



# Engineered Installation Instructions

Please read all instructions carefully before attempting installation. Improper installation may void the warranty.

## PRODUCT USE

DIVINE Flooring Engineered products can be installed above, on or below grade. Most wood species, with the exception of Hickory, Maple and Brazilian Cherry, can also be installed over subfloors equipped with radiant heat systems.

DIVINE Flooring Engineered products may either be glued down over plywood/OSB or concrete subfloor, or simply nailed down or stapled down over plywood/OSB floor, using a specially designed hardwood floor nailing machine or stapler.

Nailed down/stapled down and floating installation saves you labor and material costs, eliminating adhesive, solvent and cleaning; it also cuts down on board installation time and allows you to walk on your floor immediately after work completion. Installer must use appropriate nailer and shoe for this installation method.

## INSTALLER AND OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Prior to installation, the installer and owner must ensure that the work environment and subfloors meet or exceed the minimal specifications listed in this installation guide.

Standard trade practice allows for up to a 5% margin of error for natural imperfections and manufacturing defects. Prior to installation, the installer and owner should conduct a final inspection of grade, color, manufacturing and finish quality of boards to ensure that the floor conforms to purchased product.

Once installed, all boards are considered as having been accepted by installer and owner, even if owner is absent at time of installation. When ordering hardwood flooring, it is recommended to add to the square footage needed as allowance for cutting waste.

## WARRANTY

### Structural Lifetime Residential Warranty

DIVINE Flooring guarantees the original purchaser a lifetime residential warranty on the structure of the flooring boards. The structural residential warranty is valid if the site environmental conditions are met, including and maintaining recommended relative humidity all year round. Subfloor

pre-installation evaluation, moisture content level requirements, subfloor preparations and subfloor leveling must all meet DIVINE Flooring requirements specified in our DIVINE Flooring Installation Instructions.

### Finish Residential Warranty

DIVINE Flooring guarantees the original purchaser that the surface finish on its DIVINE Flooring prefinished hardwood floor will not wear through or separate from the wood for a period of **35 [Thirty-five] years** from the date of purchase, for all flooring purchased after March 1st, 2015 when installed and used under normal residential traffic conditions. Finish surface wear damages must be easily visible and cover at least 10% [ten percent] of the total flooring surface area.

*Some exclusions: Our Farmhouse & Cosmopolitan [to a lesser degree] floors have a rustic appeal that highlights the wood's natural character. Pronounced color variations, open and closed knots, mineral streaks, cracks, surface holes, wire-brushed, hand-scraped 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.*

For more information on the warranty and warranty exclusions, consult the DIVINE Flooring Warranty Program. In the event of a discrepancy between the information in the DIVINE Flooring Installation Instructions and the DIVINE Flooring Warranty Program, the latter shall prevail.

### FLOOR CARE PREVENTION TIPS

For information on floor care protection, prevention and maintenance, consult DIVINE Flooring Maintenance Instructions on our website [divinefloor.com](http://divinefloor.com).

### RECOMMENDED TOOLS, MATERIAL AND ACCESSORIES

- Vacuum cleaner or broom
- Scraper
- Leveling bar
- Level
- Leveling compound [optional]
- #20 grit sand paper [optional]
- Wood and/or concrete moisture meter

- Miter saw
- Handsaw
- Security glasses
- Claw hammer
- Nail punch
- Pry bar
- Square 16" x 24"
- Measuring tape
- Chalk line
- Reversing tongues *[optional]*
- DIVINE Flooring touch up kit
- DIVINE Flooring maintenance kit

## GLUED DOWN INSTALLATION

### Recommended Adhesives:

- Use adhesive that meets the performance criteria described in DIVINE Technical Bulletin.
- Trowel recommended by adhesive manufacturer as tooth size is important for ensuring optimal strip adherence to subfloor.
- 2" [50 mm] concrete nails and 1" x 3" x 8' [25 mm x 75 mm x 245 cm] laths for first row holding block.
- 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080 or easily removable equivalent.  
\* *Must be an approved tape to be in contact with wood floor finishes. Also note, these tapes generally have a time limit before they can start to damage your finish. Refer to manufacturers guidelines.*
- 100 to 150 lbs [45 to 68 kg] roller.
- Remover towels for hand and tool cleaning.
- Adhesive cleaner.
- Recommended membrane and acoustic membrane, when necessary.

