

# SUNCA

## Installation Instructions for ALL Wide Plank Engineered Hardwood Flooring

Engineered Hardwood floors can be installed:

- On, above or below grade
- With floating floor, nail down or glue down installation
- Over plywood or concrete subfloor

This floor may be installed over radiant heat if:

- The floor is installed with glue down or floating installation
- The installation conforms to the conditions specified in the Special

This floor should **NOT** be installed in Full bathrooms or laundry rooms. Use in either of these applications will void the product warranty.

### **INSTALLERS/OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY PRIOR TO INSTALLATION:**

Acclimate flooring- To the usable environment a minimum 72 hours. **(DO NOT OPEN PACKAGES UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO INSTALL HARDWOOD)**

Humidity should be between 35% & 60 % and temperature should be between

16 C to 26 C or 60 F to 80 F.

Ensure Subfloor is clean, scraped and free of debris- Sweep or Vacuum floor.

Undercut door trims, jams, casing for the thickness of flooring and the adhesive.

Allow expansion space – remove existing base molding, or undercut the thickness of the flooring or allow 5/8" to ¾" for expansion and plan to cover with quarter round.

On Plywood, OSB - Test the sub-floor and flooring moisture – Maximum Moisture 10% - Maximum difference 4%

On concrete sub-floor –Test with Concrete Moisture Meter or Calcium Chloride Test Kit. Concrete must be fully cured 60 days prior to installation.

HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home subfloor is properly prepared for installation if installing over radiant heat, ensure that the system is in full working order and has been fully tested

and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone.

Inspect the flooring for manufacture defect and /or damages (DO NOT INSTALL DEFECTIVE MATERIAL). **It is the sole and joint responsibility of the installer and owner to conduct a quality inspection of all flooring prior to installation.**

Always open two to five boxes and work off all boxes to mix grain and variations in color and other visual imperfections such as knots, wormholes. Sunca floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. These defects may be the result of manufacturing or naturally occurring characteristics of the material. It is recommended that a 5% cutting or grading allowance be added to the total square footage when calculating the quantity of flooring required.

All pieces of flooring should be examined for quality inspection of manufacture, finish and color. If the product quality is deemed unacceptable, it should not be installed. **Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and owner, even if the owner is not present at the time of installation.**

For further information on installation standards and guidelines, consult the National Wood Flooring Association at [www.nwfa.org](http://www.nwfa.org) (Valid member ID# required for access).

If the flooring is being installed over radiant heating system, moisture content of the slab should not exceed 2lb/10,000sqft/24 hours. They system should be turned off in the installation zone for 24 hours before installation begins and left off for the duration of the installation period.

### **NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION**

You must use nailing tools and fasteners appropriate to the thickness of the flooring. Check your nail gun to make sure the depth gauge is appropriate for the thickness of the flooring. Put tape or felt on the bottom of the nailer to prevent scraping the floor. Replace is as necessary.

Test on a piece of scrap to make sure the gun is correctly set up and that the cleats or staples are being properly set. Set the first row in place with the groove side facing the wall. As a guide, measure in from the chalkline used to check the straightness of the wall to the finished top edge of the board. Remember to allow expansion space.

Glue the butt edges together using a non-crystallizing wood flooring glue (eg Titebond). Apply glue in a 1/8" bead to upper edge of groove portion of joint only. Set joints closed using a white rubber mallet or hammer and tapping block. Never use a hammer directly on the tongue and groove joints as damage to the joint may result. Clean up excess glue immediately according to glue manufacturer's instructions.

Using a pneumatic finish nailer, blind nail along the tongue edge at a 45° angle. Space nails every 6" to 8" along the length of the boards. Ensure there is a nail 2" to 3" from each end of each board. At the end of the row, cut a board to fit, allowing ½" expansion space.

Top nail along the opposite edge with the brad nailer. Keep the nailer perpendicular to the starting wall and set nails ¼: in from the edge of the board, so they'll be covered by moulding.

**4" and wider Engineered Hardwood must be Glued & Nailed by using Titebond All Weather Adhesive. You must apply the adhesive on bottom of boards (apply like a lazy "S" format) and also glue both back end of boards. Nailing pattern must be 4" to 6" apart and 4" from both butt end of boards.**

Set the second row in place and set the tongue and groove joints. Use offcuts if lengths are suitable and stagger butt joints as required (see above). Glue butt joints and blind nail along the tongue as before. By the third row, there should be room to use the nail gun. Continue with subsequent rows. To avoid a repetitive or predictable board pattern, cut some boards to random lengths to begin rows. Open new packages 1 or 2 at a time and rack and inspect boards as described above. Ensure ½" expansion space is maintained at all perimeter walls and other vertical obstacles. Maintain nailing schedule and keep butt joints staggered.

