 10" (20 to 25 cm), stopping at a distance of about 2" (5 cm) from the end of each strip.



- As you approach the final wall and can no longer use the automatic nailer, return to nailing the tongues by hand. Wedge the last row into place with a prybar.
- Cut the last row lengthwise to fit, allowing for the required expansion space and moulding coverage. Face nail the last row.

- Countersink and putty all face nails with a matching wood filler.

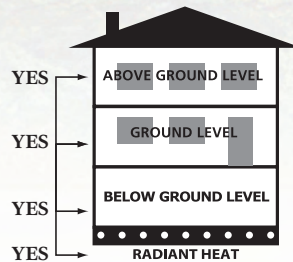
- Cover the expansion space along walls with mouldings. Make sure to drive the nails into the wall, not into the hardwood flooring. Nailing the moulding to the flooring restricts the expansion space.



# 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.

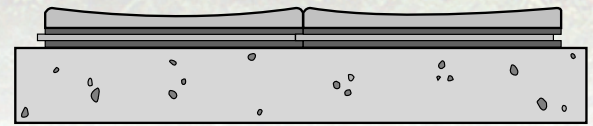
## STOP: JOB SITE INSPECTION

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.

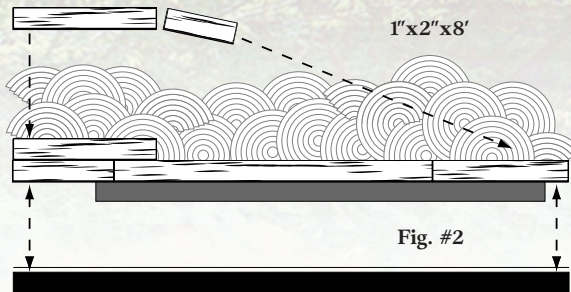
### Step #1 – Mark your starting line

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



Prefinished Hardwood Flooring™

# 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

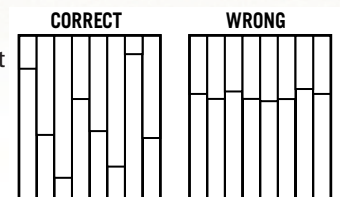


Fig. #3

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.



Prefinished Hardwood Flooring™

# Architectural Collection Installation Instructions

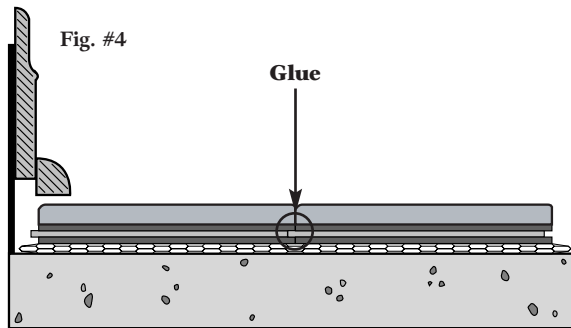
## FLOATING APPLICATION – STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

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



Prefinished Hardwood Flooring™

# Architectural Collection Installation Instructions

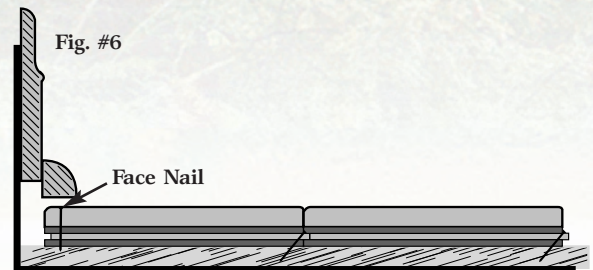
precaution to ensure that Architectural Collection Flooring is graded and shipped to industry standards, we suggest you inspect each piece of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring before installation. Boards that you may not like the look of, or contain a mark that you think will affect the look 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.



Prefinished Hardwood Flooring™

# Gallery Collection Installation Instructions.....

Prior to the installation of this hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the job site environment and the sub-surfaces involved are suitable. Tembec declines any responsibility for product failure resulting from or associated with subsurface or job site environment deficiencies. If you have any questions regarding the product or installation procedures, please contact your dealer.

## GENERAL SITE INSPECTION

- Hardwood flooring should be one of the last products installed at a construction site. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, masonry work, drywall taping, etc.) should be completed before wood flooring is delivered to the job site.
- Protect your flooring from high humidity at all times. Never unload your flooring in heavy rain or snow. Ensure your premium flooring is stored in a closed moisture controlled site at all times after purchase.
- Ensure your subfloor is dried to normal living conditions and appropriate moisture barriers are installed with the subfloor.
- Your job site should have a consistent room temperature of 60 - 70°F (16 - 22°C) and humidity of 40 - 55% for a minimum of five days prior to the installation of your hardwood flooring product. This environment should be maintained continuously thereafter.

