



**AMERICAN ★ GUILD®**

HARDWOOD FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Hardwood Flooring Installation Instructions

### Installation Warning- PLEASE READ BEFORE INSTALLATION

**INSTALLATION WARNING:** Installation conditions – including temperature, sun exposure and humidity – will affect this product’s performance over time. For best results, room temperature and humidity of installation area must be kept consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for a minimum of one week prior to installation. All products require a specific temperature range of 65°F to 75°F. Products utilizing Long-Leaf Acacia require a humidity range of 40% to 60%, while all other products require 35% to 65% relative humidity. Installation outside of these recommended ranges or over a wet subfloor will likely cause movement in the flooring, including potential shrinkage, tip-raising, gapping between pieces, cupping and face-checking. American Guild® cannot be held responsible for site conditions. Please see your local American Guild sales representative or refer to [www.americanguild.com](http://www.americanguild.com) for proper installation and care of your floors.

### ATTENTION:

American Guild® hardwood flooring Installation Instructions are intended to offer general guidance as it relates to American Guild® hardwood floors, and are NOT a replacement for a professional, certified installer. **American Guild hardwood floors MUST be installed according to the National Wood Flooring Association’s (NWFA) installation guidelines in order for the American Guild Hardwood Flooring Limited Warranty to be valid.** The most current publication of the NWFA guidelines is available to all NWFA members, and can be found at [www.nwfa.org](http://www.nwfa.org).

### Subfloor Preparation:

- If plywood is used as a subfloor, the moisture content difference between the engineered floor and the subfloor should be no more than 4%. Subfloor moisture emissions must not exceed 3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. in a 24-hour period per ASTM 1869.
- Subfloor is suggested to be ¾” x 48” x 48” with a 1/8” gap between sheets for expansion.
- The subfloor must be free from any type of paint, oil, grease, dust or other residues.
- The subfloor should be level. The level drop must be no more than 3/16” over a 10-foot span.

Proper acclimation is required for all engineered hardwood flooring. Acclimation time is determined by a number of variables. For this reason, proper acclimation is best left to a professional with knowledge of such variables. The National Wood Flooring Association

has volumes of material related to this subject. Visit [www.woodfloors.org](http://www.woodfloors.org) for more details.

## Glue-down Installation Guidelines:

**This method of installation is recommended for both concrete and plywood subfloor.**

- Make sure to properly test subfloor before installation, following subfloor preparation instructions previously discussed.
- Apply a moisture barrier to slab. **Bostik's MVP** is recommended.
- A urethane-based adhesive should be used exclusively. **Bostik's BEST®** glue is recommended.
- Use **Bostik's Ultra-Set® SingleStep™** to protect against moisture and install in one application.
- Read the glue manufacturer's instructions (printed in detail on the glue container) to choose the correct size trowel.
- Create a working line parallel to the starting wall, in multiples of our engineered plank width, to set up the baseline of installation.
- Following the spread rate and curing time suggested by the glue manufacturer, spread glue evenly on the subfloor to cover an area appropriate to the number of planks that can be laid in time for best result of the glue.
- Lay one row of flooring planks along the entire length of the work line. Add each additional row of flooring, watching the pattern repeat and offsetting or staggering the joints as desired. (Generally, joints should either match in a specific pattern or be staggered by no less than six inches).
- A 1/2" expansion space should be left around the perimeter. Roll whole floor with a 150 lb. roller within 3-6 hours after installation. Finished areas should be covered with a breathable protective paper, NEVER PLASTIC, immediately after installation to prevent damage. Do not tape protective paper to the finished surface of the wood for extended periods of time.

## Nail-Down Installation Guidelines:

**This method of installation is ONLY recommended for PLYWOOD SUBFLOOR.**

- Make sure to properly test subfloor before installation, following subfloor preparation instructions previously discussed.
- A 15 lb. felt paper moisture barrier should be applied to the plywood subfloor

- with 6” overlaps before installing the new wood floor per ASTM D-4869.
- Create a working line parallel to the starting wall, in multiples of our engineered plank width, to set up the baseline of installation.
  - Install the first row of wood with the groove side towards the wall using top nails as necessary to hold the first row firm and in place. Adjust as necessary.
  - Use adjustable pneumatic power hammer or nailing machine with 1 1/2” – 2” nails as is required and make sure nailing foot is appropriate to the nails / staples used. To avoid damage to the tongue be sure to adjust for proper pressure on the compressor.
  - Add each additional row of flooring, watching the pattern repeat and offsetting or staggering the joints as desired. (Generally, joints should either match in a specific pattern or be staggered by no less than six inches). Finished areas should be covered with a breathable protective paper, NEVER PLASTIC, immediately after installation to prevent damage. Do not tape protective paper to the finished surface of the wood for extended periods of time.

## Floating Installation Guidelines:

- Make sure to properly test subfloor before installation. (Please follow subfloor preparation instructions previously discussed).
- If needed, apply a moisture barrier to slab. Bostik’s MVP moisture barrier is recommended.
- After the moisture barrier has cured and dried apply a floating floor poly-foam underlayment, please follow manufacturers installation instructions.
- Floating floors is generally a more difficult installation to start, as the boards will move. It is imperative that the first few rows be straight and gap free.
- Create a working line parallel to the starting wall, in multiples of our engineered plank width, to set up the baseline of installation. A bead of adhesive should be applied all along the TOP groove of each plank, any glue meeting European DIN EN 204 D3 standard is recommended.
- Lay one row of flooring planks along the entire length of the work line. Work with the tongue side outward. NEVER engage material by striking the groove edge, use a tapping block against the tongue or board puller to avoid edge damage while engaging plank. Add each additional row of flooring, watching the pattern repeat and offsetting or staggering the joints as desired. (Generally, joints should either match in a specific pattern or be staggered by no less than six inches).
- A minimum 1/2” expansion space should be left around the perimeter.
- Finished areas should be covered with a breathable protective paper, NEVER PLASTIC, immediately after installation to prevent damage. Do not tape

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protective paper to the finished surface of the wood for extended periods of time.

*\*A floating floor installation method requires diligent cleanup, as glue squeezes out when the boards are tapped into place. Measure the application along the groove carefully to avoid excess glue seepage. Excessive glue can void the warranty of your American Guild Floor. Immediate cleanup is required using approved glue remover that will not affect the floor finish, any glue not cleaned within minutes can leave stains and/or marks that will not be covered under the American Guild Hardwood Floors Limited Warranty.*

