



PRIVATE RESERVE
ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORING
FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS
Applicable to floors purchased after 05-01-2010



Applicable to: NAPA COLLECTION · MENDOCINO COLLECTION · SONOMA COLLECTION

All ½” Private Reserve Engineered floors may be floated. Private Reserve Solid Floors may not be floated.

Important Information before You Begin

It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that you read and understand this information completely prior to starting, since improper installation can void the warranties. Only a professional hardwood floor installer should perform the installation.

Installer/Owner Responsibility

Prior to installation the Installer/Owner should perform a final inspection of the grade, manufacturing and factory finish of the purchased products. Materials installed with visible defects are not covered under warranty. Remember – Wood is a natural product that can vary in color, grain, and contains natural characteristics that varies from plank to plank and is to be expected. We do not warrant against these natural variations from plank to plank or variations from sample to plank. Remember – If you are not satisfied with the flooring prior to installation, simply return the cartons to your dealer for a full replacement. Accepting or rejecting the material must be done on full shipment of quantities only, not carton by carton or plank by plank. . The Installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with defects, whatever the cause. Beautiful hardwood floors are a product of nature and therefore not perfect. Our wood floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type.

Summitt Forest Products shall not accept responsibility for visible defects in flooring that has already been installed. Before installing **Private Reserve** floors, the Installer and Owner should ascertain that the jobsite and sub floor meet all necessary requirements of installation as outlined in these instructions. The **Private Reserve Limited Warranty** does not cover flooring failures resulting from poor jobsite and/or sub floor conditions.

Installation Tools Needed – All Installations

Broom or vacuum	Moisture Meter	Safety Glasses	Tape Measure
Hand Saw	Color Wood Filler	Chalk Line & Chalk	Electric Miter Saw
Bona® Hardwood Floor Cleaner	Hammer	Pry Bar	

PRE INSTALLATION & JOBSITE CONDITIONS

It is the installer/ owners' responsibility to ensure that the jobsite conditions and jobsite subfloor are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to the installation of any hardwood flooring. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of hardwood flooring resulting from or related to sub-floor, subsurface, or job-site environmental conditions. All substrates must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.

- Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt, curing compounds, sealers, drywall mud, paint, wax, grease, urethane, or other materials that may affect the integrity of the flooring material or adhesives used to install the flooring.
- All subfloors and subfloor systems must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance of a hardwood floor. Whenever possible install the planks perpendicular to the floor joists for maximum stability. Our warranties **DO NOT** cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.
- Test wood sub floors and wood flooring for moisture content using a pin-type moisture meter. The moisture content of the subfloor should not exceed 13% and the moisture content of the wood should be within 4% of the subfloor moisture content
- The moisture content for concrete subfloors registered after a calcium chloride test should not be greater than 3 pounds per 1000 square feet of area. If it exceeds these limits, DO NOT install the flooring.
Before moisture testing begins, the slab must be cured for a minimum of 30 days.

**A “DRY” SLAB, AS DEFINED BY THESE TESTS CAN BE WET AT OTHER TIME OF THE YEAR.
THESE TESTS DO NOT GUARANTEE A DRY SLAB.**

- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist to be no less than 18” and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
- The subfloor must be flat, meeting a minimum of 3/16” within 10’ or 1/8” in 6’.
- All “wet” work – i.e. – paint, drywall, concrete, masonry, plumbing must be complete and dry well in advance of delivery of hardwood flooring.
- Gutters and downspouts should be in place and the exterior grade complete to allow for proper drainage of water away from the building’s exterior perimeter.
- Flooring should not be exposed to extremes of humidity or moisture.
- Permanent HVAC should be on and operational a minimum of 7 days and maintained between 65 – 75 degrees and a relative humidity of 35%- 55% prior to delivery, during, and after installation of the flooring.
- If HVAC is not possible at time of installation the environmental conditions must be at or near normal living conditions between 60 – 80 degrees and at the average yearly relative humidity for the area.

It is the Installer/Owner responsibility to ensure that the conditions are acceptable prior to the installation of the hardwood floors. The manufacturer declines any and all problems with the hardwood flooring that are related to or attributed to improper jobsite conditions.

Recommended Subfloor Surfaces

Concrete subfloors: Concrete slabs should be of high compressive strength and constructed to prevent groundwater from permeating the concrete. Engineered hardwood flooring can be installed on, above, or below-grade. In addition, it can be installed over above-ground, suspended concrete floors. The suspended concrete must be a minimum of 1 1/2 inches thick and must be structurally sound. The exception to this is lightweight concrete (which usually contains high amounts of gypsum) having a density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot. Test for lightweight concrete by using a nail to scratch the surface of the concrete. If the concrete crumbles or turns to powder, it is not sound and you should **NOT** install the hardwood flooring.

Wood Subfloors:

Preferred Subflooring 3/4” CDX grade Plywood subfloor/ underlayment (Exposure 1), 4’x8’ sheets or 3/4” OSB subfloor/ underlayment grade, PS2 rated, sealed side down, with joist spacing of 19” on center or less.

