





# BEFORE YOU BEGIN.

HAUTE PLANK® follows the National Wood Flooring Association's installation guidelines. Please refer to the [NWEA website](#) for more information.

For best results, please read ALL guidelines, tips and instructions included in this guide prior to installation.

## CHECK FOR DAMAGE.

Due to the fragile nature of hardwood flooring, minor breakage is expected during the shipping process. 'Minor breakage' is an industry-standard term defined as any damage to less than 5% of the order. Minor breakage does not qualify for replacement or refund. For damage exceeding the industry-accepted 5% standard, please contact your account representative to initiate a claim.

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION, it is the responsibility of the installer to inspect the product. If for any reason the materials do not match the order or if color, condition or quality come into question, DO NOT INSTALL. Please contact your account representative immediately. If during installation any planks that are deemed unacceptable should be set aside and not installed.

**Please note:** Material installed indicates acceptance.

## ACCLIMATE.

As wood is hygroscopic and responds to changes in temperature/humidity, proper acclimation is a very important step in ensuring a proper installation. Acclimation refers to the moisture content of the wood flooring and subfloor plus the conditions of the job site in terms of Temperature and Relative Humidity. Improper acclimation can cause a host of issues such as buckling, shrinking and/or cupping after installation.

Store unopened boxes of hardwood boards in a cool, dry place between 64 to 77 degrees and 30 to 65% relative humidity. Do NOT open packaging during the acclimation process.

Hardwood boards in unopened packaging must acclimate to the environmental conditions of the room for at least 48 hours before installation.



## ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES.

The room(s) to receive flooring must be properly conditioned at normal occupancy temperature (64-77°F) and humidity level (35-65% humidity). Proper relative humidity (RH) levels must be maintained for a minimum of one week prior to installation as well as during and continuously following installation for the life of the floor.

Excessively dry conditions over an extended period of time, or dramatic fluctuations in RH can lead to material issues such as “checking” (slight cracking of the flooring surface), gapping around the joints, or cupping.

In extremely dry climates or areas that have dramatic fluctuations in humidity, a humidifier may be necessary.

Wood flooring will perform best when the interior environment is controlled to stay within a relative humidity range of 35-65% and a temperature range between 64 – 77 degrees Fahrenheit.

## SUBFLOOR PREPARATION.

The installation surface must be clean, absolutely flat, and free of cracks.

**WOOD SUBFLOOR:** Inspect for movement, objectionable noise, water damage, delamination, or damage. These issues must be resolved by a licensed installer prior to installation.

**CONCRETE SUBFLOOR:** Irregularities in the subfloor must not exceed 3/16" for every 10' in all directions. If your subfloor exceeds these guidelines, level with a concrete-based filler.

**NOTE:** To qualify for warranty coverage, the Flooring must be properly installed in accordance with all provided installation instructions. In states where flooring contractors are required to be licensed, installation must be performed by a licensed professional.

## RADIANT HEAT SYSTEMS



Due to the numerous radiant heat systems, be sure to follow specific manufacturers installation instructions. Regardless of which system is used, overall temperature must not exceed 80 degrees F. Floor temperature should not vary more than 3 degrees F throughout the entire area of the floor.

Use of a thermostat that limits flooring temperature changes of no more than 5 degrees F in a day is recommended.

Rugs, mats or any other large items that cover the floor, should not be used in a room with Radiant Heat system as these items trap heat which can permanently damage any type of wood flooring.

If the heating system is new the system needs to be switched on at least 3 weeks before laying the floor. Generally with any floor heating system, the system has to be switched off 48 hours before the start of the installation. The heating system can be started again one week after the floor installation is completed, with a gradual increase in temperature in accordance with the heating systems regulations.

When installing over a heating system the moisture content of the cement-based concrete subfloor must not exceed 1.5% (CM%), or .3% (Cli for anhydrit).

Radiant Heat systems reduce the humidity within the home. Any home using radiant floor heating should also have a functional HVAC system to maintain relative humidity in the home 30-60%.