## HUMIDITY

Building interiors are affected by two distinct humidity seasons - Heating and Non-Heating. Recognizing that wood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity in your building, take care to control humidity levels to within the 40 - 55% range. During the heating season, a humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage in wood floors due to low humidity levels. To avoid excessive gapping or splitting in the heating season, a humidifier may be required to sustain greater than 40% humidity levels. During the non-heating season, humidity levels can be maintained by using 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.

## ACCLIMATIZATION

Your hardwood flooring must undergo an acclimatization period (i.e. it must be stored in the room where it will be laid) for at least 72 hours prior to installation. The bundles must be opened completely and the hardwood laid flat on the subfloor.

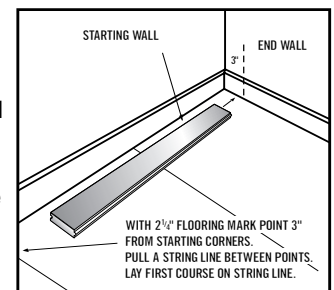
## INSTALLATION

### Tools Required:

- Safety goggles
- Chalk line
- Hammer
- Mitre saw
- Square
- Hand saw
- Broom
- Tape measure
- Level
- Vacuum cleaner
- Nail punch
- Jigsaw
- Drill (with bit set)
- #7 or #8 spiral nails
- Hardwood flooring nailer
- 2 inch barbed flooring nails
- Non-marking rubber hammer

**Important:** Using a broom and vacuum keep the floor free of dirt and sawdust at all times during the installation procedure.

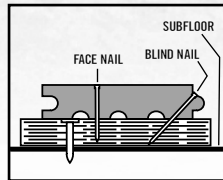
1. The first strip should be laid next to the longest wall, at right angles to the joists. Mark its position with the chalk line, allowing an expansion space of 1/2" to 3/4" (13 to 19 mm) between the first flooring strip and the wall. The first row of strips will be laid along this chalk line. Do not follow the wall, since walls are rarely completely straight or true.



2. An expansion space is required only when a wall or other vertical obstruction such as a fireplace, posts, etc. are parallel to the direction of the flooring. Expansion spaces are not necessary at the end of each row of strips.

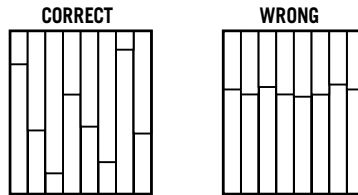
# Gallery Collection Installation Instructions.....

- Face nail the first strip after drilling holes every 8" to 12" (20 to 30 cm), at a distance of 1/2" (13 mm) from the edge of the strip next to the wall. Be careful not to drill a hole at a distance of less than 3" (8 cm) from the end of the strip. Use #7 or #8 spiral nails to fasten the flooring, and countersink the nails with the nail punch. The first row of nails will be hidden by mouldings. Repeat the nailing operation in the tongue of the strip, keeping the edge of the latter along the chalk line.

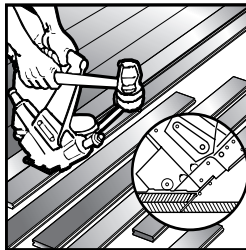


- Only nail the tongue of each subsequent strip. Do not face nail.

- Joints between the ends of strips in any given row should be offset at least 6" (15 cm) from the end-joints in adjacent rows. This will ensure a balanced appearance.

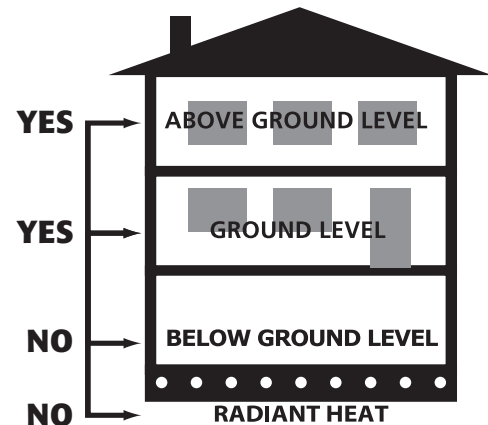
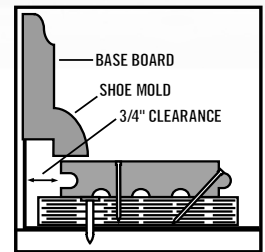


- After fastening a couple of rows of strips, use the hardwood flooring nailer. Use nails every 8" or 10" (20 to 25 cm), stopping at a distance of about 2" (5 cm) from the end of each strip.



- As you approach the final wall and can no longer use the automatic nailer, return to nailing the tongues by hand. Wedge the last row into place with a prybar.
- Cut the last row lengthwise to fit, allowing for the required expansion space and moulding coverage. Face nail the last row.
- Countersink and putty all face nails with a matching wood filler.

