

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!



Nail-Down Installation Instructions 3/4" Solid

(including various widths such as 2 1/4", 3", 3 1/4", 4", 5")

Thank you for choosing ADS FINE WOODS Exotic Hardwood Flooring. Protect your investment and thoroughly review and adhere to the following installation instructions. Please note that these are instructions for the experienced hardwood flooring installer. For more detailed information on the basics of installing hardwood flooring, please contact the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) at 1-800-422-4556 or visit www.nwfa.org.

Installer/Owner Responsibility

Hardwood flooring is a natural product; therefore defects in the flooring can occur in the manufacturing process or naturally as a characteristic of the wood. ADS FINE WOODS 3/4" hardwood floors are manufactured within accepted industry standards, allowing for up to 5% of natural imperfections and manufacturing defects. Order 5% of additional flooring product above actual square footage requirements to allow for cutting and grading of material.

Prior to installation, the installer and owner assume all responsibility for final inspection and quality of the product, even if the owner is absent at time of installation. Once installed, the floor is considered as having been accepted by the owner and installer.

Flooring should be carefully examined for finish and quality. Do not install hardwood flooring that is unacceptable; contact seller immediately. Final grade, manufacturing, finish quality checks and final approval of the product is the sole responsibility of the owner and installer. The installer must exercise good judgment and common sense before and during installation. Flooring with obvious defects or imperfections should be trimmed and used in hidden places or discarded. ADS FINE WOODS will replace only defective boards, installed or not, exceeding the 5% margin of error allowed by the industry. If any floor is installed with obvious defects or imperfections at time of installation, ADS FINE WOODS will NOT in any case be liable for installer's lack of judgment, quality of installation, labor, installation, and associated costs. Even if flooring is properly installed, narrow gaps and slight distortions can occur. These natural occurrences are excluded from the warranty. Moreover, exposure to light alters the color of all wood species

The installer must determine that the job-site environment and sub-floor surfaces meet applicable construction and material industry standards.

ADS FINE WOODS declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from deficiencies associated with sub-floor or job-site environment. The installer must hold out or cut off defective flooring material during installation. Filler or putty stick may be used to correct minor flooring defects during installation and is considered a normal procedure. The installer is commissioned and contracted by the owner. Owners should choose their installer carefully by checking references and previous job experience, etc. The cheapest is not always the best. Installing hardwood flooring is a highly skilled operation. The contract to install is between the owner and the installer. ADS FINE WOODS is in no way responsible for the owner's choice of installer or any failure by the installer to satisfy the owner.

Basic Tools and Accessories

Rubber mallet; 4d-6d Flooring nails; Jamb saw or hand saw; Chalk line; Pencil; 15 lbs. asphalt felt; Table saw or band saw; Hammer; Tape measure; Leading brand of hardwood flooring cleaner; Broom; Powernailer or other machines designed or adapted specifically to 3/4" solid wood flooring; Quality moisture meter with manufacturer's relevant exotic species calibration figures.

NOTE: 3/4" is meant for nail-down or staple-down (with 2" fasteners) installation only.

Pre-Installation Site Inspection

Prior to installing hardwood floors, the building must be structurally complete and enclosed, including installation of exterior doors and windows. Concrete, masonry, drywall, and paint must also be complete, allowing adequate drying time as to not raise moisture content within the building. HVAC systems must be fully operational at least 14 days prior to flooring installation, maintaining a consistent room temperature between 60-75 degrees Fahrenheit and relative humidity between 35-55%. This not only stabilizes the building's interior environment, but also is essential when acclimating hardwood flooring to the job-site.

Floors can only be installed above grade level and are not recommended in full bathrooms.

During the final pre-installation inspection, sub-floors must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate metering device for wood.

Recommended Sub-Flooring

Preferred 3/4" (19mm) CDX Grade Plywood or 3/4" (23/32") OSB PS2 Rated Underlayment with a minimum 40 lbs. density
Minimum 5/8" CDX Grade Plywood with a minimum 40 lbs. density. **Do not nail over particleboard or similar products, including gypcrete. DO NOT INSTALL THIS FLOORING OVER RADIANT HEAT FLOORING.**

Sub-Floor Preparation

Sub-floors Must Be:

Dry and free of wax, paint, oil, and debris. Replace any water-damaged or delaminated sub-flooring or underlayments. Scrape smooth and sweep prior to installation. Level flat within 3/16" over 10' and/or 1/8" over 6'. High areas or joints can be sanded flat. Low spots can be lifted to flat using shims or layers of builders felt between wood and sub-flooring during installation. If plywood or equivalent, sub-floor must be structurally sound prior to installation. Sub-floor must be properly secured with nails or screws every 6 inches along joists to reduce the possibility of squeaking after final installation. Appropriate moisture tests must be performed as outlined in the "Testing for Moisture Content" section listed below.