Minimum Subflooring - 5/8” CDX Plywood subfloor/ underlayment (Exposure 1), 4’x8’ sheets, maximum 16” on center joist construction. Follow panel manufacturer’s recommendations for spacing and fastening. Typical panel spacing and fastening for joist systems, 1/8” (3.2mm) around perimeter and fastened every 6” on bearing edges and every 12” along intermediate supports.

Installation of flooring should not be made over joists spacing greater than 19” on center or parallel to the joists unless the subfloor has been properly strengthened, applying a second layer of underlayment may be necessary to bring the overall subfloor thickness to 1-1/8”.

- Test the moisture content of the wood subfloor and wood flooring with a pin type moisture meter. Wood subfloors must not exceed 13% and the wood flooring should be within 4% of the wood subfloor.
- For existing wood floors install new flooring at right angles to the existing flooring.

STOP! All questions or concerns in regard to the grading or milling of this product are required to be resolved prior to installation. The manufacturer accepts no responsibility or liability for the cost of this product, replacement and/or labor when flooring containing grade, milling, distressing or finishing defects has been installed prior to resolutions. Installing this product assumes full acceptance of this flooring.

Preparing for Installation

Summitt Forest Products' *Private Reserve Floating Floor Adhesive* must be used for all floating floor installations of Private Reserve Engineered Hardwood Flooring.

Inspect the Flooring – Inspect material for color, finish, milling, and grade. Hold out pieces that may not be acceptable once installed. **PLEASE NOTE: We do not accept responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been permanently installed.**

Undercut Door Casings - Undercut all door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. To do this, use a scrap piece of flooring as a guide. Lay it on the substrate and cut the casing with a handsaw or use a power jamb saw set at the correct height.

Blending of Cartons- To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we highly recommend that you open and work from several cartons at a time and dry-lay the flooring, mixing the planks from several cartons. This will allow you to blend the planks for maximum aesthetic appearance. Make certain the room is well lit to ensure color is consistent and that any visual defects can be seen and removed.

Match Transition Moldings: For best appearance blend all transitions and moldings to planks that have similar color and graining. Set them aside for use as needed.

Layout of Flooring: "Racking the Floor" is essential to achieve a random appearance. Start by either using random-length planks found in the carton or by cutting four or five planks in random lengths, differing by at least six inches. As you continue working across the floor try to maintain a six-inch minimum between end joints.

Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance.

Never waste materials; the end cuts from starter rows should be used at the opposite side of the room to complete rows or used to start the next row.

Expansion space: Expansion space around the perimeter is required and should be equal to the thickness of the flooring material.

FLOATING FLOOR INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

(for installations over Radiant Heat systems, see also the section on Radiant Heat Installations)

All ½" Private Reserve Engineered floors may be floated. Private Reserve Solid Floors may not be floated.

Additional tools & material needed:

Private Reserve Floating Floor Adhesive or other glue specifically manufactured for the installation of floating floors, and approved by Summitt Forest Products

Bona® Hardwood Floor Cleaner

Terry Cloth towels

6 Mil Poly Plastic Sheeting

Foam underlayment

Tapping Block & Spacers

Pry/Pull Bar

Before you begin using the following instructions, please refer to the Pre-Installation Job Prep information above.

6 Mil Polyethylene not required over a vinyl, wood, or a wood product sub floor.

6 Mil Polyethylene required over concrete type subfloors – on grade or below grade. Do not install over carpet.

If installing over vinyl, ensure that the vinyl is secure to the sub floor. Do not install over perimeter glued vinyl. If

installing over an existing wood floor, install the flooring at right angles to the wood floor. Secure creaking and

loose floorboards with screws. Do not install over wood flooring glued to a concrete sub floor. ½" of expansion

space required at all vertical surfaces.

Getting Started

1. Remove all doors and shoe moldings. Undercut all door casings 1/16" higher than the thickness of the flooring and underlayment to be installed. Place a scrap piece of plank and a sheet of underlayment against the door casing to act as a guide and cut the door casing with a hand saw or power jamb saw set to the correct height.
2. After determining the direction to run the planks, measure the width of the room (the dimension perpendicular to the direction of the flooring). The last row of the flooring should be no less than 1 ½" wide; if it is less, cut the width of the starter row to avoid a narrow last row.
3. Select a starter wall. An outside wall is best: it's most likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from the wall, at each end, the overall width of the plank plus ½" for expansion. If the first row requires ripping then measure from the wall the width of the ripped board plus ½" for expansion.
4. Snap a chalk line using a (brightly colored chalk) from these points.
5. Install Underlayment: Unroll the 6 mil. Poly sheeting overlapping edges 4" and seal seams with clear plastic tape. Allow the poly to run 2" up the wall and trim back after installation of flooring. Install 1/8" foam underlayment.

Note: Use of a floating floor 2 in 1 underlayment may be used. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application installing the 2 in 1 underlayment.

6. Prior to installing the flooring, secure a straight edge (starter board) inside the chalk line to act as a guide and to prevent the row of planks from shifting during installation. The straightedge could be a straight piece of lumber or piece of flooring. This is temporary and will be replaced as the floor is completed.

