



HOMI HARDWOOD FLOORS INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS: ENGINEERED HARDWOOD

Homi Hardwood Floors
www.homifloors.com
(800) 777-WOOD

1. IMPORTANT NOTICE & DISCLAIMER

This Installation Guide provides general best-practice instructions for installing Homi hardwood flooring products. It is the responsibility of the installer and/or end user to ensure that the jobsite conditions, subfloor, materials, and methods are appropriate for the specific product being installed and comply with all applicable building codes, industry standards, and manufacturer recommendations.

Improper installation, installation over unsuitable substrates, failure to follow these guidelines, or failure to maintain proper environmental conditions may result in damage that is not covered under Homi's product warranties. If there is any doubt about conditions or procedures, stop and contact Homi technical support before proceeding with installation.

Do not rely solely on the sample as the final color installed. Inspect flooring before installation. **INSTALLATION IS ACCEPTANCE.**

2. JOBSITE CONDITIONS & ENVIRONMENT

Interior environment must be fully enclosed with permanent windows, doors, and roof in place. All concrete, masonry, drywall, paint, and wet trades must be complete and dry before flooring is delivered. HVAC systems must be operational and running for at least 7 days prior to installation. Maintain ambient temperature between 65–85°F (18–29°C) and relative humidity between 35–55% (or within the range specified for the product) before, during, and after installation.

Do not store or install hardwood flooring in areas subject to excessive moisture, standing water, or extreme temperature fluctuations (such as garages, unconditioned basements, or outdoor spaces).

Do not rely solely on samples as the final color or shade once installed.

Inspect all materials prior to installation, including item number, box number, lot, and any visible issues. If any portion of a plank or tile is damaged at any time during installation, it must be cut off and not installed.

Any concerns must be reported to Homi Hardwood Floors in writing within 48 hours or at the time the issue is first noticed (see Warranty for full details).

If installation exceeds 5% or 100 sq. ft. of material containing any of the above issues, this will be considered acceptance of the installed materials, and the manufacturer assumes no responsibility, regardless of any claim filed thereafter.

3. STORAGE, HANDLING & ACCLIMATION

- Store flooring cartons flat, fully supported, and off the ground. Do not put cartons in direct sunlight and open both ends of the boxes.
- Do not store directly against exterior walls or on concrete; use pallets or a moisture barrier.

- Keep flooring in its original, unopened cartons until acclimation and installation are ready to begin. If boxes are shrink-wrapped, take off the plastic wrap.

Acclimation:

Unless otherwise specified for a particular Homi product, allow flooring to acclimate for 72 hours in the installation environment. Acclimation is complete when the flooring moisture content is within the range recommended by the manufacturer and appropriate for the local climate.

Avoid extreme over-drying or over-humidifying the flooring during acclimation. Moisture content of wood subfloors and flooring should be within industry-accepted limits to minimize future movement. Improper acclimation of Homi flooring may result in buckling and/or gapping of the flooring. If flooring does not lock properly due to poor acclimation, do not install.

4. SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS & PREPARATION

All subfloors must be structurally sound, clean, dry, and flat. Remove all contaminants such as paint, oil, adhesives, dust, and debris. The installer is responsible for verifying that the subfloor is suitable for installation.

Flatness:

- Subfloors should be flat to within 3/16" over 10' or 1/8" over 6'.
- High spots must be sanded or ground down; low areas must be filled with an appropriate leveling compound.

Wood Subfloors:

- Minimum 3/4" T&G plywood or 5/8" plywood over joists 16" on center (or equivalent).
- Secure all loose panels; add fasteners if there is movement or squeaking.
- Subfloor moisture content must be within the range recommended relative to the flooring.

Concrete Subfloors:

- Must be fully cured, dry, and free from hydrostatic pressure.
- Use appropriate moisture testing (see Section 5). If moisture levels exceed manufacturer limits, use an approved moisture mitigation system or do not proceed.

Existing Flooring:

Some Homi products may be installed over existing flooring (such as vinyl, tile, or hardwood) if it is firmly attached, flat, and dry. Remove loose or unstable materials and verify compatibility before installing over existing flooring.

5. MOISTURE TESTING

Proper moisture testing is critical to a successful hardwood floor installation. Always follow current industry standards and any product-specific instructions.

Wood Subfloors:

- Use a calibrated wood moisture meter.
- Take readings in multiple locations, including perimeter and center.
- Moisture content should be within the range recommended for the product and local climate, and the difference between the wood flooring and subfloor should generally not exceed industry-accepted guidelines (commonly 2–4%, depending on width).

Concrete Subfloors:

Use one or more of the following methods, per ASTM standards or manufacturer directions:

- Calcium chloride (ASTM F1869) for MVER (moisture vapor emission rate).
- In-situ RH testing (ASTM F2170).

If results exceed the limits specified for the adhesive or product, do not install until moisture is controlled or an approved moisture mitigation system is used.

6. LAYOUT & PLANNING

Before installing, carefully plan the layout:

- Determine the direction of plank installation (often parallel to the longest wall or main light source).
- Check that starting and ending rows will be of reasonable width (avoid very narrow slivers).
- Snap chalk lines and establish reference lines as needed.
- Stagger end joints according to the product's minimum offset (commonly 6"–8" or more).

Check doorways, transitions, and adjoining surfaces to plan for appropriate trim pieces and expansion space.

