



SIMPLE FLOORS SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORING INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Please Inspect all Flooring prior to Installation

Carefully confirm that the Color, Finish, Styling and Quality Fully meet the owner's expectations. If you determine the product does not meet expectations DO NOT INSTALL and immediately contact your Place of Purchase. SIMPLE FLOORS Inc. will not assume any responsibility, including costs for removal or replacement, for flooring that has been installed that does not meet the owner's expectations for any reason. SIMPLE FLOORS SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORING is INTENDED TO BE INSTALLED with approved full spread wood flooring adhesive, approved Solid wood flooring staplers, and NWFA approved Floating Floor methods.

Installations over Radiant Heated Sub Floors are not approved by SIMPLE FLOORS, Inc..

Light Commercial applications must be pre-approved and agreed to in writing by SIMPLE FLOORS only after an investigation of site conditions and limitations by manufacturer's engineers to determine if it is possible to install the flooring at the specific site using these methods. Contact your retailer for additional information regarding the approval of Light Commercial jobs.

PLEASE READ AND REVIEW THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION

OWNER / INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

Hardwood flooring is a beautiful and unique product of nature, and characterized by distinctive variations in grain and color. These natural variations in color and grain, (including filled knots, mineral streaks and scrapes), are not flaws, but are a part of the styling, natural beauty, and uniqueness of hardwood flooring. (These inherent variations should be expected and serve to enhance the natural beauty, styling, and aesthetics of the flooring) The variations may be of a manufacturing or natural type. No two hardwood floors are completely alike. **SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Floors** are manufactured in accordance with the accepted industry standards which allow a defect tolerance, (natural or manufacturing), of 5% of the total SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring purchase per job. SIMPLE FLOORS will warrants 95% of the total SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring purchase per job. The remaining 5% may be used at the owner's discretion, but is subject to the industry standard 5% defect allowance. All flooring considered defective (outside of that listed in the Warranty Exclusions on the SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Floor Warranty and Care sheet), after proper inspection by the installer or homeowner, should be culled, or trimmed out prior to installation and must not be installed. If an individual piece is doubtful as to grade, color, or finish, the installer should not install that piece. SIMPLE FLOORS Warranties **DO NOT** cover materials that are installed with visible defects.

If material in excess of 5% of the total job amount is found to be unacceptable, contact the place of purchase for your **SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Floor** immediately.

It should be realized that wood is a natural product that contains color variations, grain and characteristics, which are normal for all wood flooring products. Color changes may also occur when hardwood flooring is exposed to light sources.

The installer and home owner must assume all responsibility for full inspection of product **prior to the installation**. Open and select planks from 3 or 4 cartons in order to blend color and grain characteristics, and to allow for staggering of end joints a minimum of 7 to 10 inches. Carefully examining the flooring for color, finish, texture, and quality before installing it. Use reasonable selectivity, and use touch-up markers and putty sticks, as well as culling or cutting out pieces with visible defects. Before beginning the installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site, and the condition and type of the subfloor involved is acceptable, ensuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements specified in the **SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Floor** installation RECOMMENDED SUB-FLOOR TYPES and PRE-INSTALLATION JOB SITE INSPECTION sections below.

Hardwood flooring is a product of nature and is susceptible to damage when exposed to extreme changes in temperature or relative humidity. If environmental conditions and installation instructions listed below are not correctly followed, SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Floors may suffer irreversible damage.

SIMPLE FLOORS Inc. does not accept any responsibility for flooring failure resulting from or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloors or improper job site environmental conditions. The use of stain, wood touch up pens, filler or putty

sticks for the correction of defects as well as cleaning of adhesives and residue during installation should be accepted as normal procedure. When ordering Hardwood Flooring, a waste factor between 5 - 10%, depending on layout, must be added to the actual number of square feet needed. (Diagonal Installations may require more.)

