

Installation - Floating Pre-Finished Engineered Wood Flooring

If you have any questions or concerns contact a Forna Representative or professional before you begin installation. Failure to follow manufacturer or distributor instructions can and will void warranty.

Floating floors can be installed over any structurally sound surface that meets or exceeds local building codes. Often a floating floor is the best choice for a fast and easy installation without the need to remove the old flooring underneath. Forna Floating Engineered Wood floors are secured in place through a tongue-and-groove click together system.

REQUIRED TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

- Hand Saw or Electric Saw
- Utility Knife
- Tapping Block
- Spacers (3/8" to 9/16")
- Safety Equipment (Goggles & Mask)
- Tape Measure
- Soft Rubber Mallet
- Broom or vacuum
- Hammer
- Pull Bar
- Tongue and Groove Adhesive or glue
- Carpenter's Square
- Damp and Dry Towels

PREP WORK BEFORE INSTALLATION

1. CHECK TO MAKE SURE FLOOR IS EVEN

Check to make sure that your old floor or subfloor is level. If the floor has too much fluctuation then you may need to even it out otherwise imperfections can translate through and ruin the look of your new floor.

2. CLEAN AND ACCLIMATE

Remove any trim, baseboard or moldings if the new floor will exceed the height clearance of the old floor. You need to leave a 5/16-inch (8mm) gap between the flooring and the baseboard or wall around the perimeter of the room to allow the floor enough space to expand.

Vacuum/sweep the floor to remove dust and debris.

Once the new engineered wood flooring has been delivered, it must acclimatize in the space to be laid for 48 hours before you begin installation. Place it in the middle of the room(s). Do Not Open the boxes. Lay them flat, not standing or on their sides. Do not stack the boxes one on top of the other. Why do you need to do this? The material needs to become adjusted to the new climate condition to allow for expansion and contraction. Not doing this can cause warping or irregularities after install.

3. CHECK PLANKS FOR DAMAGE

Upon opening the boxes, check if the boards have warped or if they have any defects. Inspect for chips, splinters and other forms of damage. Call your distributor/seller immediately if the product is heavily damaged.

Make sure the flooring is clean, free of debris.

4. TRIM THE DOOR CASINGS

Trim the bottom of the casing at all doorways so that the flooring will slide underneath. Gauge the height of the cut by laying down a piece of underlayment and a piece of flooring (upside down so the saw won't scratch the finish). Use a flush-cut dove saw flat against the plank and carefully make the cut.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINE

5. INSTALL THE UNDERLAYMENT

Install underlayment or foam padding. This will also help level minor imperfections of the subfloor.

Beginning in one corner of the room, unroll/install the underlayment in the same direction as the new hardwood flooring. If the underlayment comes in rolls, align each piece flush to the one before it, do not overlap them. If a non-adhesive underlayment is used, tape the seams with a polyethylene tape or duct tape.

Continue laying the underlayment until you have the entire room covered. If you are installing a floating floor over concrete, extend the underlayment up the wall by about two inches. Trim around irregular boundaries like columns and door jambs.

6. ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT

Decide the direction in which the floor will be laid. For Forna engineered hardwood floors, the rule of thumb is to run the planks parallel to the longest wall. Measure the width of the room (subtract 1 inch or 26mm to account for the expansion gap on both sides $\frac{1}{2}$ " /13mm and $\frac{1}{2}$ " /13mm) and divide by the width of the plank to calculate the number of rows\courses needed. If your calculation results in a final course that is more than 2" or 5.08 cm wide, then the first course should remain full-width planks. But if

the last course is narrower, it is best to rip the first course down to ensure the last course will have a pleasing width too. Do Not Cut the last course planks at this time.

Before beginning the actual installation, start a random layout of the flooring by arranging short and long lengths equally over the areas where the flooring is to be installed. The most common laying pattern is the staggered one. (To achieve this during installation, start each row with the remaining cut from the previous row, or cut a new plank down to desired length).

Work out of several cartons at a time to insure a pleasing color and shade mixture.

Align the first row of planks to be sure you have a good straight line from one side of the room to the other. Use a chalk line at the desired distance from the wall to help align the planks. The end joints of plank flooring should be staggered to achieve the best appearance for the finished floor. (Minimum 6-8" for 3" planks (15.24cm to 20.32cm for 7.62 cm), 12-24" for longer, wider 4-7" planks (30.48cm to 60.96cm for longer, wider 10.16cm to 17.78 cm).

*Important: Leave the proper amount of expansion space recommended for expansion at all vertical surface.

7. INSTALLING THE FIRST COURSE

All installations should begin with the groove side of plank(s) against the wall using the longest boards available. The tongue side of the plank should face the center of the room. Be sure to add spacers to separate the plank from the wall.

Select the first board. Apply a continuous 1/8" (3 mm) glue bead to the inside bottom of the groove at the end of the board. Do not apply glue to the long groove side at this time. Planks with the end tongue on the left should be installed right to left, opposite tongues should be left to right. Do not glue first row planks to spacers.

If necessary, slip a pry bar between the end of the plank and the spacer and lever the joint together. Then push the piece down in place. Make sure to remove excess glue immediately with a damp cloth. Continue these steps until you get to last plank of row.

Cut the last plank allowing for 1/2" (13 mm) expansion clearance. Make sure to use a spacer on the end of the board between the hardwood flooring and the wall. Avoid installation of boards shorter than 16" (40.6 cm) in the first four rows. Use a pull bar to pull the board into place from the opposite end, and fit into place. Wipe off extra glue immediately with a clean damp cloth. Do not glue end plank to wall or spacer.

8. CONTINUE LAYING COURSES/ROWS

You can start each new course with a piece of flooring left over from the previous cuts as long as it is more than 8 inches in length. This will keep the joints staggered. Remember to place spacer against side wall for first and last planks of each row.

Start the second row by applying a 1/8" (3 mm) continuous bead along the inside bottom of the end and side groove of the new board, then slide it up against the previous row. Set a wood block against the outside of the plank, and tap it with a hammer to bring the planks tightly together. Use a tapping block against the tongue side, not the groove. DO NOT tap on the edge directly with the hammer. Complete the second through fourth rows using this technique.

When connecting the boards, angle the succeeding plank so it will fit snugly.

Continue installing planks in this manner, one course at a time. In the remaining rows, stagger joints 4" to 6" (10-15 cm) apart. Install the rest of the floor. Be sure all joints are tight. Use spacers on the long and butt walls. Use a tapping bar to tighten the joints from the ends. Every four to six courses, use blue painter's tape to keep the joints tight while the glue cures.

When you reach the final course, measure the width needed for planks. Again, measure to a spacer placed against the wall, to account for the expansion gap. By doing this you get the exact width for the last row of planks. Trim the plank to achieve the desired width. Rip planks on side facing the end wall.

Insert the final row. Remove the spacers on the last wall for wiggle room, then use a pry bar to pull the piece tight against the previous course. You might need to use a pry bar or a hammering block to fit the last row in place tightly.

A plank that runs across a door will have to be cut or notched to fit inside the doorway. To determine its width, measure to the closer edge of the doorstop molding.

Allow glue to cure at least 12 hours before removing the painter's tape and spacers.

9. Install Finish Trim

Once you have waited the allotted time, re/install the trim, molding or transition pieces after you remove the spacers. Remember, the baseboards and molding should be nailed to the wall and not to the floor.

Leave the room as is for 24 hours before moving furniture back in.