

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

HANDLING

- Hardwood is a natural material which reacts to changes in relative humidity. Your house temperature must be maintained at $\pm 72^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($\pm 22^{\circ}\text{C}$). Ideally, relative humidity must be kept at around 45% at all times.
- We recommend that the wood be left at room temperature for at least 24 hours.
- Handle with care.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- Installation requires minimum 5/8" plywood, or 3/4" approved OSB chipboard subfloor, if installed over 16" center-to-center joist sub-structure.
- **Sound:** Wooden subfloor must be securely screwed down to joists to prevent any movement or squeaks.
- **Flat:** Subfloor surface must be flat and maximum tolerance is 3/16" per 10'.
- **Dry:** Wooden subfloor moisture reading must not exceed 12% and differential between boards and subfloor must be less than 4%.
- **Clean:** Free subfloor from any debris or dust.

PREPARATION

- Remove any baseboard, doorsill and old floor covering.
- Install a #15 felt floor liner.
- Trim (approximately 3/4") bottom of the doorstop with hand-saw.

TOOLS

Hardwood floor nailer - Claw hammer - Mallet - Chalk line
Electric drill - Measuring tape - Nail punch - Stick of wax
Square - Blind nails - Miter saw – Handsaw

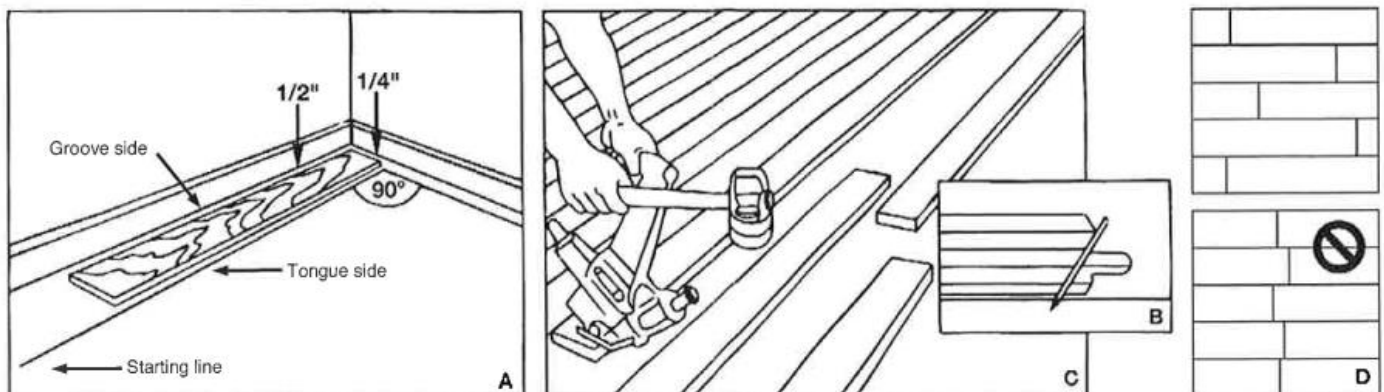
- Nails – Gauge: 15.5 to 18
Minimum length: 1-3/4"
- Staples – Gauge: 15.5 to 17
Minimum length: 1-3/4"

STEP BY STEP

- Be sure that the angles of the room are square.
- Trace a chalk line parallel to starting wall and perpendicular to adjacent one. Add 3/4" to board width to account for expansion gap and board tongue. For example, if installing 3-1/4" boards, trace guideline at 4" from starting wall.
- Select the boards and lay them out on the floor in the general pattern in which they will be installed. The straightest boards should be used in the first and second rows of the flooring.
- Lay the tongue edge of the board on the chalk line. 1/2" should remain between the grooved edge and the wall. The grooved edge must always face the starting wall (illustration A).
- The first row must be secured to the floor using finishing nails. First, drill holes on the surface of the boards, one inch from the edge and approximately 16" apart. These holes will make it easier to insert the nails and help avoid hammer damage to the boards. Next, secure using blind nails.
- Conceal the nail holes with a special wax stained to match the wood.
- Measure the space remaining at the end of the row, using a floor board. Mark it, then cut it to the required length. As the remaining section will be used to start the next row, the board selected for the first row should be long enough to yield a remaining section of adequate length. Following installation, 1/4" space should remain between the wall and the tip of the board. Nail as in the preceding step.
- To start the second row, the board must be a few inches longer or shorter than the board which is parallel to it. The end joints must never be at the same alignment as those of the preceding row (illustration D). Set in place, drill at a 45° angle on the tongue edge, then nail at every 6" to 8" (illustration B). Boards must have a fastener (nail or staple) between 2" to 3" on the ends of each boards.
- The subsequent rows must be installed in the same manner, but using a hardwood nailer. Try a few hammering tests to determine how much force is needed to properly drive in the nail (illustration C).
- The four last rows of boards must be installed in the same manner as the first two rows.
- Install the baseboards and the doorsill. Drill, nail then conceal.