Additional Installation Notes:

- Refer to the SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring Warranty and Floor Care document for information on warranty coverage and exclusions.
- **NOTE – SIMPLE FLOORS' Warranty for Solid Hardwood Flooring does not warrant installation over radiant heat systems.**

TOOLS AND/OR ACCESSORIES NEEDED:

Warning: SIMPLE FLOORS, Inc. is not responsible for damage caused by user negligence related to installation practices or misuse of installation and fastening tools.

Broom	Hammer/Rubber Mallet
Pencil - Chalk Line and Chalk	Pry Bar
Tape Measure	Hardwood Flooring Cleaner
Moisture Meter(s)	Trowel (if glue down) 1/4" X 1/4" V Notch
Safety Equipment (Goggles and Mask)	Circular or Hand Saw; Miter or Table Saw
Pneumatic Brad-Nailer with 1-1/2" brads OR Drill Bit 6d-8d Screw Shank Nails	1/2" Crown 16 gauge Hardwood Flooring Stapler designed specifically for prefinished solid flooring with 1 1/2" to 2" staples
Hardwood Flooring Cleat Nailer using 1 1/2" to 2" hardwood flooring cleats designed for prefinished solid hardwood flooring.	

Recommended Installation Products

Flooring Fasteners (Staplers and Nailers) all Equipment and fasteners must be NWFA approved for installations of SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORING

SIMPLE FLOORS requires the use of NWFA approved Staplers with 15-16 Gauge 1/2" crown with 1 1/2" to 2" Legs or NWFA approved Nailers with 2" Nails or Cleats to properly fasten the SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring with mechanical fasteners. Most staples have 2 legs that are treated with thermal adhesives that heat the adhesive when they are forced quickly into the floor and substrate and bond aggressively to the substrate. They also have divergent points that cause a slight curl at the end of the staple leg, making them much more difficult to loosen or remove. It is best to use branded staplers or nailers from a well known manufacturer such as Stanley-Bostich or Powernail. The Bostich MIII Pneumatic Stapler with 16 gauge staples and the PowerNail Pneumatic Nailer with 2" Power Cleats both have adjustable Foot Adaptors and are popular and reliable.

NWFA approved Nailers and nails designed for installing Solid Flooring may be used by qualified flooring professionals at your risk. Do not use 16 gauge or larger staples to install SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring. Do not use staplers or nailers specifically designed for Engineered Hardwood Flooring to install SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring. SIMPLE FLOORS Inc. does not warrant flooring and accepts no liability when fasteners that are mis-used, or not designed for Solid Flooring, are used to install SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring.

STEP 1: Pre-Installation Jobsite Inspection

When installing Solid flooring in new construction sites, **SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring** should be one of the last items installed. Flooring should not be delivered until the pre-installation guidelines listed below are completed. After all the guidelines are met, the flooring should acclimate at the job site at least 48 hours prior to installation or until the flooring reaches the final room temperature and moisture content as recommended by the NWFA . **Do not open cartons until the color , quality and style of the flooring has been inspected and approved by the purchaser. Solid Hardwood Cartons may be unsealed and left in the opened cartons to acclimate after the material has been approved by the**

purchaser as ready to install. Prior to installation, the building must be structurally complete and enclosed. All exterior windows and doors must be installed. Any “wet” work inside the house (masonry, drywall, and paint) must also be complete – allowing adequate drying time to eliminate unnecessary moisture content within the building. Permanent HVAC (heating/air conditioning) systems must be operating for at least 14 days before installation, **maintaining a constant room temperature between 60-78 degrees Fahrenheit and a relative humidity of 35-55%.** Exterior drainage – including gutters and downspouts, must be in place and drain away from the building. SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Floors can be installed **on** all NWFA approved suspended wood subfloors, although they are not recommended for full bathroom installations. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Crawl spaces must be a minimum of 18” from the ground to the underside of the joists with cross ventilation equal to 1.5 square feet of vent openings per 1000 square feet of the flooring area . A vapor inhibitor (6-8 mil **black** polyethylene film) must be put in crawl spaces with joints overlapped and taped. Sub-floors must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate metering device for wood substrates.

