



VERA WOOD

ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORING

INSTALLATION GUIDE

GLUE-DOWN • STAPLE / NAIL-DOWN • FLOATING

IMPORTANT

Read this guide completely before installation. The installer and owner are responsible for confirming product suitability, jobsite conditions, subfloor readiness, moisture conditions, layout and final board selection before installation begins.

QUICK INSTALLATION REFERENCE

REQUIREMENT	VERA WOOD GUIDELINE
Interior climate	Maintain normal occupied conditions. Target 65-75°F and 35-55% RH when practical.
Wood flooring moisture	Below 12% MC and generally within 4 percentage points of the wood subfloor.
Concrete moisture	Adequately cured and tested. In-situ RH target below 75% unless the approved system permits otherwise.
Subfloor flatness	Within 3/16 in. over 10 ft. (5 mm over 3 m) and/or 1/8 in. over 6 ft. (3 mm over 2 m).
Radiant heat	Flooring surface temperature must not exceed 85°F (29°C).
Board blending	Install from at least 3 cartons at a time to distribute natural variation.
Visible defects	Do not install unacceptable boards. Installation constitutes acceptance of visible appearance and quality.

GENERAL STANDARD Product-specific instructions, approved adhesive/underlayment directions and applicable building codes govern where more restrictive.

01 SAFETY & INSTALLER / OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

WOOD DUST

Cutting, sanding and machining wood creates airborne dust. Use dust collection, eye protection and an appropriate NIOSH-designated respirator or dust mask. Avoid skin and eye contact and follow applicable workplace safety requirements.

EXISTING FLOORING

Older resilient flooring, backing, felt or cutback adhesive may contain asbestos or crystalline silica. Do not mechanically sand, chip or pulverize suspect materials. Test and remove them in accordance with applicable federal, state and local requirements.

Owner / Installer Responsibility

Inspect flooring before installation for color, grade, finish, dimensions, milling and visible damage. If the product is unacceptable, stop and contact the seller before installation.

Wood is a natural material. Variation in color, grain, mineral character and tone is expected and is part of the appearance of a genuine wood floor.

Use reasonable selectivity. Set aside, trim or cut boards that are not appropriate for prominent areas. Do not install visibly unacceptable pieces.

Installation of a board is considered acceptance of that board's visible appearance and condition.

The installer/owner is responsible for verifying the jobsite, substrate, environmental and moisture conditions before installation.

Purchase approximately 5% extra material for standard layouts and more for diagonal or complex layouts, plus stored material for future repairs.

Jobsite Readiness

Complete wet trades such as concrete, masonry, drywall finishing, painting and plumbing before flooring is delivered.

The building must be enclosed, with exterior doors and windows installed and the permanent HVAC system operational.

Run HVAC long enough to establish normal occupied conditions before moisture testing and installation; five days is a useful minimum benchmark.

Store flooring inside the climate-controlled installation area, off the floor with airflow beneath cartons. Remove shipping stretch wrap.

Keep interior humidity stable year-round. Humidification or dehumidification may be required depending on season and climate.

Pre-Installation Records

Record representative moisture readings for the flooring and substrate before installation.

Retain the invoice, product identification/carton-end label, moisture records and a small quantity of extra flooring for future reference or repair.

02 MOISTURE TESTING & SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Moisture Conditions

Wood flooring and wood subfloors should be below 12% moisture content and should generally be within 4 percentage points of one another before installation.

For wood substrates, take multiple moisture readings throughout the space using a calibrated wood moisture meter. A practical benchmark is at least 20 readings per 1,000 sq. ft.

For concrete, use an appropriate ASTM-compliant test method. An in-situ relative-humidity result below 75% RH is a conservative benchmark unless an approved adhesive/moisture-control system specifically allows a higher reading.

Do not install when moisture results exceed the limits of the flooring, adhesive, underlayment or moisture-control system being used.

MOISTURE LIMITS

Moisture-related failures originating from the building, subfloor, slab, crawl space, plumbing, exterior water intrusion or environmental conditions are installation/jobsite conditions and are not manufacturing defects.

All Subfloors Must Be

CLEAN — Free of dirt, drywall compound, wax, paint, oil, curing compounds, sealers, old adhesive and contaminants that can interfere with bonding.

FLAT — Within 3/16 in. over 10 ft. (5 mm over 3 m) and/or 1/8 in. over 6 ft. (3 mm over 2 m). Grind or sand high areas and fill low areas with a suitable high-strength patch or leveling product.

DRY — Moisture conditions must comply with this guide and the chosen installation system.

STRUCTURALLY SOUND — Repair loose, damaged, swollen, delaminated or excessively deflecting panels before installation.