7. GENERAL INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

The following general rules apply to nail-down, glue-down, and floating installations unless otherwise specified:

- Mix planks from several cartons to blend color and grain.
- Inspect each plank for visible defects before installation. Do not install planks with visible issues.
- Maintain required expansion space at all vertical obstructions.
- Never install tight to walls, door frames, pipes, or fixed cabinetry.
- Use appropriate underlayment, adhesive, or fasteners approved for use with Homi products.

8. NAIL-DOWN / STAPLE-DOWN INSTALLATION

Applicable to solid or engineered Homi products approved for nail-down installation over wood subfloors.

Fasteners:

- Use flooring cleats or staples of the length and type recommended for the product (commonly 1½"-2").
- Fasten within 1"-3" from board ends and every 4"-6" along the length, or as specified.

Procedure (summary):

1. Install the first row along a snapped reference line with the groove side facing the starting wall, allowing required expansion space.
2. Face-nail the first row as needed and blind-nail in the tongue at the recommended spacing.
3. Continue installing subsequent rows, tightening joints with a tapping block and pull bar, while maintaining proper stagger and pattern.
4. Use shorter lengths or cut boards to avoid aligning end joints in adjacent rows.
5. Face-nail last rows near the finish wall where the flooring nailer cannot reach.

9. GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION

Applicable to certain engineered Homi products approved for glue-down over suitable subfloors (such as concrete or wood). Always use adhesives recommended or approved by Homi.

Adhesive & Trowel:

- Use a high-quality urethane or otherwise approved adhesive.
- Select trowel type and notch size per adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace trowels as they wear to maintain proper coverage.

Procedure (summary):

1. Spread adhesive over the working area, holding the trowel at the recommended angle.
2. Install planks into wet adhesive within the open time specified by the adhesive manufacturer.
3. Engage tongue and groove fully and maintain tight joints; use straps, wedges, or tape if recommended.
4. Immediately remove any adhesive that gets on the flooring surface using an approved cleaner.
5. Restrict foot traffic until adhesive has cured (typically 12–24 hours or per adhesive instructions).

10. FLOATING INSTALLATION

Some Homi engineered or click-lock products may be installed as a floating floor over approved underlayment. This is not recommended for any flooring greater than 5" in width.

Underlayment:

- Use an underlayment recommended for floating hardwood (with or without attached vapor barrier as required).

- Lay underlayment according to manufacturer instructions, taping seams where specified.

Procedure (summary):

1. Install the first row along a straight reference line, with expansion space at walls.
2. Click or lock planks together per the joint design, ensuring seams are fully engaged.
3. Stagger end joints according to product requirements.
4. Avoid using excessive force that could damage the locking mechanism.
5. Do not mechanically fasten the flooring to the subfloor; a floating floor must be free to move.

11. EXPANSION GAPS & TRANSITIONS

Wood flooring is hygroscopic and will expand and contract with changes in relative humidity. Proper expansion space is critical.

- Leave a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ " expansion gap around all walls, columns, and fixed vertical surfaces unless the specific product instructions state otherwise.
- Use appropriate moldings (baseboard, quarter-round, T-moldings, reducers) to cover expansion gaps.
- Use T-moldings at doorways or between rooms where separate fields of flooring meet, and where large spans require additional expansion breaks.

12. RADIANT HEAT (IF APPLICABLE)

Only Homi products specifically approved for radiant heated subfloors may be installed over such systems. Follow all product-specific and radiant system manufacturer guidelines.

- Radiant systems should be embedded and stable before installation.
- Bring system to normal operating temperature gradually; do not expose flooring to sudden, extreme temperature changes.
- Keep surface temperature within the range specified for the product (commonly not exceeding 80–85°F at the floor surface).

13. AFTER INSTALLATION & INITIAL CARE

- Remove all spacers at walls and install baseboards and moldings, ensuring they do not pinch or restrict the floor's movement.
- Clean the floor with a vacuum or broom suitable for hardwood. Do not use a beater bar.
- Use only cleaners specifically formulated for hardwood flooring.

Place felt pads on furniture legs and use protective mats at entryways. Do not drag heavy objects across the floor. If rugs are used, choose non-staining pads approved for use over hardwood.

14. ONGOING MAINTENANCE

- Maintain indoor relative humidity within the recommended range.
- Clean regularly with manufacturer-approved products.
- Wipe up spills promptly and avoid standing water.
- Avoid harsh chemicals, abrasive scrubbers, or steam mops.

Proper maintenance will help preserve the appearance and performance of your Homi hardwood floor.

15. WARRANTY OVERVIEW (GENERAL)

Homi hardwood flooring products may be accompanied by specific finish and structural warranties. Refer to the current Homi warranty documents for detailed coverage, exclusions, and claim procedures.

Generally, warranties do not cover:

- Damage from improper installation or site conditions.
- Moisture-related damage from leaks, floods, or vapor emissions.
- Abuse, neglect, or improper maintenance.
- Color variations, natural wood character, or gloss changes considered normal for hardwood, including any sun/UV damage and/or discoloration

In all cases, Homi's full written warranty governs. If there is any conflict between this guide and the warranty, the warranty document will control.

16. TECHNICAL SUPPORT & CONTACT

If you have questions about a specific installation scenario, subfloor condition, or product use, contact Homi Hardwood Floors before proceeding:

Homi Hardwood Floors
Technical Support
Phone: (800) 777-WOOD
Web: www.homifloors.com

Retain this guide and your purchase records for future reference.