## NAILED DOWN/STAPLED DOWN INSTALLATION

- **For 3/8" [10 mm] thick boards:**  
Use 1" [25 mm] up to 1-1/2" [38 mm] staples
- **For 1/2" [13 mm] and 3/4" [19 mm] thick boards:**  
Use 1-1/4" [32 mm] up to 1-1/2" [38 mm] staples  
\* *Also refer to our Installation Technical Bulletin for our Nails & Staples recommendations.*
- Power drill and 1/16" [1.5 mm] bit
- Finishing nails 1-1/2" [38 mm]
- Flooring screws

Prefinished accessories such as transition moldings, reducers, stair nosing, base boards, quarter rounds, etc. are available from your DIVINE Flooring Authorized dealer.

**Note:** DIVINE Flooring cannot be held responsible for any floor damage resulting from use of inadequate tools or adhesive, differing from those recommended. All the installation material must be at the recommended room temperature prior to the installation  $\pm 72^\circ\text{F}$  [ $\pm 22^\circ\text{C}$ ].

## HANDLING AND ACCLIMATIZATION

Prefinished hardwood floor installation **requires a little more time and precaution than unfinished flooring**; handle with care to avoid board surface and finish damage.

## PRE-INSTALLATION CHECK LIST/BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Hardwood floor installation should be the very last step of any construction or renovation project.
- The building should be closed in with all outside doors and windows in place. The wall covering should be in place and the painting completed except for the final coat on the baseboards and quarter rounds molding. When possible, delay the base moldings until installation is completed.
- Prior to installation, heating system must be in operation, and room temperature must have been maintained at  $\pm 72^\circ\text{F}$  [ $\pm 22^\circ\text{C}$ ] for at least one week.
- To avoid any moisture related damages, subfloor must be dry and basement well ventilated.
- For below grade installation, ensure that foundations, concrete slab or any adjacent objects are thoroughly leak proof. Surface drainage directing water away from the house or building. All gutters and downspouts should be in place.
- Relative humidity must be maintained around 45% all year round. Engineered products must be from 30% to 70% relative humidity. For solid products, we recommend between 40% to 70% relative humidity.

## OVER RADIANT HEAT INSTALLATION

- Installation over subfloors equipped with radiant heat systems must be glued down.
- The radiant heat system must have been tested and in operation for a few weeks prior to installation.
- The system should be turned off during installation and turned back on 24 hours after installation to allow the glue to dry normally.
- The wood surface temperature must never exceed  $80^\circ\text{F}$  [ $27^\circ\text{C}$ ].
- If the radiant heat pipes are visible or exposed in the subfloor, you must cover them with 3/8" [10 mm] plywood to spread heat more evenly.
- Due to their specific physical properties Hickory, Maple and Brazilian Cherry must not be installed on subfloors over radiant heat systems.

## SUBFLOOR MOISTURE LEVEL EVALUATION

### Wood Subfloor:

Wood subfloor moisture reading must not exceed 12% and differential between boards and subfloor must be less than 4%. Wood moisture meters are available from your DIVINE Flooring Authorized dealer. If moisture reading is too high, postpone installation, find moisture source and correct it. If needed, raise heat and increase ventilation until proper subfloor conditions are met.

### Concrete Subfloor:

Prior to installation, concrete subfloor should preferably be 45 to 90 days old, 30 days being the absolute minimum. Concrete moisture meter must be used to check subfloor moisture level; if the results exceed 3.5%, calcium chloride test must be performed. The concrete subfloor moisture content must not exceed 3 lbs/1,000 sq. ft / 24 hours. If the reading exceeds 3 lbs, use a complete moisture-proofing system [sealer and adhesive] compatible with the selected adhesive.

Please refer to the manufacturer's documentation for the selected products for information on their warranty, product limitations, and installation recommendations.