Minimum thickness sub-floor material recommendations are satisfactory for 16" on center joist spacing. Thicker sub-floor recommendations will allow up to 19.2" joist spacing. When joist spacing is greater than 19.2" on center, flooring will exhibit minimum performance. Minimum performance may result in movement, gaps, and/or noises. A second layer of sub-flooring material bringing the overall thickness to 1" – 1 1/8", will provide optimum results when joist spacing exceeds 19.2" on center. Sub-floor panels should be spaced 1/8" apart to allow for expansion. Hardwood flooring should, whenever possible, be installed perpendicular to flooring joists. Do not install ADS FINE WOODS solid floors over existing glue-down wood floors or over wood floors that exceed 3 1/4" face size. In these applications, or when installing ADS FINE WOODS™ solid floors parallel to existing wood floors, install an additional 1/4" layer of plywood to assist stabilization.

Testing for Moisture Content

Using a quality moisture meter, measure the moisture content of both the sub-floor and the hardwood flooring. **Sub-floors must not exceed 12% moisture content and the difference between sub-floor and hardwood flooring cannot exceed 4%.** If sub-floors exceed this amount, an effort should be made to locate and eliminate the source of moisture before further installation. **A moisture barrier (6 mil polyethylene film minimum) may be required in addition to the 15 lbs. asphalt felt. Asphalt felt is not considered a moisture barrier.**

Installing the Floor

Helpful Tips

Remove flooring from several different cartons to maximize color and shade mixture.

Stagger the ends of boards at least 6" in adjacent rows. Installation parallel to the longest wall provides best visual effect. Before you begin installing the hardwood floor, cover subfloor area with 15 lbs. asphalt felt.

Doorway and Wall Preparation Undercut or notch-out door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed to avoid difficult scribe cuts during installation. Also remove existing base and shoe molding as well as doorway thresholds; each can be replaced after installation is complete.

Establish Starting Point An exterior wall is usually the straightest and best reference line

to start the installation. Direction of finished flooring should be at right angles to the floor joists whenever possible. Establish a starting line by leaving a minimum 1/2" expansion gap around all vertical obstructions. In large spans, more spacing may be needed depending on geographical area, interior climate control, and time of the year. Measure this distance from the starting wall (in at least two places) close to the starting wall's opposite corners. Mark these points and snap a working chalk line parallel to the starting wall allowing the required expansion space between the starting wall and the edge of the first row of flooring.

On the first row of flooring use 6d or 8d flooring nails to top nail surface of flooring and countersink (pre-drilling nail holes will prevent splits). Nails should hit the joist whenever possible. To ensure proper alignment of flooring, make sure the flooring along the working chalk line is straight. Allowing for a 1/2" minimum expansion gap is critical. Wood expands and contracts with changes in humidity. Wood will buckle and/or cup if an adequate expansion space is not provided. Always allow for expansion when making end or side cuts around vertical objects.

Make sure to properly space nails every 8" – 10" along the length of the board with a minimum of 2 fasteners per piece 2" – 3" from each end. If face width of flooring is 5" or wider, properly space nails every 4" – 6" along the length of the board. Top and/or hand nail enough rows to allow adequate spacing from wall; continue installation with a floor-nailing machine. Continue across the room until finished; remember to provide adequate spacing for expansion gap. Once completed, install molding and trim. Thoroughly clean, sweep, and vacuum installed floor before further use. If floor is to be covered, use a breathable material such as cardboard or rosin paper. Do not cover with plastic. All areas of hardwood flooring species that are photosensitive (darken with exposure to natural light) such as but not limited to Brazilian Cherry, Tigerwood, and Rosewood should be carefully covered completely if the floor is not to be used for a period of time. If areas are left open to natural light, expect the uncovered areas to begin the natural color change.

CONGRATULATIONS on your new ADS FINE WOODS hardwood floor!