Wood Subfloors

Use code-compliant plywood or OSB panels with adequate thickness for joist spacing. Panels must be securely fastened and supported.

Re-fasten loose or squeaking areas before flooring installation. Excessive subfloor movement can cause noise and joint stress.

Install perpendicular to joists where practical. If installing parallel, additional subfloor reinforcement may be required.

Do not install over a wood subfloor that shows active moisture damage, structural weakness or excessive vertical deflection.

Concrete & Other Hard Substrates

Concrete should be fully cured; 60 days is a common minimum benchmark before wood-floor installation.

Concrete, terrazzo, tile and other approved hard surfaces must be sound, dry, flat, clean and properly prepared for the selected adhesive or floating system.

Lightweight concrete may not be suitable for direct glue-down. Confirm substrate density/strength and adhesive manufacturer approval before proceeding.

Existing resilient flooring may only remain when the flooring system and adhesive specifically permit it and the material is sound, well bonded and safe to work over.

Crawl Spaces & Basements

Crawl spaces and basements must be dry and adequately ventilated or conditioned.

Where exposed earth is present, cover the ground with a continuous vapor retarder such as 6-mil polyethylene, properly lapped and sealed.

03 RADIANT HEAT, LAYOUT & PREPARATION

Radiant Heat

- Use only with engineered Vera Wood products approved for radiant-heat applications. Product-specific restrictions take precedence.
- Follow the heating-system manufacturer's commissioning and operating instructions.
- For new concrete, allow the slab to cure adequately before commissioning the system and installing flooring.
- Operate the system before installation so the site reaches stable, normal conditions.
- At installation, keep the substrate at a moderate temperature, approximately 65-72°F where practical.
- After installation, raise temperature gradually - approximately 2°F per day - until the desired operating temperature is reached.
- Never allow the flooring surface temperature to exceed 85°F (29°C).
- Avoid thick or non-breathable rugs over heated flooring because trapped heat can create localized high temperatures and uneven moisture conditions.

Layout Before You Start

- Plan direction, starting wall, transitions and termination points before spreading adhesive or fastening flooring.
- For visual consistency, install from a minimum of three cartons at a time and distribute natural color and grain variation throughout the room.
- Preselect boards that coordinate with stair noses, reducers, thresholds and other moldings.
- Stagger end joints at least 6 in.; use a larger offset where appropriate for wider planks.
- Avoid repeating stair-step, H-joint or obvious cluster patterns.
- Undercut door casings so flooring can slide beneath while maintaining the required expansion gap.
- Do not strike the finished face directly with a rubber mallet. Use an appropriate tapping block or scrap piece when necessary.

Recommended Tools & Materials

Safety glasses / hearing protection	NIOSH-designated dust mask	Tape measure / chalk line
Moisture meter(s)	Jamb saw / utility knife	Tapping block / pull bar
Pry bar / trim tools	Approved adhesive & trowel	Flooring stapler / nailer
Low-adhesion painter's tape	Plastic scraper / clean towels	Vacuum / soft broom

04 DIRECT GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION

ADHESIVE SYSTEM	Use a premium wood-flooring adhesive approved for the specific Vera Wood product and substrate. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's moisture limits, primer requirements, trowel size, open time, working time and cleanup instructions. Those instructions control where they are more restrictive.
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1. Establish a straight starter line from the selected wall, allowing the required expansion space at all fixed vertical surfaces.
2. Dry-rack several rows to confirm appearance, end-joint spacing and board distribution.

3. Spread only the amount of adhesive that can be covered within the adhesive's working time. Hold the trowel at the manufacturer's recommended angle and replace worn trowels as needed.
4. Place boards into the adhesive without sliding them through the adhesive bed. Press firmly to achieve full transfer and required coverage.
5. Keep the first rows straight and secure. Use spacers, a temporary straightedge or other approved method to prevent movement while the adhesive grabs.
6. Continue installing while blending boards from multiple cartons and maintaining random end-joint staggering.
7. Remove adhesive from the factory finish immediately with the cleaner approved by the adhesive manufacturer. Do not allow adhesive to cure on the face of the flooring.
8. Roll the installation with the roller weight required by the adhesive manufacturer when specified.
9. Restrict traffic for the adhesive manufacturer's required cure period. A common minimum is approximately 12 hours for light traffic and 24 hours for heavier traffic, but adhesive instructions govern.

Glue-Down Quality Checks

Maintain consistent expansion space around walls, pipes, columns, cabinets, hearths and other fixed objects.

Check frequently for board movement, gaps, lippage, adhesive squeeze-out and pattern repetition.

