



HISTORIC[™]
FLOOR COMPANY

HISTORIC FLOOR COMPANY[™] INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of a Historic Wide Plank Floor! You've made the choice to install a floor that will add character and value to your home or business for as long as you own it, and for many years after that. As a supplier of wide-plank wood flooring in the United States, Historic Floor Company has supplied you with only the finest materials available which we have coupled with our unique and time-tested installation and finishing methods. If you follow this guide step-by-step, you'll end up with a floor that will astonish your friends and intrigue every guest that enters your home. It is important to remember that the character and natural beauty of real wood gives every floor a unique and custom look that you'll not see replicated in any other home. Mineral streaks, knots, and other character marks are inherent in a natural wood floor, and only add to the warmth and patina of your Historic Floor.

SUB-GRADE INSTALLATION TO CONCRETE:

The National Wood Floor Association (NWFA) recommends that solid wood flooring not be stored or installed below the grade of the earth. In accordance with this recommendation, our flooring is approved for above-grade installation. Our engineered hardwood floors may be installed below grade in a moisture proof area, and taking precautions in accordance to the NWFA. First, ensure the concrete is smooth and clear. This may require the use of floor-leveling compounds, scraping, grinding or chipping and filling. Clean and prepare the concrete by vacuum only, being sure to not damp or wet mop the concrete. You do not want to present moisture of any kind to the concrete. Next roll the entire surface of concrete with a roll on vapor barrier product such as the type made by Franklins or Bostich MVP. After this dries, according to manufactures directions, install $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 4' x 8' sheets of AdvanTech or SturdyFloor engineered underlayment by using Franklins 811 adhesive according to directions. Additionally, shoot 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " concrete nails through the underlayment using a .22 cal nail gun. We recommend the highest power charge available to ensure the nail countersinks into the underlayment. You should shoot at least 12 nails to each sheet. The combination of adhesive and nails will allow for maximum holding power to concrete. At this time, you are now ready to install your Historic hardwood flooring. Alternatively, you may wish to install your engineered hardwood flooring directly to the concrete sub-straight. Please reference the installation guidelines of the NWFA.

INSTALLATION OF A HISTORIC FLOOR

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 where the installation will take place should be fully enclosed, and interior climate controls operational for at least one week prior to installation. Do not store planks directly on floor. Place them on “stickers” or wood shims to elevate them off the floor. Additionally, it may be a good idea to run a dehumidifier/humidifier during the acclimation period to achieve a relative humidity of 50% combined with a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit. It is also necessary that your subfloors be completely dry before installation. If the sub-flooring is not totally free of moisture, then your finished floors may experience “cupping” or “buckling”. HFC disclaimer/conditions of sale require that the homeowner ensure that the home environment is dry, as HFC cannot be held responsible for moisture-related problems. Additionally, PLEASE ensure that all drywall, cement-board (i.e. DuraRock®) and masonry work to be installed and completely dry and that ALL new paint and stains be given time to 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 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. To minimize such changes, we recommend the homeowner 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-round consistent moisture. Please make sure that you or your flooring contractor uses a moisture meter to test both the sub-floor and the planks to ensure that the moisture content of the two 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. Last, determine that your wide plank wood floor contains a MC (moisture content) of between 5-10% depending on the specie of wood. Please reference the NWFA for these specifications.

POSITIONING

It is recommended that your planks be installed perpendicular to (at a 90 degree angle) to the floor joists for second levels or over a basement/crawl space. Crawl spaces must have cross ventilation for air exchange. Please contact your local building code to obtain a copy of these requirements or consult the NWFA for hardwood flooring installation over a crawl space. On concrete slab installation, you are free to run planks in any direction you wish.

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) in a “snake” on the back of all wide plank floors that are 5” or greater in size plank as you install. You may also wish to trowel coat the entire sub-floor with adhesive. Bostitch or Stauff make very good hardwood flooring products for installing wide plank floors. They 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. This creates a vapor barrier and bonds the wood flooring to the underlayment at the same time. If you choose to use tubes of flooring adhesive, large tubes of this type should cover approximately 50-70 square feet of planking per tube.

You may wish to face-nail every board using our Portsmouth Antique reproduction square nails. On 7” boards, you may choose either 2 or 3 nails per row. On 10”-12” planks, we recommend three nails per row. Regardless of how many nails you use, you are replicating the method of using hand-forged nails from hundreds of years ago. Although cosmetic to a degree, the main purpose is functional and this adds insurance of keeping your planks from buckling or cupping. 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, by using a drill bit close in diameter to the nails. As you drill the holes, only pass the drill bit through the plank and NOT into the underlayment, as the nail needs to be sunk into the hard wood for maximum grip. Always keep face nails at least 1” away from all walls, in order to ensure that trim or baseboards will not cover the appearance of the nails. Be sure to counter turn nails slightly counter-clockwise approximately 15-20 degrees) due to the fact that the nail is designed to “twist” or “corkscrew” into the wood to securely set into the planking and sub floor. Starting the nail at this angle and allowing it to twist will result in a straight-nail alignment once the nail is completely hammered into the wood. 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. Some splitting is unavoidable; but that will add to the unique fingerprint of your flooring and will look great once stained.

You may wish to “blind-nail” our planks in place using a manual or pneumatic nailing tool 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.

SANDING

If you purchase a Historic unfinished hardwood floor, we recommend that you contract with a NWFA or HFC certified flooring contractor to professionally sand your new wide plank floors. If you have purchased one of our European White Oak products or any HFC product listed under the “Design Your Own Floor” category, the flooring is already sanded and just needs to be installed and finished with polyurethane. Light buffing or screening is recommended between coats of finish. Please consult the back of the polyurethane can for proper coating applications.

FINISHING PROCESS

Be sure to take necessary precautions and have proper ventilation and a breathing apparatus during the finishing process. Make sure your polyurethane finish is the same temperature as the room prior to application (70 degrees Fahrenheit is most desired) and maintain that same temperature during the finishing process so that the solvents can properly “gas off” during the drying process. Do not run or operate overhead fans or box fans as you do not want the finish to dry from the top down. This class of polyurethane is meant to dry from the bottom up, and air movement will cause the finish to “skin over” and not allow the solvents to escape properly. Apply the finish with the temperature control system turned off. Proper ventilation can be reached by cracking a few windows during mild weather so the solvents can escape. Please leave your HVAC operational, even with the windows cracked to ensure proper moisture levels are maintained. Please refer to the back of the polyurethane can for complete application directions. Our Matte and Satin Polyurethane products are a commercial grade with a 48% solids content, VOC compliant finish and will wear well over the years.

For best results, use a ¼” synthetic mohair roller or application pad to apply. Keep a cut-in brush handy for hard-to-reach places, but avoid brush marks. The first coat must dry overnight. Buff lightly with a Maroon Pad or 0000 Steel Wool, ensuring that you are not buffing into the grain. 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 on the can directions. We recommend two coats of polyurethane, 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 (24 hours) before move in. Remember, no rugs for 30 days and we recommend felt pads on all furniture.

** These instructions are intended only to act as recommended guideline to purchaser for installing Historic™ wide plank hardwood 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 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 the terms and conditions of sale and to hold harmless Historic™ Floor Company (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 are intended as a visual guide, as your Historic™ wood floor may vary in actual color or grain pattern.