A FEW TIPS

- Boards with important flaws must be recut or relocated.
- The more deeply coloured boards should be installed where they are less visible.
- Always sweep away any sawdust before installing the board.



NOTE

There are several ways of installing prefinished hardwood flooring. The one explained here is one of the easiest and less likely to damage the wood.

MAINTENANCE

It is very important to maintain the relative humidity level within a range of 35% and 55% (especially in winter). Regularly clean the floor using a damp mop. Never allow liquid on the floor. Place a rug at the entrance and floor protectors under the furniture.

INSTALLER AND OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Hardwood is a natural material that may reveal imperfections. Muskoka Hardwood prefinished hardwood floors are manufactured to meet the highest quality standards of the industry, which permit a defect tolerance and grading variance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of manufacturing or natural type.

For Muskoka Hardwood Flooring, no effort is spared to ensure that the product is free of manufacturing defects. Prior to installation, installer must make sure that every subfloor inspection and preinstallation requirement is satisfactorily met or even exceeds minimal specifications.

Final grade, manufacturing, finish quality check and approval of product before installation remains the sole and joint responsibility of owner and installer, even if owner is absent at time of installation. Installer must exercise sound judgment (common sense) before and during installation; boards showing any glaring defects or imperfections must be trimmed and used in hidden places or not used at all. Once installed, any board is considered as having been accepted by installer and owner.

When ordering hardwood flooring, it is recommended to add 3% to 5% to the square footage needed as allowance for cutting waste and colour grade variation, according to type and place of installation.

When in doubt, installer should not install any board showing visible grade, manufacturing or glaring defects, if unable to use in hidden places or trim imperfection. If any installed board must be replaced at a later date, Muskoka Hardwood Flooring liability shall be solely limited to the replacement of defective products (materials only) in excess of the 5% industry accepted norm, excluding trimming waste allowance. Muskoka Hardwood Flooring shall not in any case be liable for installer's lack of judgment, quality of installation, labour and installation costs.

WARRANTY

The Warranty is effective on all Muskoka prefinished hardwood floors manufactured after January 1st, 2019.

Structural warranty

Muskoka Hardwood Flooring warrants to the original purchaser a lifetime structural warranty as long as the interior relative humidity level (in the air) is maintained between 35% and 55%, which ensure the best performance of the Muskoka hardwood floors.

Finish warranty

Muskoka Harwood Flooring warrants, to the original purchaser, that the surface finish on its Muskoka prefinished hardwood floor will not wear through or separate from the wood for a period of **twenty-five (25) years** from the date of purchase, when used under normal residential traffic conditions.

This warranty applies on the condition that regular and preventive maintenance has been carried out as recommended in this document.

Finish warranty excludes any indentations, scratches or surface damage caused by lack of proper maintenance, misuse, negligence, accidents, spiked-heeled shoes, water, wet mopping, erosion, pebbles, sand, other abrasives, insufficient prevention and/or protection. The surface wear must be readily visible and cover at least ten percent (10%) of the surface area. Gloss reduction is not considered surface wear.

Disclaimer

The Character grade floors have a rustic appeal that highlights the wood's natural character. Pronounced color variations, open and closed knots, mineral streaks, cracks (face checks), surface holes, sticker stain marks, and other character or milling marks are part and parcel of this effect.

Some distinctive marks may become prominent over time due to changes in the environment.

Use of floor care products other than those especially formulated for use on prefinished hardwood flooring may damage your floor and void the warranty.

If you need to file a claim under the Warranty Program, contact the company where the original purchase was made.

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