**Note:** *Keep sealed boxes of flooring in room where the flooring is to be installed for at least 24 hours before installation.*

**Owner and installer are solely and jointly responsible for pre-installation subfloor moisture level evaluation** and must ensure that all conditions and/or specifications listed in this guide have been thoroughly met prior to installation of hardwood floor.

## SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

- Stapled down installation requires minimum 5/8" [16 mm] plywood, or 23/32" [18 mm] OSB chipboard subfloor.  
\* *For 3/4" thick flooring products, decide installation angle: perpendicular 90 degree or 45 degree angle installation to joist is recommended. On plywood subfloor with joists 16" on center.*
- *For 3/8" [10 mm] and 1/2" [13 mm] thick flooring products. We recommend the addition of 1/4" [6 mm] to 3/8" [10 mm] plywood in order to prevent floor movement.*

**Structurally Sound:** Wood subfloor must be securely screwed down to joists to prevent any movement or squeaks. Thoroughly inspect and replace existing floor or subfloor that shows evidence of water damage or structural weakness. Concrete subfloor must be just as structurally sound before installing hardwood floor and should be rated with a minimum compressive strength of 3000 psi.

**Level/Flat:** Subfloor surface must be flat and maximum tolerance is 3/16" [5 mm] per 10' [3 m]. If necessary, flatten down any irregularities, using #20 grit paper, and correct any uneven spots.

**Dry:** Subfloor must be dry and within moisture reading specifications.

**Clean:** Scrape, broom clean, vacuum and free subfloor from any debris or obstacles such as cleats, nail heads, dried glue or any other materials.

## PREPARATION

- Sketch your installation to avoid surprises.  
\* *Decide starting point or wall. Decide installation direction angle.*
- Remove any quarter round, baseboard, doorsill and old floor covering, when necessary.
- Trim bottom of the doorstop with handsaw to insert boards underneath.
- To enhance the floor's look, work installation from several boxes [i.e. 3 to 5 boxes] of flooring at the same time, and mix boards to ensure good variations in color, shade and length.
- Always start by selecting the boards that will best match and blend with the transition moldings.

# Glued Down Installation Instructions

Wear your security equipment and maintain a safe environment at all times.

## STEP 1 STARTING POINT

- For 3 1/4" [83 mm] width flooring planks require 32 3/4" [830 mm] chalk line starting mark parallel to the starting wall [for allowing the required 1/4" [6 mm] expansion gap]. For 5" [127 mm] width flooring planks require 35 1/4" [895 mm] chalk line parallel to the starting wall. Etc.
- Working area between the starting wall and the starting line will be the last section of the flooring to be installed. This working area will allow easy installation and ideal fit for full width planks, so it will not be necessary to rip-saw the last finishing row of planks, while maintaining the required 1/4" [6 mm] expansion gap between the wall and the flooring.
- Holding block, must be nailed down alongside starting line inside working area to secure starting row in place.

## STEP 2 ADHESIVE APPLICATION

- For optimal adhesive application, work trowel in circular motion at 45° angle; adhesive left on floor by trowel teeth is just the right amount. [One gallon covers about 45 to 50 sq. ft depending on manufacturer's specifications. Refer to container.]

*Note: Only cover surfaces that can be reasonably laid in 60 to 90 minutes, since adhesive may dry too quickly and not stick properly. Reaction time may vary from one adhesive to another and may also be affected by room temperature and relative humidity [see manufacturer's specifications on the container].*

## STEP 3 BOARD INSTALLATION

- It is very important that installation be started straight and square.
- Carefully select boards. As needed, cut boards that appear different or move them to a less visible location.
- Laying from working area, leave 1/4" [6 mm] gap alongside left wall which is perpendicular to starting line, prop tongue side against holding block and press first board down into adhesive.
- Install subsequent boards, proceeding from left to right until ready to trim first row end board.
- To minimize trim waste, select board long enough for row end, so that remaining trimmed end may be used to start subsequent row. Leave 1/4" [6 mm] gap at end of each row.
- First board of second row must be at least 6" [150 mm] shorter or longer than that of first row. End-joints must be staggered by at least 6" [150 mm] from one row to the next. Avoid lining the joints up or having them follow too regular a pattern.
- Insert tongue end into board groove, lower board as close as possible to adjacent one, slide tongue into groove and press board down.
- Proceed the same way for all subsequent rows.
- Once the main part of floor has been installed, remove blocking laths from working area and complete installation in the same manner. Use pry bar or Board Puller to fit last row of boards into place and be sure to leave minimum required 1/4" [6 mm] expansion gap.

