

# Everbright Solid Hardwood Flooring

## Installation Guidelines

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE YOU BEGIN

EBSFIG2000001

#### INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Carefully inspect **ALL** material prior to installation for defects. Material installed with visible defects are **NOT** covered under warranty.

**Attention**—Wood is a natural product that can vary in color, grain, and contains natural characteristics that varies from plank to plank and is to be expected. We **do not** warrant against these natural variations from plank to plank or variations from samples to planks.

**Attention**—If you are not satisfied with the flooring prior to installation, **DO NOT** install the flooring and contact your dealer immediately. Accepting or rejecting the material must be done on full shipment of quantities only, not carton by carton or plank by plank.

**Attention-The Installation of Hardwood Flooring in California requires C-15 license for the installers.**

You will be the final inspector to inspect for colors, finish, styles, and quality **PRIOR** to installation, verify that the flooring is the correct material. Care should be taken at this time to remove or repair particular characteristics you do not desire. Manufacturer **Declines** responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been installed.

The use of stain, filler, or putty stick for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.

10% cutting allowance, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (Diagonal, herringbone, or bordered installations will require a higher percentage)

Everbright Solid Flooring **cannot** be installed over radiant heated sub floor systems.

Everbright Solid Flooring **cannot** be installed over any Cement Surface.

### **Attention**

#### **California Installers & Consumers WARNING**

Installation of this product and any wood product may create wood dust, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer.

#### **PRE- INSTALLATION/ JOBSITE CONDITIONS**

The installer/owners shall take the responsibility to ensure that the jobsite conditions and jobsite sub floor are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to the installation of any hardwood flooring. The manufacturer **shall not** have any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of hardwood flooring resulting from or related to sub-floor, sub-surface, or job-site environmental conditions. All substrates must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.

Our warranties **DO NOT** cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

- ✓ Test wood sub floors and wood flooring for moisture content using a pin-type moisture meter. Take readings of the subfloor-minimum of 20 readings per 1000 sq.ft. and average the results. In most regions, a “dry” subfloor that is ready to work on has a moisture

content of 12% or less. For Everbright Solid Flooring (3" or wider) that should be no more than a difference of 2% between properly acclimated wood and subfloor. Failure to test for proper moisture content of the wood flooring and subfloor can result in cupping and/or other problems related to or associated with moisture and are **NOT** covered under the manufacturer's warranty.

- ✓ The sub floor must be flat, meeting a minimum of 3/16" within 10' or 1/8" in 6'. For nail/staple down application use layers of 15lb. felt or wooden shims to fill low spots. Staples must be able to penetrate for holding power.
- ✓ All "WET" works, like paint, drywall, concrete, masonry, plumbing must be complete and dry well in advance of delivery of hardwood flooring.

### **STORAGE AND HANDLING**

Everbright solid hardwood flooring should be stored in the same environment in which it is expected to install. Acclimate the product for a minimum of **5 days** or as long as needed in order to meet the proper installation requirements. Opening of the cartons will help to better acclimate material. Material is acclimated once it has reached moisture equilibrium consistent with the temperature and relative humidity of the job site and normal living conditions. Do not store materials directly on concrete – elevate material at least 4" above concrete. Do not deliver material in inclement weather. Always store material in a dry place.

### **WOOD SUBFLOOR CONDITIONS**

Subfloor panels should conform to U.S. Voluntary Product Standard PS1-95, Construction and Industrial Plywood and/or US Voluntary PS 2-04 and/or Canadian performance standard

CAN/CSA 0325.0-92 Construction Sheathing. Other CSA standards also apply.

**Acceptable Panel Subfloors:** Truss/joist spacing will determine the minimum acceptable thickness of the panel subflooring.