In the last couple rows, there may not be space to use the nail gun, so revert to using the finish nailer as before, blind nailing through the tongue. For the final row, measure the gap to the wall, allowing expansion space, and rip a row of boards to the required width. Top nail the final row into place using brad nails placed ¼" in from the edge. Install mouldings and transitions as required. Ensure baseboard mouldings are affixed to the wall, not the floor.

### **GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION**

Prior to Installation you must check concrete for leveling and level concrete floors to 1/8" over 8' linear feet if required. You must use the right concrete patch product to level the floor and have it cured prior to Installation.

Make sure concrete is cured for 60 days prior to Glue Down Installation

Open 1 or 2 packages of flooring and rack and inspect boards. Apply adhesive to the subfloor and set first row of boards along the guide strip with the tongue against the guide strip. Leave ½" expansion space between the end of the first board and the wall. At the end of the row, cut a board to fit, ensuring board length is not less than minimum specified. Allow ½" expansion space to end wall. If desired, use offcut to begin next row.

Set subsequent rows working away from starter wall. When installing new boards, avoid pushing them into place across the subfloor as this may unevenly redistribute the adhesive. Instead, hold the new board above the subfloor at an angle, engage the tongue and groove joint, then press the board directly down onto the subfloor. Ensure no glue is forced into tongue & Groove joints during installation as this may affect the fit of the joint. Avoid getting adhesive on the flooring surface, and clean up any

seepage or spills immediately according to manufacturer's instructions.

To prevent boards shifting after they have been set into place, strap them with blue mask tape. (Do not use regular masking tape as it may leave a residue of adhesive on the surface.)

Complete the installation to the far wall. For final row, rip boards to required width (allowing ½" expansion space at far wall).

Remove the guide strip from the starter row and complete the last ten rows back to the starter wall.

When installation is complete, remove all the blue mask tape from the floor. (Do not leave the blue mask tape on the floor for more than 24 hours.) If desired, roll the floor with a padded roller of recommended weight (100 to 150lbs) Install mouldings and transitions as required. Ensure baseboard mouldings are affixed to the wall, not the floor. Wait 24 hours before moving furniture or appliances onto floor.

If the flooring was installed over a radiant heating system, wait 24 hours after installation or until adhesive has fully cured before turning the system back on. Bring the temperature of the system up gradually, in 5° increments. Never allow the surface temperature of the floor to exceed 82°F (28°C) and avoid dramatic temperature changes; always adjust the system gradually in 5° increments. It is recommended that a dedicated thermostat be installed to allow the temperature of the radiant heating system to be accurately controlled.

#### **FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION**

Inspect Subfloor for leveling and also verify moisture content of subfloor. Leveling tolerance for floating floor is 1/8" over 8' linear feet. If the flooring is being installed on a concrete subfloor, or over a crawlspace, or below grade level, a vapor barrier must be installed. Using 6ml polyethylene sheeting, lay a single layer of sheeting over the entire subfloor. Allow an 8" overlap between seams and seal the seams with duct tape along their entire length. Leave an excess of 4" of sheeting extended up the wall at the outer edges and hold in place with blue or painter's masking tape. (This excess will be trimmed away later).

Next, install appropriate underlay over the entire subfloor surface. The seams should butt, not overlap.

Open 1 or 2 packages of flooring and rack and inspect boards. Verify straightness of starting wall as described above. Set first row of boards in place with the long groove side facing the starting wall, using chalkline as a guide. Set expansion spacers. Glue the butt edges together using a non-crystallizing wood flooring glue. Apply glue using a 1/8" bead to upper edge of groove portion of joint only. Set joints closed using a hammer and tapping block. Never use a hammer directly on the tongue and groove joints as damage to the joint may result. Clean up excess glue immediately according to glue manufacturer's instruction.

Begin second row. Run a 1/8" bead of glue along the upper edge of the groove on the long side and the right hand butt edge. Align left hand edge with first row and set in place, engaging long side joint. Tap joint closed and clean excess glue. Repeat for subsequent boards in second row. Use offcuts if lengths are suitable and stagger butt joints as required.

When second row is completed, strap the boards with blue mask tape and leave for one hour for glue to set. (Do not use regular masking tape as it may leave a residue of adhesive on the surface.) After one hour, resume installation using same technique for gluing and setting joints. To avoid a repetitive or predictable board pattern, cut some boards to random lengths to begin rows. Open new packages 1 or 2 at a time and rack and inspect boards as described above. Use off cuts if lengths are suitable and stagger butt joints as required (see above). Maintain ½" expansion space at all perimeter walls and other vertical obstacles.

For the final row, measure the gap to the wall, allowing expansion space and rip a row of boards to the required width. Ensure all excess glue has been cleaned from the floor surface. Strap entire floor with blue mask tape and leave for 24 hours. After 24 hours, carefully remove blue mask tape. (Do not leave blue mask tape on the floor longer than 24 hours.) Trim the vapor barrier flush with floor surface. Install mouldings and transitions as required. Ensure baseboard mouldings are affixed to the wall, not the floor.