### Notes:

- When used, acoustic underlayment must be glued down over subfloor prior to gluing down boards using the same recommended adhesive.
- Extremely precise board milling may require use of tapping block for better tongue and groove fit.
- Row to row installation requires that no glue seeps into groove at any time for perfect tongue and groove fit.
- Avoid getting adhesive on hands to minimize clean up. Wipe any adhesive from floor right away, using solvent and towels. Some adhesives simply come off by rubbing with a clean, soft towel or rag.
- \* With Urethane surface finish: use adhesive remover, paint thinner, mineral spirits or lighter fluid to remove stubborn adhesive spills.
- \* Depending on type of adhesive being used, it may be possible to remove adhesive with a clean, soft towel or rag. With Oil surface finish: be more careful and special wipe adhesive remover or Maintenance Natural Oil.
- To maintain boards in place and avoid board movement causing gapping during installation, use 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080.
- For better board contact with adhesive, it is recommended to use adhesive

*manufacturer's recommended pound weight roller [usually 100 to 150 lbs/45 to 68 kg required] over installed floor section before adhesive dries. Use roller's protective padding to avoid damage to floor surface.*

## STEP 4 ACCESSORIES INSTALLATION

- When applicable, install transition moldings, stair nosing and reducers.
- When applicable, reinstall baseboards and quarter rounds, making sure to nail them to the wall, and not to the hardwood floor, to allow free floor movement.

## STEP 5 POST-INSTALLATION

- Wait 24 hours before moving furniture back into place or allowing heavy traffic.
- Set a few boards aside in case of future repairs.
- When installation is completed, vacuum floor thoroughly, spray light mist of DIVINE Flooring Cleaner on terry cloth mop and mop the floor clean.
- Install flooring protection in door entrance and under appliances and furniture, before moving into place.

# Stapled Down Installation Instructions

Wear your security equipment and maintain a safe environment at all times.

## STEP 1 STARTING POINT

- For 3 1/4" [83 mm] width flooring planks require 3 1/2" [90 mm] chalk line starting mark parallel to the starting wall [for allowing the required 1/4" [6 mm] expansion gap]. For 5" [127 mm] width flooring planks require 5 1/4" [135 mm] chalk line parallel to the starting wall etc.
- This starting line allows you to have 1/4" [6 mm] required expansion gap alongside wall floor movement.

## STEP 2 BOARD INSTALLATION

- It is very important that installation be started straight and square.
- Carefully select boards. As needed, cut boards that appear different or move them to a less visible location.
- Align first board tongue side with starting line, grooved side facing starting wall leaving 1/4" [6 mm] gap from right side wall, which is perpendicular to starting line. Drill and nail board vertically as close to wall as possible to hide nail heads when baseboards and quarter rounds are in place. Install subsequent boards from right to left until ready to trim row end board.
- To minimize trim waste, select board long enough for row end, so that remaining trimmed end may be used to start subsequent row. Leave 1/4" [6 mm] gap at end of each row.
- First board of second row must be at least 6" [150 mm] shorter or longer than that of first row. End-joints must be staggered by at least 6" [150 mm] from one row to the next. Avoid lining the joints up or having them follow too regular a pattern.
- Since wall proximity prohibits use of stapler, use finishing nails approximately every 4" [100 mm] alongside tongue for first few rows, and punch nail heads down.
- Subsequent rows must be installed the same way, using the stapler [see stapler tips at side]; staple boards every 4 to 5" [100 to 125 mm], but at more than 2" [50 mm] from each board end.
- Because of wall proximity, installation of last 4 or 5 rows is identical to installation of first few rows. You might have to rip-saw last row of boards to leave required 1/4" [6 mm] gap along side finishing wall.

