

Historic™ Floor Company

Self-Installation

Historic™ Floor Company, Inc. Installation Instructions

1. Sub-grade Installation

The National Wood Floor Association (NWFA) recommends that wood floors not be installed below the grade of the earth around your home.

2. Concrete Slab Installation

Preparation. Ensure the concrete is smooth and clear and that no dips or raised areas are present. Floor-leveling compounds can be used for leveling uneven spots. Grinding or chipping (and filling) should be utilized for knocking down high spots. Sweep and vacuum debris making sure the concrete is smooth and clear for underlayment installation.

Direct on slab (underlayment) option. Alternatively, you may wish to install direct to the concrete slab. Again, we recommend the advice of your flooring contractor to determine the best method of installation for your situation. Direct installation typically requires a 6-millimeter polyethylene moisture barrier be installed following the above directions and then to fasten the ¾" AdvanTech® plywood direct to floor. If this is the preferred method of installation you choose, we recommend that your contractor utilize a "ramset" and 2 ½" masonry nails spaced every 16 inches, covering all areas except where thresholds will be present. MAKE SURE to leave at least a ¼" gap for expansion between sheets and around all vertical walls.

3. Installation of a Historic™ Floor

A. **Acclimation.** Although our planks undergo strenuous moisture requirements, we still recognize that many factors and conditions cause all wood to expand or contract in different homes. The home or place of business should be fully enclosed and interior climate controls operational for at least one week prior to installation. Do not store planks directly on the floor. Place them on sawhorses or wood shims to elevate them off the floor. Additionally, it may be a good idea to run a dehumidifier during the acclimation period depending on ambient moisture. It is also necessary that your sub-floors be completely dry before installation. If the sub-flooring is not totally free of moisture your finished floors may experience "cupping" or "buckling". The HFC contract (Estimate) requires that the homeowner ensure that the home environment is dry, as Historic cannot be held responsible for moisture-related problems. Additionally, PLEASE ensure that all

drywall, cement-board (i.e. DuraRock®), and masonry work be installed and completely dry if new construction. These steps will limit ambient moisture and lessen the risk of moisture-related issues after the floors are installed. Acclimation of your wood is without a doubt the most important part of installing. The National Wood Floor Association recommends that your planks acclimate to the “normal living condition” of your home. At HFC, we suggest that you let your planks season in your home for at least 5-7 days. It may be necessary for the homeowner to install a humidity control system in the home to maintain a recommended relative humidity (RH) level of 50%. This provides a stable environment and minimizes any dramatic expansion and contraction of the planks. Seasonal changes are considered normal when temperatures change. But, to minimize such changes, we recommend the homeowner to purchase a moisture control system to be installed to their HVAC system prior to installation. Please find out more from your HVAC dealer. The use of a humidity control system in the home will maintain year-around consistent moisture. Please make sure that your flooring contractor uses a moisture meter to test both the sub-floor and the planks to ensure that the moisture is within 4% of each other prior to installation. Additionally, be sure to close doors and windows and seal the home with the temperature controls operational. It is important to keep unwanted moisture elements out of the home.

- B. **Positioning.** It is recommended that your planks be installed opposite (perpendicular) to the floor joists for second levels or over a basement. On concrete slab installation, you are free to run planks any way you wish.
- C. **Plank installation.** Regardless of the method of installation of underlayment you choose, it is now time to lay your planks. It is always a good idea to apply contractor-grade flooring adhesive (OSI® or GE® or Liquid Nail manufactures this) in a “snake” on the back of the Heritage™ 5” and 8” size plank as you install. This will bond the planks directly to the sub-floor and minimize any squeaks or movement in the future as well as limit the risk of cupping or buckling. Large tubes of this type adhesive should cover approximately 50-70 square feet of planking per tube.
- D. **Face-nail every board with our Portsmouth™ nails.** On 8” boards you may choose either 2 or 3 nails per row. On 10” and 12” planks we recommend 3 nails per row. Regardless, of how many nails you choose to use per row, you are replicating the method of using hand-forged nails hundreds of years ago. The main purpose, however, is to keep the boards from wanting to buckle or cup regardless of how dry they have become in the kiln prior to installation. It will be necessary to run a row of nails approximately every 30” per plank, throughout the entire job. Be sure to pilot drill holes on plank ends to

reduce the risk of splitting. Some splitting is unavoidable, so write this off to charm and character—once stained it looks great regardless. However to minimize this, simply use a bit that is similar in diameter to the body of the Portsmouth™ nail being used. Be sure when drilling pilot holes to only pass the drill bit through the plank and not into the underlayment—this is where you want to allow the nail to be sunk into virgin plywood for maximum nail grip. Always face nail 1” off all walls. This will ensure that trim and baseboards (which are usually ¾” thick) will not cover the cosmetic appearance of the nails. Be sure to counter (turn face nails slightly counter-clockwise approx. 15-20°) due to the fact that the nail is designed to “twist” into the wood to securely set into the planking and sub floor. You may want to try this procedure a few times in an inconspicuous spot for practice. Our nails are more than 200 years old in their design and were developed to allow the wood to swell back around the twisted nail body and clinch heads, making the nails stay set.