Use a kneeling board if work must continue over newly installed flooring. Do not kneel or walk directly on uncured areas.

05 STAPLE / NAIL-DOWN INSTALLATION

Staple/nail-down installation is for approved wood subfloors only. Confirm the product profile and thickness are compatible with the fastening equipment.

Where appropriate, install a suitable underlayment or felt over the wood subfloor to reduce friction/noise and provide the system specified for the project.

Set a chalk line at the starter wall and maintain perimeter expansion space.

Face-nail or blind-nail the first rows as necessary, placing fasteners where they will be covered by base/shoe molding whenever possible.

Use an engineered-hardwood flooring stapler/nailer with the correct shoe/plate and fastener. Test tool pressure on scrap flooring before beginning.

A practical fastener pattern is 1-2 in. from board ends and approximately every 4-6 in. along the tongue, subject to product and fastener manufacturer instructions.

Fasteners should seat flush in the nail pocket without breaking the tongue, dimpling the face or over-driving through the profile.

Continue blending multiple cartons and maintaining random end-joint staggering.

06 FLOATING INSTALLATION

PRODUCT APPROVAL

Use the floating method only for Vera Wood products specifically approved for floating installation. Tongue-and-groove products may require full-length D3-rated PVA glue; locking profiles may have different requirements.

Install an approved underlayment with the moisture-control layer oriented and sealed as required by the underlayment manufacturer.

Maintain expansion space at the entire perimeter and around every fixed vertical object. Use spacers to keep the first rows straight.

For glue-together tongue-and-groove products, apply a continuous, controlled bead of approved D3-rated tongue-and-groove adhesive at the joint as directed for the profile.

Build the first several rows carefully; they establish the alignment of the entire floor. Use low-adhesion tape only when approved, and remove it within the allowed time.

Maintain a minimum 6 in. end-joint offset, or greater for wider planks, and avoid obvious repeating patterns.

Large rooms, narrow passageways and door openings may require transition moldings or additional expansion breaks. Follow product-specific requirements.

07 FINAL INSPECTION & PROTECTION

Inspect the completed installation for adhesive residue, surface damage, gaps, loose boards and trim fit before leaving the jobsite.

Install transitions, reducers, thresholds, base and shoe molding without pinning the floating floor. Moldings should attach to the wall or substrate as appropriate, not through a floating floor.

Use coordinating wood filler only for minor, normal installation touch-ups.

Do not roll heavy furniture or appliances directly across the floor. Use plywood runways, appliance lifts and felt or protective cups.

If the floor must be protected during construction, clean it first and cover it with clean, dry, breathable, non-staining protection. Do not tape directly to the finished flooring.

Avoid plastic sheeting or non-breathable coverings that can trap moisture or create uneven exposure to light.

08 CARE AFTER INSTALLATION

Sweep with a soft-bristle broom or vacuum using a hardwood-floor setting without an aggressive beater bar.

Wipe spills promptly. Use only cleaners specifically approved for urethane-finished engineered hardwood.

Do not wet mop, flood the floor or use steam cleaners.

Do not use oil soap, paste wax, acrylic polish or household cleaners that leave a residue unless specifically approved by Vera Wood.

Use felt protectors under furniture and protective mats at exterior entrances. Replace hard or damaged furniture casters.

Keep pet nails trimmed and avoid damaged stiletto/high heels that concentrate excessive load on the wood surface.

Wood changes color naturally with light exposure. Move rugs and furniture periodically when practical to promote more even aging.

Use breathable rugs and rug pads. Avoid rubber/latex-backed products that may trap moisture, react with the finish or create uneven discoloration.

09 INSTALLATION ACCEPTANCE & WARRANTY RECORD

SAVE YOUR RECORDS

The owner should retain the sales invoice, product identification, pre-installation moisture readings, installer information and a small quantity of extra flooring. These records may be required when evaluating a future product or installation concern.

Project Record

Project / Owner

Installation Address	
Product / Color / Lot	
Installation Method	
Subfloor Type	
Installation Date	
Installer / Company	

Moisture & Climate Record

ITEM	READING 1	READING 2	READING 3 / AVG.
Room Temperature			
Relative Humidity			
Flooring MC			
Wood Subfloor MC / Concrete RH			

VERA WOOD TECHNICAL NOTE	This document is intended as a general installation guide for engineered hardwood flooring. Product construction, locking profile, adhesive compatibility, underlayment requirements, radiant-heat approval and warranty terms can vary by SKU. Always confirm product-specific instructions before installation. Vera Wood is not responsible for failures caused by improper installation, moisture, substrate deficiencies, structural movement, environmental conditions, plumbing/exterior water intrusion or use of incompatible installation products.
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