## STEP 3 ACCESSORIES INSTALLATION

- When applicable, install transition moldings, stair nosing and reducers.
- When applicable, reinstall baseboards and quarter rounds, making sure to nail them to the wall, and not to the hardwood floor, to allow free floor movement.

## STEP 4 POST-INSTALLATION

- Set a few boards aside in case of future repairs.
- When installation is completed, vacuum floor thoroughly, spray light mist of DIVINE Flooring Cleaner on terry cloth mop and wipe clean the floor.
- Install flooring protection in door entrance and under appliances and furniture, before moving into place.

### PNEUMATIC STAPLER TIPS WARNING

To avoid damaging boards during installation:

- Ensure that stapler base plate remains clean and free from nicks at all times.
- When stapler is not being used, place on piece of plywood or cardboard, but never directly onto floor.
- Ensure that stapler base sits flat on floor and plumb against tongue before stapling board down.
- Check base plate condition and proper operation of stapler regularly.
- Set and check air pressure regularly on subfloor types requiring specific air pressure settings.

## Floating Installation Instructions

\* for traditional Tongue & Groove system

Wear your security equipment and maintain a safe environment at all times.

## STEP 1 UNDERLAYMENT

- Install DIVINE Flooring underlayment to protect the floor from moisture and to provide a cushion between the subfloor and your engineered flooring. The underlayment should be installed in the opposite direction to the boards.
- The underlayment should extend to the base of the walls for  $\pm 2"$  [50 mm]. Remove excess trim exceeding the 2" [50 mm].
- Lay a second row of underlayment flush with the first row, without overlapping, and making sure there are no gaps between the 2 rows. Then cover the second row with the self-adhesive flap or use waterproof adhesive tape to secure the flap, and the ends of the underlayment rolls together.
- Proceed similarly for all additional rows of underlayment.
- At the end of the flooring installation, once the engineered floor is installed and before installing the baseboards molding, you will need to trim the excess underlayment flush to the floor surface of the flooring, using a fine trimming blade.

## STEP 2 STARTING POINT

- Measure and sketch your room installation carefully. Determine where you are going to start.
- Always leave appropriate expansion space from all walls. Engineered platforms used in floating installation require the use of expansion wedges or spacers against starting wall to help keep the flooring from shifting and moving during installation.
- While facing the wall, start on the left corner side. Using expansion wedges in between the first row and the wall, securing an expansion gap of  $\frac{1}{2}"$  [13 mm] on the length side and  $\frac{1}{2}"$  [13 mm] on the ends side.

## STEP 3 BOARD INSTALLATION

- Carefully select and choose the straightest boards for your first and second rows as you cannot straighten them later. First and second rows must be straight and square to ensure true, fixed base from which to the entire floor.
- Set first row of boards in place with the tongue side facing the starting wall and the groove side facing out, using a chalk-line as a guide. Moving right, put the next board into place. Insert the end tongue into the end groove of the first board. Continue until it is time to cut the last board that will finish the first row.

\* Remembering to set expansion wedges every 12" [30 cm] or spacers along the starting wall and the side wall.

\* In order to minimize cutting waste, the board selected to complete the first row should be long enough to start the second row.

- Using non-crystallizing wood flooring glue. Apply  $\frac{1}{8}"$  [3 mm] bead glue to bottom edge groove of the board on the first row [both grooves, on the length side and end side]. Assemble again these boards together by setting T&G end-joints closed using a tapping block, and the Pull Bar for the last board on the first row.
- **Begin second row.** Using the remaining board cut off from the first row. Apply  $\frac{1}{8}"$  [3 mm] bead glue to the bottom edge of the groove on the long side and on the end of the board. Align the board left edge with the first row and set in place, engaging the long tight joint together. Ensure a tight fit by using a tapping block. Repeat the same for subsequent boards in the second row. Always align the left edge first, before the long length side.
- When second row is completed, strap the boards with 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080 and leave it to dry for  $\pm 60$  minutes. These 2 first rows will become your fixed base for building the entire floor.
- After 60 minutes, resume your installation using the same technique for gluing and setting T&G joints. Repeat! Install subsequent boards, proceeding from the left side to right until ready to trim row end board. Secure the last board using expansion wedges to the wall. And randomly strap the row installed with 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080 [Check tape guidelines for compatibility and time limits tape can be in contact with finished wood surfaces to avoid damage to floor finish].