- On truss/joist spacing of 16" o/c or less the industry standard for single panel subflooring is nominal 5/8" 19/32", 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4x8 sheets. On truss/joist spacing of more than 16", up to 19.2" (488mm) o/c, the standard is nominal 3/4" (23/32", 18.3 mm) T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1) or nominal 3/4" 23/32", (18.3mm) OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4'x8' sheets, glued and mechanically fastened.
- Truss/joist systems spaced over more than 19.2" (488mm) o/c up to a maximum of 24" (610mm) require nominal 7/8" T&G CD Exposure 1 Plywood subfloor panels, (Exposure 1), or nominal 1" OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4'x8' sheets glued and mechanically fastened – or two layers of subflooring or brace between the truss/joist in accordance with the truss/joist manufacturer's recommendations and with local building codes. Some truss/joist systems cannot be cross-braced and still maintain stability.
- For existing wood floors install new flooring at right angles to the existing flooring.
- **Do not** install solid hardwood flooring over particle board.
- **Do not** install over existing glue down hardwood floors.
- **Do not install solid hardwood flooring over any knids of concrete surface by any methods.**
- **More information on installing, contact the National Wood Flooring Association at 1-800-422-4556**

## **Preparation for Job**

### **Inspection**

Inspecting material for color, finish, milling, and grade. Hold out pieces that may not be acceptable once installed.

**Attention :** We do not accept responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been installed.

**Blending of Cartons** - To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we highly recommend that you open and work from several cartons at a time and dry-lay the flooring, mixing the planks from several cartons. This will allow you to blend the planks for maximum aesthetic appearance. Make certain the room is well lit to ensure color is consistent and that any visual defects can be seen and removed.

**Undercut Door Casings** - Undercut all door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. To do this, use a scrap piece of flooring as a guide. Lay it on the substrate and cut the casing with a handsaw or use a power jamb saw set at the correct height.

**Match Transition Moldings** - For best appearances blend all transitions and moldings to planks that have similar color and graining. Set them aside for use as needed.

**Flooring Layout** - Start by either using random-length planks found in the carton or by cutting four or five planks in random lengths, differing by at least six inches, 8-10's for plank flooring. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a 6" (8"-10" for

plank) minimum space between the end joints. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance. Never waste materials; the end cuts from starter rows should be used at the opposite side of the room to complete rows or used to start the next row.

**Expansion space** - As a general rule, a ¾” expansion space must be left around the perimeter and at all vertical obstructions. To minimize expansion on floors wider than 20 feet, more or less spacing between rows may be needed, depending on the geographical area, interior climate control and time of the year. When additional spacing is needed this can be accomplished by inserting thin spacers above the tongue every 10 to 20 rows and then removed after several adjacent rows have been installed and/or start in the center of the room working in two directions. Do not use spacers that may cause damage on factory-finished products. Remove the spacers as additional rows are added.

### **Staplers and Nailers**

Please understand that minor occasional noises within the flooring are inherent to all staple/nail-down installations and can change as environmental changes occur. This is not a manufacturing defect and is therefore not covered under our warranties. You can help reduce squeaking, popping, and crackling by being sure that the sub floor is structurally sound, does not have any loose decking or joists, and is swept clean before installation. You should also be sure that your stapler or nailer is setting the fastener properly, **not damaging the planks**, and that you are using the correct nailing schedule. When used improperly, staples or cleats can damage wood flooring. If the tool is not adjusted properly the staples/cleats may not be positioned at the proper angle. Test the tool on a piece of scrap material first - set the stapler/nailer flush on the tongue side of the plank and install a staple/cleat. Should the staple/cleat

penetrate too deeply reduce the air pressure; if the staple/cleat is not deep enough then increase the air pressure using an in-line regulator. The crown of the staple/cleat should sit flush within the nail pocket to prevent damage to the flooring and to reduce squeaking. The flooring manufacturer is **not responsible for damage caused by the mechanical fasteners.**

## **Start to Work on the Flooring**

### **Wall to Wall Installation**

Prior to installing flooring roll out 15 lb. asphalt saturated felt paper – overlap joints 6” and staple if needed. However, by today’s standards, asphalt saturated kraft or felt paper may not be an effective vapor retarder in all applications. The 2006 International Residential Code requires a vapor retarder on the warm-in-winter side of exterior floors(a floor over a vented crawl space, for example), with a vapor permeance of 1 perm or less in Zones 5 and higher. This material will help to keep the floor clean and help to retard moisture from below(there is no complete moisture barrier system for staple or nail-down applications).

