

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Important / Read First

*Please read and review installation instructions completely before proceeding with the actual installation.*

### Owner / Installer responsibility

- The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality.
- This inspection of all flooring should be done **before** installation.
- Carefully examine the flooring for color, finish and quality before installation.
- Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects, whatever the cause.
- If material is not acceptable contact your flooring dealer prior to installation.
- Before the installation of any flooring product, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site and the condition and type of subfloor involved is acceptable; ensuring that it meets or exceeds all the requirements stipulated in the installation instructions that follow.
- The manufacturer declines responsibility for job failure resulting from inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloors, job site environmental deficiencies or improper care & maintenance.
- The use of stain, filler or putty for the correction of defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- When your flooring is ordered, a 5-10% waste factor, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (Diagonal installations may require more.)

### Job Site Inspection

- In new construction, flooring is to be the last product installed.
- All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustical ceilings, drywall taping, etc.) must be completed prior to flooring being installed.
- The flooring can not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured at least 60 to 90 days.
- Check basements and under floor crawl spaces to be sure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.
- Flooring should be at the job site 24 hours prior to installation. Cartons should be placed in the installation area. **DO NOT** open until ready to install.
- The installation site should have consistent room temperature of 60° - 75° F and a constant relative humidity level of 35 – 55% for a minimum of 5 days prior to installation of any flooring product.

**Note:** The relative humidity of any room can be checked with a hygrometer.

**Note on bowing:** The boards may be slightly concave or convex when removed from the carton. Once they are properly installed they will lay flat.

**Note on Tape:** If for some reason you need to put tape down on your floor during install or painting, consider the following. Use a tape that is made especially for delicate finishes and/or hardwood floors. If the wrong tape is used, the finish on your flooring could be damaged or removed.

## FLOAT-IN INSTALLATION GUIDE

### UNDERLAYMENT LAYER

Once the subfloor is dry, clean and flat, install the foam/rubber underlayment as specified by the underlayment manufacturer. Tape all seams completely as specified by underlayment manufacturer.

### POSITION THE FIRST ROW

Begin installing the first row in the right corner of the base wall. Install the first board so the short grooved side is against the ½” expansion shims to your right and the long grooved length of the board is against the ½” expansion shims in front of you.

Apply tongue & groove glue to the end of the second board. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned against the shims. Use the hammer/rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board.

Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete. You will need to cut off the end of the final board, save the remaining piece for the next row as long as it is at least 12” long. Use the last board Puller to ensure the last board is tight against the preceding board. Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use the shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile.

## **SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT ROWS**

Start each new row on the right side with the remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 12” long, otherwise cut a new starter board

The end joint must be at least 16” from the end joint in the row before it. When maintaining the 16” offset of all end joints, the pattern should not repeat itself until the 4th or 5th row. Maintaining this offset is very important where rows are short, such as across the width of a narrow hallway.

Glue the short end and long side grooves and position the next board, match the tongue and groove at the end only, then, beginning at the opposite end of the board, tap the board onto the previous row with the tapping block. Move the tapping block back toward the right side of the board until you get near the connections with the previous board. Before you finish tapping the board onto the previous row, you must be sure the end joint is tight. If the end joint is not completely tight you will not be able to do so once the long seam is tight.

Continue with additional boards, cut the last board to fit and use the last board puller and tap block to install it as shown previously. Continue with the next row, as long as the piece remaining from the previous row is at least 12” and maintains the end joint offset from the previous row of at least 16”.

## **THE LAST ROW**

The entire length of the last row in most cases will need to be cut to fit into the remaining space while allowing the ½” expansion space.

The last board puller will be used to install the last row.

## **INSTALLATION THROUGH DOORWAYS AND BETWEEN ROOMS**

Flooring may run continuously between rooms as long as the doorway/passageway is no less than 42” in width. If the doorway/passageway is less than 42” in width, a t-molding must be placed in the doorway/passageway to separate the two floors.

## **PIPES, FLOOR VENTS AND OTHER OBJECTS**

Each case is unique, the general rule is to carefully measure before you cut and remember to leave the ½” expansion space. Expansion space will be covered with pipe rings or molding when the installation is completed.

## **MOLDING AND FLOOR VENTS**

Complete the installation by allowing the tongue & groove adhesive to dry as specified on the bottle, remove the expansion shims and install floor vents, transition molding and wall molding as needed. See your dealer/distributor for available products.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Follow the floor care guide and warranty information for proper care, protection and maintenance of your floor.

## **STAPLE-DOWN INSTALLATION GUIDE**

### **UNDERLAYMENT LAYER**

Once the subfloor is dry, clean and flat, install the red rosin paper or 15 lb. asphalt saturated felt (roofing felt). Tape all seams completely with underlayment seam tape.

### **POSITION THE FIRST ROW**

Begin installing the first row in the right corner of the base wall. Install the first board so the short grooved side is against the ½" expansion shims to your right and the long grooved length of the board is against the ½" expansion shims in front of you.

Apply tongue & groove glue to the end of the second board. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned against the shims. Use the hammer/rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board.

Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete.

You will need to cut off the end of the final board, save the remaining piece for the next row as long as it is at least 12" long. Use the last board Puller to ensure the last board is tight against the preceding board.

Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use the shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile.

Carefully top nail the first row of boards to the subfloor ONLY using 6d finish nails where the boards meet the wall (This will be on three sides of the first and last rows of the installation and on the two ends for all other rows). Place the nails as close to the edge of the boards as possible so they will be covered by the transition and/or wall molding. If this can not be done, set the nails with a nail punch and fill holes with wood filler. Finish nails should be placed at 8" intervals along the wall.

Now side nail with the flooring stapler through the tongues of the first row at 8" intervals and 2-3" from the end of each board.