\* As you progress, check all seams for a tight fit before moving on to the next row.

\* Avoid lining the joints up or having them follow too regular a pattern [Allow at least 6" from one joint to the next to avoid excessive joint tension]

\* When needed, cut boards that appear different or move them to a less visible location.

- Proceed the same way for all subsequent rows.
- Since the last row will generally not fit perfectly, you need to measure the width needed and rip all boards for the last row. Use Pull Bar to fit last row of boards into place and strap them with the 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080. Remembering to allow adequate expansion gap.
- Leave and wait 24 hours.
- After 24 hours, carefully remove the 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080. And trim the underlayment flush with the floor surface.

### Notes:

- Extremely precise board milling may require use of tapping block or Pull Bar for better tongue and groove fit.
- Avoid getting T&G Glue on hands to minimize clean up. Using a wet cloth, wipe any adhesive from floor right away.
- To maintain boards in place and avoid board movement causing gapping during installation, use 3M ScotchBlue™ 2080. Again, it is the responsibility of the installer to confirm the compatibility of the tape being in contact with the floor finish and for how long it is approved for. Suitable tapes to be in contact with floor finishes generally have different time frames, the longer the time frame, the more expensive the tape.
- T&G floating installations are probably one of the hardest installations to start, as the boards want to move around on you in the starting area. It is imperative the first 2 rows be straight and gap free.

### WARNING:

The floor cannot be fixed to any surface and cannot be submitted to any movement restrictions.

Expansion gaps play a fundamental role in the performance of a floating floor installation. They allow the flooring to expand and contract freely in relation to changes of room humidity and prevent damages that can affect the aesthetics and structural integrity of the floor.

Installation of "T Molding" might be necessary for any room exceeding 24' or 40' wide [7 or 12 meters].

### Adequate expansion space must be envisioned:

\*  $\frac{1}{2}"$  [13 mm] expansion space, maximum room width is  $\pm 24'$  [7 meters]

\*  $\frac{3}{4}"$  [19 mm] expansion space, maximum room width is  $\pm 40'$  [12 meters]

Adequate expansion space must be envisioned for the installation of all moldings. NEVER attach moldings to the floating floor.

## STEP 4 ACCESSORIES INSTALLATION

- When applicable, install transition moldings, stair nosing and reducers.
- When applicable, reinstall baseboards and quarter rounds, making sure to nail them to the wall, and not to the hardwood floor, to allow free floor movement.

## STEP 5 POST-INSTALLATION

- After the 24 hours drying time, move furniture back into place or allow heavy traffic.
- Set a few boards aside in case of future repairs.
- When installation is completed, vacuum floor thoroughly, spray light mist of DIVINE Flooring Cleaner on terry cloth mop and wipe clean the floor.
- Install flooring protection in door entrance and under appliances + furniture, before moving into place.

### TOOLS, MATERIAL AND ACCESSORIES

- Expansion wedges or spacers
- Waterproof tape
- Tapping Block + Pull Bar
- DIVINE non-crystallized Glue
- DIVINE Underlayment

Please refer to our DIVINE Flooring website for specific instructions at: [divinefloor.com](http://divinefloor.com).

For more information, please contact your DIVINE Flooring Authorized Dealer or consult our website at [divinefloor.com](http://divinefloor.com).

If the authorized dealer is unable to resolve your inquiry, please contact our Technical Services Department at DIVINE Flooring directly by email or phone.

#### DIVINE Flooring

Att: Technical Services Department  
235075 Ryan Road, Rocky View, Alberta, Canada, T1X 0K3

Phone: 403-723-4100 Fax: 403-723-2338

Email: [technical@divinefloor.com](mailto:technical@divinefloor.com)