**NOTE:** In wood flooring installations over radiant heat, moderate surface checking, cracking (especially at the ends of boards and around knots), shrinkage, gapping between planks, and slight cupping are all to be expected and do not constitute a product defect.

# INSTALLATION.

HAUTE PLANK® engineered hardwood floors are approved to be installed above grade, on grade or below grade and can be successfully installed using one of three methods: Floating, Glue-Down, or Nail/Staple. No matter which method used, work from several open boxes at once to ensure proper color and grain variation of the flooring.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT INSTALLATION METHOD.

HAUTE PLANK® flooring is available in several widths. Since the proper installation method is determined by the width of your planks, we recommend the following:

	6.75"	8"	10" +
Floating	X		
Glue	X	X	X
Nail/Staple	X	X	X

## GLUE-ADHESIVE METHOD.

Please refer to the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for trowel size, set time, etc. Any bond related issues fall under the adhesive manufacturer's warranty. The entire plank must be in contact with the glue. The use of weights is required to ensure full contact.

## NAIL/STAPLE METHOD.

HAUTE PLANK® engineered hardwood is 3/4" thick. For 8" wide planks or larger, we recommend adding glue-assist. Please refer to NWEA guidelines for proper fastener type and spacing.

## JOINTS, EXPANSION GAPS & LAYOUT TIPS.

1/2" expansion gaps are recommended around the perimeter of the room and any fixed objects (cabinets, piping, pillars etc.). Use spacing wedges to ensure expansion gaps remain consistent. Wedges should be removed immediately after finishing the installation.

Larger rooms will require bigger allowances for expansion.

Expansion joints in the subfloor must be matched with an expansion joint at the same location in the hardwood floor above it.

When laying the flooring through hallways to adjoining rooms, it is recommended to change plank direction or allow an expansion gap at doorways. Use of coordinating trim pieces can be used to cover such required gaps.

During glue down installation, use flooring straps to pull rows together while the adhesive sets, preventing plank movement.

NEVER use any form of adhesive tape on the surface of the flooring. Such tape can remove the finish or damage the surface of the floor.

To cover expansion gaps, use of baseboards or coordinating trim pieces is recommended. Never attach such trims to the floor itself. Attach to the vertical surface material. Fill visible gaps with a silicon-free sealant or profile made specifically for this purpose.

### HAUTE PLANK HOT TIP:

We recommend using **Mapei Ultrabond ECO 980 Wood Flooring Adhesive** or for concrete floors needing a vapor barrier additive choose **Mapei Ultrabond ECO 995**.

## MAINTENANCE.

HAUTE PLANK® flooring is a high-quality product factory finished with a formaldehyde-free matte lacquer varnish and will not require special treatment directly after installation. Even pre-finished floors, however, require regular care to maintain their appearance. Follow a routine care and maintenance schedule to protect your floor and keep it looking like new.

Maintain a consistent room temperature of 60 to 78 degrees and relative humidity between 45 to 65% for maximum performance.

**DAILY ROUTINE:** Sweep or vacuum your floors every day to remove dirt or debris. to avoid surface scratches.

**AS NEEDED:** Promptly clean up spills and remove shoe scuffs, grease, or stains. If necessary, use a damp mop or special polish on stubborn stains. NEVER use steel wool, traditional wax, or large volume of water on your wood floors.

**WEEKLY (or when necessary):** Depending on the rate of traffic on your floor, maintenance frequency may vary. To polish your wood floors, use an approved hardwood floor cleaner like Bona Wood Polish; apply a thin coat with a soft cloth or mop. Read and follow all manufacturer's application instructions.

Use felt pads on the bottom of chair legs and other moveable furniture to protect your floors from scratches. Use area rugs and entry mats in high-traffic areas.



## FADING & COLOR VARIATION.



Wood is subject to fading when exposed to direct sunlight. Whenever possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light. Wood is photosensitive & will change color as they are or are exposed to UV light. This natural occurring phenomenon is NOT considered a material defect and is not covered by any material warranty.

It must be understood that wood is a natural product with inherent variations in color, grain and visual characteristics. If there are any questions regarding the material received, do not hesitate to contact the dealer where the flooring was purchased for immediate assistance.