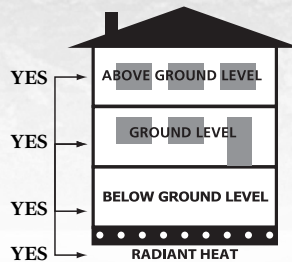
- Cover the expansion space along walls with mouldings. Make sure to drive the nails into the wall, not into the hardwood flooring. Nailing the moulding to the flooring restricts the expansion space.



# 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.

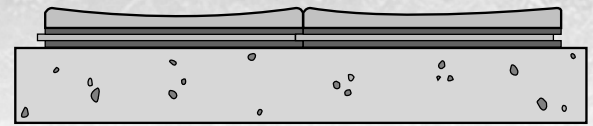
## STOP: JOB SITE INSPECTION

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.

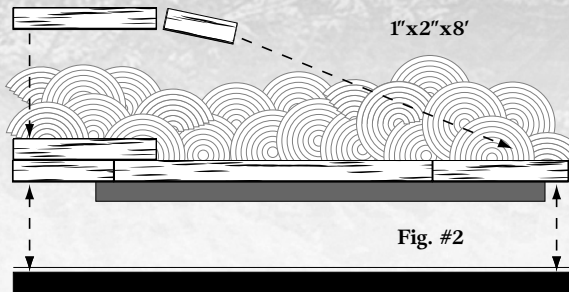
## GLUE DOWN – STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

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

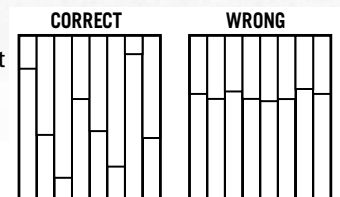


Fig. #3

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

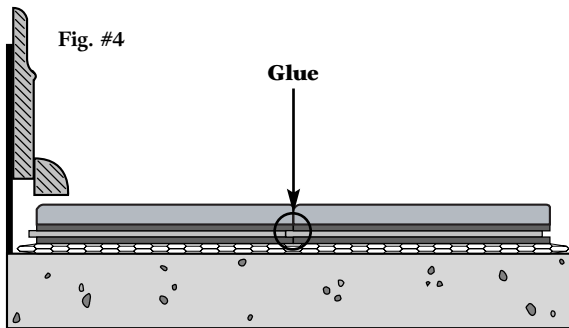
## FLOATING APPLICATION – STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

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

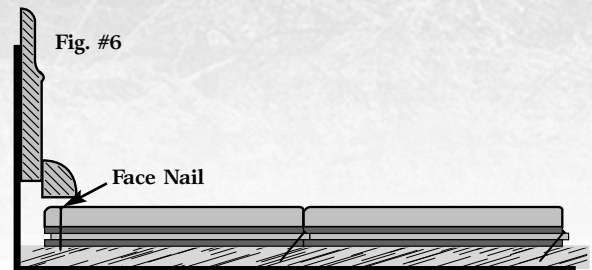
precaution to ensure that Architectural Collection Flooring is graded and shipped to industry standards, we suggest you inspect each piece of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring before installation. Boards that you may not like the look of, or contain a mark that you think will affect the look 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

# Gallery Collection Warranty

## LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

Tembec warrants that our prefinished flooring, upon leaving our manufacturing facilities, is free from manufacturing defects, and will remain free of manufacturing defects for as long as the original purchaser owns and lives in the premises where Tembec products are installed. The manufacturer, Tembec, guarantees products against all milling and processing defects, as long as the flooring is installed in compliance with installation instructions provided by Tembec with the Muskoka brand flooring.

## PRE-INSTALLATION WARRANTY

Flooring must be installed in accordance with the Tembec Installation and Maintenance guide. Flooring should be inspected before installation. If any defects are discovered during installation, do not continue, and notify the dealer of the defect(s) upon discovery. Product quality variation or error that does not exceed the 5% industry standard is not considered a factory defect. Damage due to transportation, storage, and installation is not covered under this warranty.

## 25-YEAR FINISH GUARANTEE

The manufacturer, Tembec, guarantees to the original purchaser that the product finish will not wear through, or separate from the wood for a full 25-years from date of purchase, when used under normal residential traffic conditions. Tembec guarantees the product finish against manufacturing defects and flaws in the application of wood stain and polyurethane aluminum oxide finish.

## WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS

Indentations, scratches or surface damages caused by lack of proper maintenance. Misuse, negligence, accidents, spiked heeled shoes, water, fire, wet mopping, erosion, pebbles, sand, other abrasives, insufficient prevention/protection in kitchen working stations, and underneath furniture, extreme environmental conditions, insects, pets, natural wood fiber surface discoloration, poor workmanship by installer, failure to follow all the manufacturer's written installation and/or maintenance instructions, misuse or improper alterations of original manufactured products,

attempt to repair, replace or refinish prior to Tembec inspection voids the warranty.