### **SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT ROWS**

Start each new row on the right side with the remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 12" long, otherwise cut a new starter board

The end joint must be at least 16" from the end joint in the row before it. When maintaining the 16" offset of all end joints, the pattern should not repeat itself until the 4th or 5th row.

Glue the short end groove of the next board and place in position, match the tongue and groove at the end only, then, beginning at the opposite end of the board, tap the board onto the previous row with the tapping block. Move the tapping block back toward the right side of the board until you get near the connections with the previous board. Before you finish tapping the board onto the previous row, you must be sure the end joint is tight. If the end joint is not completely tight you will not be able to do so once the long seam is tight.

Continue with additional boards, cut the last board to fit and use the last board puller and tap block to install it as shown previously. Continue with the next row, as long as the piece remaining from the previous row is at least 12" and maintains the end joint offset from the previous row of at least 16".

Now side nail with the flooring stapler through the tongues of the boards at 8" intervals and 2-3" from the end of each board.

## **THE LAST ROW**

The entire length of the last row in most cases will need to be cut to fit into the remaining space while allowing the ½" expansion space.

The last board puller will be used to install the last row.

Top nail the last row with finish nails against the wall as was done with the first row.

## **INSTALLATION THROUGH DOORWAYS AND BETWEEN ROOMS**

Flooring may run continuously between rooms, or, a t-molding may be placed in the doorway/passageway to separate the two floors.

## **PIPES, FLOOR VENTS AND OTHER OBJECTS**

Each case is unique, the general rule is to carefully measure before you cut and remember to leave the ½" expansion space. Expansion space will be covered with pipe rings or molding when the installation is completed.

## **MOLDING AND FLOOR VENTS**

Complete the installation by allowing the tongue & groove adhesive to dry as specified on the bottle, remove the expansion shims and install floor vents, transition molding and wall molding as needed. See your dealer/distributor for available products.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Follow the floor care guide and warranty information for proper care, protection and maintenance of your floor.

## **GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION GUIDE**

Once the subfloor is dry, clean and flat you may proceed with the installation.

## **POSITION THE FIRST ROW**

Begin installing the first row in the right corner of the base wall. Install the first board so the short grooved side is against the ½” expansion shims to your right and the long grooved length of the board is against the ½” expansion shims in front of you. Always dry fit the first row before you begin gluing the boards down.

Once the first row has been cut and fit, remove the flooring and set it aside. Snap a chalk line ½” out from the starting wall, starting from the edge of the chalk line, apply an even layer of adhesive as instructed by the adhesive manufacturer. Only spread adhesive the width and length of the one row that was dry fit.

#### **A NOTE ON ADHESIVE:**

Follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions for use in this application. Wear rubber gloves and proceed carefully during adhesive application. Cured mastic is very hard to remove from the flooring as well as the tools. **DO NOT** allow any spilled or excess adhesive to remain anywhere but between the boards and the subfloor at any time during the installation. Clean up spills immediately as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. The flooring manufacturer will not be responsible in any way for adhesive that is not removed from the flooring immediately. Any damage to the flooring caused by the adhesive allowing to cure on the surface will be the sole responsibility of the installation mechanic.

Re-install the pre-cut boards from the dry fit as follows. Apply tongue & groove glue to the end of the second board. Connect the end of the second board to the end of the first board, making sure the boards are tightly connected and firmly positioned against the shims. Use the hammer/rubber mallet and tapping block to tap the tongue end of the second board to ensure a tight fit. Never use the hammer or rubber mallet directly on the flooring as this will cause damage to the board.

Continue placing additional boards moving right to left using the same procedure until the first row is complete.

You will need to cut off the end of the final board, save the remaining piece for the next row as long as it is at least 12” long. Use the last board Puller to ensure the last board is tight against the preceding board.

Place shims between the end of the last board and the wall. Use the shims to wedge the row in tight rendering it immobile. For best results, allow the adhesive on the subfloor and the tongue & groove glue to dry before continuing with the rest of the installation.

#### **SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT ROWS**

Start each new row on the right side with the remaining portion of the previous row as long as it is at least 12” long, otherwise cut a new starter board

The end joint must be at least 16” from the end joint in the row before it. When maintaining the 16” offset of all end joints, the pattern should not repeat itself until the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> row.

Trowel adhesive onto the subfloor as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer, Glue the short end groove of the next board and place in position, match the tongue and groove at the end only, then, beginning at the opposite end of the board, tap the board onto the previous row with the tapping block.

Move the tapping block back toward the right side of the board until you get near the connections with the previous board. Before you finish tapping the board onto the previous row, you must be sure the end joint is tight. If the end joint is not completely tight you will not be able to do so once the long seam is tight.

Continue with additional boards, cut the last board to fit and use the last board puller and tap block to install it as shown previously. Continue with the next row, as long as the piece remaining from the previous row is at least 12” and maintains the end joint offset from the previous row of at least 16”.

## **THE LAST ROW**

The entire length of the last row in most cases will need to be cut to fit into the remaining space while allowing the ½" expansion space.

The last board puller will be used to install the last row.

Top nail the last row with finish nails against the wall as was done with the first row.

## **INSTALLATION THROUGH DOORWAYS AND BETWEEN ROOMS**

Flooring may run continuously between rooms, or, a t-molding may be placed in the doorway/passageway to separate the two floors.

## **PIPES, FLOOR VENTS AND OTHER OBJECTS**

Each case is unique, the general rule is to carefully measure before you cut and remember to leave the ½" expansion space. Expansion space will be covered with pipe rings or molding when the installation is completed.

## **MOLDING AND FLOOR VENTS**

Complete the installation by allowing the tongue & groove adhesive to dry as specified on the bottle, remove the expansion shims and install floor vents, transition molding and wall molding as needed. See your dealer/distributor for available products.