Installing the Floor

7. Insert spacers at walls to maintain the expansion space between the flooring and the wall.
8. Before starting to glue planks, dry lay the first two rows of flooring. Working from left to right, install planks so that the groove faces the straight edge (starter board). When reaching the end of the first row, cut the plank as necessary to fit. On the first 4 rows stagger end joints a minimum of 16" and then 8" thereafter.
9. Use the remainder of the plank from the first row to start the second row. If the piece is less than 8" long, cut a new plank in half and use that piece to start the second row.
10. Lay the remainder of the planks in the second row. Make sure that the rows are straight and no gapping exists on the sides or ends. Once you have dry laid the first two rows, remove all the planks in order. You are ready to begin.

11. Begin gluing the boards; Run a continuous bead of adhesive along the groove of the short side (width) and the plank's side groove (length). Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps to appear in proceeding rows of flooring.
12. Install first row of planks with groove facing the straight edge. Work from left to right. Complete the first row. Make sure there are no gaps between the boards. Use a tapping block if need to close the boards together. Immediately wipe away any excessive adhesive with a clean, slightly dampened cloth.

CAUTION: Adhesive that is allowed to dry on the finish surface can be difficult to remove and may leave a haze.

13. At the end wall use an end pry bar, if needed, to pull the ends of the planks tight.
14. Continue to install the floor working left to right, repeating the process until the completion of the floor. Continue to use the spacers on all vertical surfaces to maintain the 1/2" expansion.
15. The last row will most likely require cutting to width but it should be no less than 1 1/2" wide. To do this, lay the plank face up on top of the last full row installed. Trace the wall contour on the last plank using a scrap piece of plank and a pencil.
16. Install cut planks and pull into place with a pry bar. Install spacing wedges between planks and wall.
17. Remove the straight edge (starter row) and install the last row using the pry bar. Allow floor to dry for a minimum of 12 hours before removing all spacing wedges and allowing foot traffic.
18. Install trim and moldings the following day.

INSTALLATION OVER RADIANT-HEAT SYSTEMS

Private Reserve Engineered Floors are warranted for Installation over Radiant Heat system provided the following installation guidelines as well as the After Installation and Seasonal Operation guidelines detailed herein are strictly followed

Private Reserve Solid Floors are not warranted for installation over Radiant Heat systems.

Failure to strictly follow these guidelines may void all Private Reserve Warranties.

- Sub floor must be prepared and tested as detailed under *PRE INSTALLATION & JOBSITE CONDITIONS* (pages 1-2 of this document).
- Relative humidity of the jobsite **must be** maintained between 35-55% relative humidity. Use of a humidification system may be required to maintain the proper humidity level. Failure to maintain proper humidity level can result in excessive dryness of flooring.
- It is highly recommended that the radiant heat system be designed specifically to accept a wood floor
- Use of floor temperature sensor(s) as well as a separate thermostat for each individual room is required.
- An outdoor temperature sensor should be used to adjust water temperature according to anticipated heat loss.
- Prior to installation of flooring the radiant system must be installed per manufacturer's instructions.
- Radiant heat system should be set to run at 2/3 maximum output for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation of flooring to further allow moisture from concrete to dissipate and reach a final moisture content. This must be done in both heating and non heating seasons.
- Prior to installation (4 days) reduce to a temperature of 65°.
- Install flooring following the instructions for floating installations as detailed earlier in this document.

AFTER INSTALLATION & SEASONAL OPERATION

- 48 hours after completion of installation, slowly raise temperature of the heating system to its preferred operating level over a period of 5 days. Do not allow the surface temperature to exceed 82°
- Humidity level must be maintained between 35%-55% R.H.
- Seasonal gapping should be expected.
- Surface checking can be expected if the proper humidity level is not maintained between 35-55% R. H. or if the floor's surface temperature exceeds 82°.

The floor's surface temperature must never be allowed to exceed 82°F. Failure to control the maximum floor temperature may void your Private Reserve Hardwood Flooring Limited Warranties.

Humidity level must be maintained between 35%-55% R.H. Failure to control the humidity level may void your Private Reserve Hardwood Flooring Limited Warranties.

COMPLETING THE JOB

- Sweep or vacuum floor
- Clean the floor with Bona® Swedish Formula® Hardwood Floor Cleaner
Note: From time to time Summitt Forest Products may approve additional cleaners– for a complete list see our website www.privatereserveflooring.com)
- Install transition pieces -i.e. – thresholds, t-moldings, base boards and quarter round.
Nail moldings to wall, not the floor.
- Inspect final floor for nicks and or minor gaps – fill with appropriate color wood putty.
- Leave Warranty and Maintenance brochure with customer.
- Unused material should be left with owner and stored in a dry place in case of future repairs are needed.
- Use plywood or hardboard when moving heavy appliances or furniture across floor.

Floor Protection During Construction: Always protect the surface of the installed flooring during construction by laying a quality rosin paper or other paper that will allow the floor to breathe, taping it to the baseboards. Never use plastic or polyethylene sheeting to cover the floor since they will trap moisture that will damage the flooring.