**Determine the direction of the floor joists** – Run the flooring perpendicular (90°) to the floor joists. Do not run plank flooring parallel to floor joists unless a minimum nominal ½”(15/32) CD Exposure 1 (CDX) plywood underlayment is added.

**Establish a starting point** – preferably the longest exterior wall running parallel with direction of flooring and perpendicular to the joists.

**Measure the width** of the material plus 1” for expansion and width of the tongue.

**Measure out the distance** (width of plank + 1”) in at least 2 places from the starting wall and 12” from the corners.

**Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall.**

## **Center To Wall Installation**

- Alternative method to install flooring when the area is greater than 20' in width. -Measuring out from an exterior wall, snap a line in the center of the room.
- Top nail a sacrificial row along the chalk line with the groove side aligned with the chalk line.
- Install 3-4 rows of flooring and nail/staple into place.
- Remove sacrificial row and insert spline (slip tongue) into the groove, glue and blind nail the spline into place. To keep the spline in alignment for the next flooring board, use a scrap piece of wood flooring to run along the length of the spline as you nail.
- Install the remaining rows in the opposite direction. Use the nailing practices described prior.

## **Lay Out**

- Chose the longest and straightest boards and align the planks tongue with the working line, cut the last plank to the proper length leaving a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the end wall.
- Pre-drill holes spaced approximately 6" apart and 1" from the back edge (groove side) and top nail the board into place using 7d or 8d nails, use a nail set to avoid damage to the flooring.
- Pre-drill holes spaced 6" to 8" apart at a 45° angle along the tongue and blind nail the plank – countersink nails with a nail set.
- Continue to blind nail each seceding row until the nailer/stapler can be used to install the flooring .
- It is critical to make sure the starting row is properly aligned and straight.

## **Racking the floor**

Once the first row is in place continue to lay out the planks. Working from several cartons blend the planks and stagger the end joints a minimum of 6" (8"-10" for plank) apart to ensure a favorable appearance.

## **Installation**

1. Once enough of the planks are laid out begin installing the planks using either a manual or pneumatic stapler/nailer. Check to ensure the fastener is set to the proper depth. Blind nail through the tongue using the proper length staple or cleat and fasten the planks approximately 1 1/2" to 3" from the ends and every 8"-10"s apart for strip flooring. For 3" plank or wider fasten every 6"-8" apart. (Minimum of 2 fasteners per plank)
2. Continue installing planks across the room ending at the far wall using the manual or pneumatic stapler/nailer and following the recommended nailing schedule.
3. As you reach the far wall it may be necessary to blind nail by hand until top nailing is required.
4. It may be necessary to rip the last row to allow for the 3/4" expansion. If the last row is 1" or less glue the pieces to the last full uninstalled row and install them together. If needed use a pry bar or lever to fit the remaining rows tight to the installed planks.
5. Top nail the last one to two rows by pre drilling the holes and countersink nails. Fill nail holes with a colored wood filler.
- 6.

## **Completing**

Sweep or vacuum floor. **DO NOT WET the FLOORING.**

Clean the floor with proper wood floor cleaner

Install transition pieces -i.e. – Stair noses, thresholds, t-moldings and quarter round.

Final inspect the floor for nicks and or minor gaps – fill with appropriate color wood putty.

Unused material should be left with owner and stored in a dry place in case of future repairs.

Use plywood or hardboard when moving heavy appliances or furniture across floor.