

ENGINEERED FLOORING

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSTALLERS

SITE CONDITIONS

The owner and/or installer are responsible for ensuring that the proper installation conditions and appropriate sub floors meet or exceed all NWFA industry standards. Proper installation can be affected by adverse moisture content in the product, humidity at the job site, acclimation of flooring to local site conditions, preparation of job site, preparation of sub floor, and flooring layout. The sub floor must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.

Permanent-type heat and air conditioning must be in operation for a sufficient length of time, at least 14 days, to stabilize the building before any of Urban Evolutions' wood products are delivered or installed at the jobsite.

Flooring should be allowed to acclimate for a minimum of 72 hours or until conditions are at normal occupancy conditions and meet minimum installation requirements for moisture content. For most installations, we recommend a climatic temperature between 60 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit and 30% to 50% humidity level. Environments that do not meet these criteria would be considered non-compliant and will cause wood to experience shrinking and swelling issues that damage the product. We cannot guarantee or warranty our products' performance in such an environment.

SUB FLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Moisture content should be checked with the appropriate device to ensure proper installation conditions. The moisture content of wood sub floor should not exceed 9% and the moisture content of the wood should be within 2% of the sub floor.

Concrete sub floors must be fully cured for a minimum of 60 days and dry (3lbs or less/24 hrs/1,000 sq. ft., with a calcium chloride test) or less than 75% with relative humidity probes (in-situ testing)

Ensure exterior landscaping is complete and graded away from the foundation. Gutters and downspouts must be in place directing rainwater away. Always store wood flooring in a controlled environment of 60 - 80° Fahrenheit (15° - 26° Celsius) and 30% - 60% relative humidity.

Solid Board Sub flooring:

Should be 3/4"x 5 1/2" Group 1 dense soft- woods, No.2 Common, Kiln dried less than 15% MC.

Concrete:

Engineered Hardwood Floors can be laid on concrete provided an appropriate sub floor and moisture barriers are installed over concrete.

1. Make sure concrete is flat, dry, structurally sound and clean.
2. Floor should be flat to 3/16" within an 8' radius.
3. Substrate should be flattened to tolerance.
4. Always use a 6-mil poly moisture barrier when installing over concrete (Floating installation).
5. If a concrete sub floor is lightweight (less than 100 lb) rule of thumb: Draw a nail across the top of concrete and if it leaves an indentation, it is probably lightweight concrete and cannot be installed using the glue down method. With lightweight concrete you must float the wood flooring.

Moisture testing for material and wood subfloors:

Using a pin-style meter, test wood for moisture content. Wood should be between 6% - 9% moisture content prior to installation. The subfloor should be within a 2% difference of the hardwood, with the moisture content of the subfloor not exceeding 11%. Crawl spaces must be cross-ventilated (1.5% of the total sq. ft.). 6-8 mil black poly covering 100% of the ground and a minimum of 24" from the ground to the bottom of the joists.

Test concrete for moisture using one of the following methods: Calcium chloride test: Follow test manufacturer's directions, performing 3 tests for the first 1,000 s/f and one additional test for every subsequent 1,000 s/f. Moisture emission rate should not exceed 3 lbs per 1,000 s/f. Insitu test: Relative humidity probes should read 75% relative humidity or less in all areas.

For further information on moisture testing, follow the guidelines published by the National Wood Flooring Association, www.nwfa.org.

Additional Sub Floor Requirements:

The surface must be clean, level (flat to 3/16" in 8' radius), structurally sound, and dry. The manufacturer will not be responsible for any product failure due to poor sub-floor conditions or materials. Unsound or damaged sections should be repaired or replaced.

The sub floor surface should be scraped or sanded clean and made flat prior to installation. The surface must also be free of any wax, dirt, paint, oil, grease, sealers, curing compounds and other debris. Sand or grind high spots and fill low spots with an approved floor patch compound.

It is very important to nail or screw any area of loose or moving sub floor that will cause squeaks. The manufacturer recommends the use of nails or screws with panels fastened every 12 inches along the joists or intermediate supports to ensure soundness of floor when complete.

Sub Floor Inspection & Room Preparation:

The sub floor must be completely dry. If installing over new concrete slab, allow 60 days or more to dry thoroughly. The installer must test the concrete using recommended testing methods and levels.

The sub floor must be free of any paint, oil, grease, dirt, sealers, curing agents, dust, and other residues.

If installing on any wood sub floor, the moisture content difference between engineered wood floor and wood sub flooring should not be more than 2%.

If installing over existing vinyl floor, make sure vinyl is free of waxes, polishes, and is secured to the sub floor and that the underlying sub floor meets sub floor conditions.

Screw down all creaking and loose sub flooring. Remove doors and existing baseboards, quarter rounds and thresholds.

Door frames and other wooden obstacles should be sawed off at the bottom to allow enough room for the underlayment and planks to slide under.

Radiant Heat Installations:

Urban Evolutions Engineered Flooring is suitable for use with radiant heat systems. Installers should consult with the radiant heat system manufacturer to ensure proper operations and follow all NWFA recommendations for radiant heat installation.

INSTALLATION

All wet trades such as tiling, drywall, painting etc. must be completed before hardwood is installed or delivered to the site.

1. Evaluate jobsite and sub floor condition to ensure proper installation environment.
2. The completed floor is only as good as the sub floor, and the installer.
3. Allow for an expansion space equal to the thickness of the floor (i.e., 3/8" or 1/2") around all vertical obstructions.
4. No area of connected floor can span greater than 30' in width or 30' in length without allowing for additional expansion space beyond the standard 3/8" to 1/2". For larger spans when the installation is floated install T-Moldings or other transition pieces. For larger spans for glue down add an extra 1/16" for every 3' to the standard 3/8" to 1/2" expansion allowance. Installations larger than 48' require T-Molds or other transition pieces in addition to the extra spacing. More or less spacing may be needed depending on geographical area.
5. Fill visible joints and gaps with a non-silicon-based filler that blends with the floor color. Helpful hint: Test filler on spare piece of plank.

Note: The use of fillers/putty and stain is a recommended and acceptable industry practice.

6. Install molding and trim making sure not to nail into the hardwood flooring.

7. Sweep and/or vacuum the floor then clean with a hardwood flooring cleaner. Note: You must stay off floor for at least 12 hours when using either floating or glue down methods. Upon completion, cover the floor with a breathable wrapping to protect the finish if necessary.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

To ensure full enjoyment of your floor and to extend its beauty for years to come, the following list of guidelines should be followed. Denting and scratching is not covered under the warranty.

- Install floor protectors on furniture legs to protect against scratches and dents. These furniture pads should have no wrinkles and be made of soft, non-staining material
- (i.e., felt pads)
- Do not drag or roll furniture or other heavy objects across the floor. Rollers from refrigerators, TV's, stereos, etc. will dent the floor. To prevent the denting first lay 1/2" plywood on the floor and roll the appliance or heavy furniture on the plywood.
- Avoid high heels or shoes with protruding nails. Some types of high heel shoes can severely damage the surface of any floor covering.
- Sweep and vacuum the floor regularly.
- Avoid sand and grit build up. Use protective mats or rugs at doorways and areas of heavy wear.
- Never use latex or rubber backed mats or rugs; they will permanently stain the floor
- Place protective mats under chairs with wheels
- Use only recommended cleaning products from your dealer
- Never wet mop your floor. Never wax or use oil-based products on your floor.

The recommended method for cleaning Urban Evolutions Live Sawn Engineered Flooring is with a damp mop and water. Make sure the moisture content is limited to an amount that will evaporate almost immediately.