Color variations are a natural occurrence in flooring due to age, species, and exposure to UV light. These color variations are not covered under this warranty. Gloss reduction is not considered surface wear, and therefore not covered under this warranty.

*Hardwood flooring is produced from natural products; therefore, all wood floors will expand and contract due to seasonal moisture level changes. This expanding and contracting is not covered under this warranty.*

## CLAIM PROCEDURE

To file a claim, contact your Muskoka distributor immediately. The distributor will follow the established Tembec claim procedure and submit to Tembec.

Claims must be filed within the warranty coverage period, and original sales receipt verifying date of purchase will be required, as well as photos or samples of the defective product. Tembec reserves the right to have a Tembec representative inspect the floors and remove samples for technical analysis.

Tembec has the right to repair, refinish, or replace, at no cost to you, the same product or another product of equal value, any portion of flooring that fails with respect to the provisions of these warranties.

Tembec/Muskoka Prefinished Hardwood Flooring warranties are not transferable.

**Written consent from Tembec is mandatory prior to any warranty repair or replacement.**

No installer, retailer, distributor, sales agent or employee of Tembec is authorized to change or increase the terms or coverage of this warranty.



# Architectural Collection Warranty.....

## THE MUSKOKA COMMITMENT LIFETIME STRUCTURAL WARRANTY

Muskoka Hardwood Flooring puts every piece of flooring through a strict quality control measure. Muskoka Hardwood Flooring warrants the Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring, to the original purchaser, in the original manufactured/purchased condition, to be free from milling defects, delamination and grading for the lifetime of the floor. Any damage due to improper transportation, storage, handling, installation, or any other cause, is not covered by this warranty. As per industry standards, Muskoka Flooring reserves the right for a 5% defect allowance, which is not covered under this warranty.

## WEAR LAYER WARRANTY

Subject to the Warranty Exclusions set out below, Muskoka Hardwood Flooring, manufacturer of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring warrants to the original purchaser that, under normal residential conditions, the finish wear layer of Muskoka and prefinished flooring in the original manufactured/purchased condition will not wear through or peel from the wood for a period of twenty five (25) years from the date of purchase by the original purchaser. Regular maintenance as specified by Muskoka Hardwood Flooring must be followed in order to validate this warranty. The sole remedy pursuant to this warranty is available to the original purchaser only and shall be limited to the repair, refinishing or replacement of the defective Muskoka products only. If the product cannot be repaired, refinished or replaced after a reasonable number of attempts, Muskoka Hardwood Flooring will, upon request, refund the original purchase price of the defective floor on a pro rata basis. Any attempt to repair, refinish or replace the defective product prior to inspection by Muskoka Hardwood Flooring will invalidate this warranty"

## SANDING WARRANTY ON MUSKOKA ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTION

Muskoka Hardwood Flooring warrants their 9/16" Engineered Architectural Collection for up to 3 professional sandings provided there is normal residential wear conditions, and that the sanding and refinishing is conducted by a flooring specialist and as defined by Tembec; manufacturer of Muskoka Architectural Collection.

## WARRANTY EXCLUSION

"Muskoka Hardwood Flooring warranties do not extend or cover scratches, dents or any noticeable markings caused by improper handling, installation, water damage, flooding, fire, furniture, shoes of all types, pets, insects and furthermore, Muskoka Hardwood Flooring will not warranty any product that is faulty from installation, neglect, environmental extremes, or improper storage of product. The sub-floor is the responsibility of the installer. Failure of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring relating to the sub-floor, in any manner, is not the responsibility of Muskoka Hardwood Flooring and is not covered under the warranty. The use of tape on the surface of Muskoka Architectural Collection Flooring will void the warranty (unless specifically specified by Muskoka Hardwood Flooring). The finish wear surface must be easily noticeable and cover at least 15% of the total floor area for a claim to be considered. Any variation or reduction in gloss level will not be considered under this warranty. Small cracks that develop from improper moisture control, flooding, excessive drying, will not be covered under this warranty. Hardwood flooring is made from natural products which have cells running parallel with the grain, therefore, all wood floors will expand and contract with the change of seasons. This CUPPING effect, expanding and contracting, is not covered under this warranty. It is recommended that you maintain a relative humidity of 40-60% in your home by using a humidifier and/or dehumidifier to minimize movement of your hardwood floor. Color variations are a natural occurrence in flooring due to age, species and exposure to ultraviolet sunlight. For this reason, you may encounter mild color variations from board to board, or when replacing damaged boards with new product. Also, normal sunlight will cause fading/darkening, depending on the species of your floor. Area rugs should be moved occasionally as they block sunlight and may give the appearance the floor is discoloring under the rug; this discoloring is not covered under warranty."



Architectural Collection