Alternatively, you may wish to “blind-nail” our planks in place to create a less antique appearance. This method of installation still requires gluing but incorporates blind nailing through the tongue of the wood. This method is typically used to achieve a more formal look.

E. **Sanding.** We recommend using a drum sander, edger and square hand sander to achieve our characteristic Heritage™ appearance. You may want to contract with a floor sander in your area for this work if you do not have extensive experience in sanding pine wood flooring. On our own installations, we use both Silicon Carbide Resin cloth and Aluminum Oxide Resin cloth based sandpapers.

- Edge sand the entire perimeter of house with edge sander using 80 or 100 grit sandpaper. This is done first as to hide any rear wheel marks that may be left by edger.
- Then, make one cut with 80 or 100 grit paper using a drum sander, making sure to cut the planner marks out of the wood. Some prefer the look of occasional planner marks, since this gives the appearance of an older floor. This is your choice, but, regardless, be sure to sand enough to remove any unevenness where planks match up.
- Scrape your corners with a razor-sharp hand scraper.
- Blend edger and drum sanding points with electric square hand sander using paper cut from the drum sanding paper. This is extremely important in order to hide the “start-n-stop” marks.

- Vacuum using a back-pack vacuum since plastic wheels will leave a residue on planks. Be sure to use a soft bristle head on the vacuum nozzle to also minimize the risk of “marking” the floor with plastic residue from cheap plastic vacuum attachments.
- “Pop” the wood grain throughout the floor by tacking the entire floor with plain warm water and a damp cloth. This step is extremely important, especially if you plan on staining the pine.

F. **Finishing Process.** Be sure to take precaution and have proper ventilation and a breathing apparatus at all times. Make sure your stain and polyurethane are the same temperature as the home prior to installation (70 degrees F is most desired). You should try to keep your house at 70 degrees F during the finishing process to allow the solvents to properly “gas-out” during the drying process. Apply your stain and poly with the temperature control system turned off. One hour after application/s, turn the system back on to ensure air movement. Proper ventilation can be reached by cracking a few windows about 1 inch (making sure that it’s not raining, snowing, etc.). This allows the solvents to escape from your home.

G. **Stain.** Choose the stain of your choice; making sure it is an oil-based stain. Using a “rag-on, rag-off” method of application, be sure to always apply stain with the span of the planking. NEVER STAIN ACROSS THE GRAIN as it will reveal “lap marks”. Do not let stand. Rag off using lint-free clothes to wipe till removed and until no lap-marks or dampness appears. It is always a good idea to keep a “cut-in” brush handy for hard to reach places. We recommend that it is best to allow your stained floors dry overnight or up to 12 hours at 70 degrees. Be sure stain is completely dry before moving to the polyurethane process!

H. **Polyurethane.** Our Antique Matte polyurethane is sourced from one of the oldest and most creditable companies in the flooring business in the US and have been making oil based finishes for nearly 50 years. Our Antique Matte (low sheen) finish is in our opinion the best oil-modified finish on the market—made to an antique amber finish and made exclusively for Historic Floor. This product is a commercial grade, 48% solids, VOC compliant finish and will wear very well over the years. This product has the appearance of a tung oil but the durability of a gym floor finish. It is very forgiving on scratches and does not pronounce imperfections like satin or gloss finishes.

For best application results use a ¼” synthetic mo-hair roller to apply your polyurethane. Though roller application is recommended, we have had equal success with application using a mo-hair applicator pad on a “T-Bar” as well. Keep a cut-in brush handy for hard-to-reach places,

but avoid brush marks anywhere except in inconspicuous places. You must allow your first coat of polyurethane to finish drying over night. Buff lightly between coats with a Maroon Pad, being sure not to buff into the stain. Also, be sure to buff across the grain and not with the grain, as you may fracture some of the arching grain peaks in the wood fibers. Vacuum and tack as described above. We recommend 2 coats, but you may apply as many coats as desired as long as you lightly buff between coats. Please allow your final coat of polyurethane to completely dry (12 hours is best) before the client is allowed to move back in. Remember, no rugs for 30 days and we recommend felt pads on all furniture, etc. Please consult our Expectations Guide for further details.

** These instructions are intended only to act as recommended guideline to purchaser for installing Historic™ wide plan pine floors. All liabilities transfer to purchaser upon receipt of all materials from seller. These instructions do not guarantee any specific finished flooring result. Historic™ Floor Company, Inc. cannot be held liable for installation by any third party. By purchasing wide plank flooring materials and supplies to complete your job, purchaser agrees to these terms and conditions of sale and to hold harmless Historic™ Floor Company, Inc. (seller). Wood is a natural flooring material the inherently contains distinctive differences in grain and color configurations. These subtle differences that occur in nature create the beauty, warmth and individuality of each Historic™ floor. Photos and other images of Historic™ Floor Company, Inc. is intended as a visual guide, as your Historic™ floor may vary in actual color or grain pattern. All photos and images that are contained in Historic™ Floor Company brochures, product catalogs or viewed on www.historicfloorco.com are actual Historic™ floors installed in customer homes.*