

Site-finished Wood Floor Installation Checklist

Getting Ready Installing a new wood floor is a construction project. Some installation materials produce strong odors, and some construction activities are noisy. If you'll be living in your home while your new floor is being installed, plan accordingly to minimize disruption. Keep in mind that for a period of time, you won't be able to use the room receiving the new floor. It typically takes three to four days after the acclimation period to install a new floor, depending on subfloor conditions.

BEFORE INSTALLATION DAY, BE SURE THAT:

- The installation site is completely enclosed, with outside windows, doors and thresholds in place.
- All wet processes (like drywall or plaster) are finished well before installation.
- Air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems are operable.
- Electricity and water are directly available in the work area.
- Any new, unfinished quarter-round or base molding that you're providing for installation has been painted or stained. We recommend that you complete painting or staining at least 24 hours prior to installation so the finish is completely dry before installation begins.

FOR AREAS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE INSTALLATION:

- Cover the installation area's entryways and vents to contain dust and debris.
- Create a clear path through your home for easy access to the installation area and removal of debris.
- Cover furniture and floors along this path and in areas adjacent to the installation.
- Remove all items from cabinets, entertainment centers, bookcases, closets and similar containers.
- Move all breakables, such as lamps, vases, mirrors, wall hangings, antiques or other valuables, from areas affected by installation work.
- Disconnect and remove all electronic equipment, including televisions, stereos and computers.
- Remove all electrical wires running under carpets or along baseboards and door casings.
- Move furniture out of the room that will receive the new floor. If you prefer, The Home Depot can move furniture for you for an additional charge. Contact your sales associate for details.

Your installation expert will obtain all necessary permits and licenses before installation begins.

EARLY DELIVERY AND ACCLIMATION PERIOD

Wood flooring material needs to acclimate (adjust) to the moisture and temperature conditions of the installation environment for at least three days (72 hours) before it can be installed.

When the flooring material you ordered arrives at The Home Depot, we will contact you to arrange a convenient delivery date, as well as an installation date three or more days later.

During Installation On installation day, our licensed, insured installers will be on time, courteous and efficient. They'll have the equipment they need, and they'll be ready to install your new floor. You won't need to provide any special tools or materials. Just meet these simple requirements:

- Make certain to have an adult (over age 18) with the authority to make installation decisions on hand during the installation process.
- Keep the temperature in the installation area between 60° and 80° Fahrenheit.
- Keep children and pets away from the installation area.

That's it! We'll take care of the rest.

 **OUR GUARANTEE**

We stand behind all of the work provided by the independent flooring specialists within the Home Depot network.

Our experts:

- are fully licensed where applicable
- are insured to The Home Depot standards
- meet or exceed industry standards and certifications for flooring installation
- have been selected by The Home Depot for their craftsmanship, reliability, timeliness and customer service
- deliver quality services that are guaranteed by The Home Depot!



MOISTURE TEST

The moisture content of the installation site is an important consideration for wood floors. When The Home Depot installation team initially measures and assesses your installation site, they will also conduct the first moisture detection test. On installation day, they will conduct a second moisture detection test before they begin the installation. For more information on what this means and how it may affect your installation, see the Testing for Moisture Conditions section below.

WHEN THE INSTALLATION PROCESS IS COMPLETE, OUR INSTALLATION TEAM WILL:

- Clean the installation site.
- Remove all installation-related debris.
- Conduct a final inspection of your new floor and the installation site for your approval.
- Provide you with warranty and care information for your new wood floor.

UNEXPECTED SITE CONDITIONS

In almost all cases, the final estimate you receive will accurately reflect the condition of the installation site, and it won't be necessary to adjust cost or schedule. Occasionally, however, we discover conditions (water or termite damage; electrical or plumbing problems) during installation that must be addressed before we can complete the installation. These conditions may require additional labor and materials.

In most cases, The Home Depot installation team will be able to complete the necessary work. Any additional charges, if applicable, will be added to your installation cost, and the schedule will be adjusted accordingly.

If The Home Depot cannot supply the necessary labor, you may need to hire another contractor to perform that portion of the work before we can complete your installation.

After Installation **WAIT FOR THE FINISH TO DRY**

- Before you use the new floor or move into the room, make sure the floor's finish is completely dry. An unfinished wood floor is sanded, stained and finally sealed with one or more coats of finish. Each time a stain or finish coat is applied, the floor must be left to dry overnight. When the installers leave after applying the last coat of finish, you should wait 24 hours before you do anything in the room – do not walk on the floor during this time. If you do, the floor will be damaged.

ONCE YOUR NEW WOOD FLOOR HAS BEEN INSTALLED AND THE FINAL COAT OF FINISH HAS DRIED OVERNIGHT, YOU SHOULD:

- Change your air filters.
- Complete any touchup painting required on walls, doors or trim.
- Make sure all doors work properly. If your new floor is substantially thicker than your old floor, your doors may no longer swing freely. You may need to hire a carpenter to trim them or to install replacements.
- Carefully move furniture and other items back into the room using the proper moving equipment.
- Following manufacturer's guidelines, put appropriate protectors on the feet of chairs, tables and other furniture to avoid damaging your floor.
- Immediately begin proper care and maintenance. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations to maintain your warranty and keep your floor looking its best.

If you have any questions about the installation process, we're ready to help. Call your sales associate at The Home Depot.



Testing For Moisture Conditions The moisture content of the installation site is an important consideration for wood floors. To ensure successful installation, The Home Depot, in conjunction with major flooring manufacturers, has developed new standards for moisture detection and measurement and for site acclimation:

- Wood flooring materials must be stored in the installation environment to acclimate for three days (72 hours) prior to installation.
- The installation site's moisture levels will be measured twice:
 1. When the installation site is initially measured and inspected.
 2. On the day the installation team arrives to install your new floor, before they begin the installation.
- The results of these two tests may affect your installation in a variety of ways:
 - Low moisture levels indicate that the installation may proceed as planned.
 - Moderately high moisture levels may indicate that a moisture barrier should be installed, or that the flooring material should be stored for a longer period to adjust more thoroughly to the site's conditions.
 - High moisture levels may indicate that wood floors should not be installed under any circumstances.
- In all cases, The Home Depot follows the manufacturer's guidelines for the specific flooring product.

- How To Prevent Damage**
- Carefully move furniture and other items back into the room. Use the proper moving equipment for heavy pieces.
 - Place rugs at all doors and on high-traffic paths.
 - Housetrain pets and regularly trim their nails.
 - Do not allow dirty or muddy shoes on floor.
 - Never wet mop hardwood floors.
 - Avoid ultraviolet light damage by installing drapes or UV filters on windows.
 - Do not use sharp objects like wheels, high heels (especially damaged ones) or silverware on the floor.
 - Keep colored liquids or markers away from the floor.
 - Regularly vacuum, dust and remove spots and spills to enhance the beauty and life of your floor.