Performing Moisture Tests:

WOOD SUBSTRATES:

Test the moisture of the wood sub-floor using a calibrated moisture meter approved for testing wood moisture according to the meter manufacturer. The reading should not exceed 12%, or read more than 5% different than the moisture content of the product being installed.

STEP 2: Storing the Material Prior to Installation

Once the building meets the conditions in Step 1, the material can be delivered to the site. Handle and unload the flooring with care and **store within the area in which it is expected to perform.** Flooring stored on concrete floors should be elevated at least four inches to allow circulation under the cartons. Cartons **must** be stored horizontally (parallel to the ground). **Never** store them standing on end. Stack the cartons 3-4 high to insure efficient acclimation. Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed as close to the center of the installation area as possible, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors. Keep out of direct sunlight and away from air vents. SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood flooring **must** acclimate for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. Extra precautions requiring acclimation may be necessary during extreme weather conditions.

STEP 3: Approved Subfloor Types

Radiant Heat Subfloors are Not Approved By SIMPLE FLOORS Inc. and installation of SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Floors are not warranted over Radiant Heated Substrates.

It is the sole responsibility of the purchaser to determine that all subfloor types meet the required specifications .

Wood Panel Subfloors

(Truss/joist spacing will determine the minimum acceptable thickness.

- On truss/joist spacing of 16” on center or less, use a minimum 5/8” CDX or better grade plywood panel or 23/32” APA E1 PS 2 rated NWFA approved OSB panel .
- On truss/joist spacing of more than 16” up to 19.2” on center, use a minimum 3/4” Tongue and Groove CDX or better grade plywood panel, glued and mechanically fastened, or a minimum 3/4” APA E1 PS 2 rated NWFA approved OSB panel, glued and mechanically fastened.
- Truss/joist systems spaced over more than 19.2” up to a maximum of 24” on center require a minimum 7/8” Tongue and Groove CDX or better grade plywood panel, glued and mechanically fastened, or a minimum 7/8” APA E1 PS 2 rated NWFA approved OSB panel glued and mechanically fastened.
- **WARNING: Do not use staples or glue method to install SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring directly over particle-board or unapproved OSB**

STEP 4: Preparing the Sub-floor

For wood panel subfloors:

- Ensure that there is proper expansion space (1/8”) between the panels. If the panels are not tongue and grooved, and if there is not sufficient expansion space, use a circular saw to create the necessary space. Do not saw through tongue and groove joints on T&G subfloors.

- Ensure they are structurally sound: Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated sub-flooring or underlayment that is unable to properly hold fasteners. When possible, plywood sheets should be laid with grained outer plies at right angles to joists; adjacent rows staggered four feet and nailed every 6" along each joist with 7d or larger nails. Leave a 1/8" gap at the edges and nail with 7d or larger nails every 6" at the edges and every 12" in both directions and through the interior of each sheet of plywood. It is normal for mechanically (staple/nail/cleat) fastened floors to make minor occasional noises such as popping, squeaking, or crackling which can change as environmental changes occur. **Noise from subfloors is not considered a manufacturing related issue and is not warranted by SIMPLE FLOORS Inc.** You can help reduce popping, squeaking, or crackling by being sure that the subfloor is secured properly (as explained above) and is structurally sound, that there is no loose joists or decking, and is swept very thoroughly prior to installation.

All Sub-floors must be:

- CLEAN: scraped, sanded, or swept; free of wax, grease, paint, oil, and other debris.
- SMOOTH/FLAT: within 3/16" over 10' and/or 1/8" over 6'. Sand high areas or joints. Fill low areas (no more than 1/8") with a cement type filler.
- DRY: Moisture content of sub-floor must not exceed 12% prior to installation of wood flooring. All moisture testing must be done before wood has been acclimated for a minimum of 72 hours and job-site requirements met.

- **CAUTION: WOOD DUST**

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified wood dust as a nasal carcinogen as well as an eye and skin irritant.

In case of irritation, flush eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes. In case of severe irritation; seek immediate medical attention.

- **ATTENTION CALIFORNIA INSTALLERS AND CONSUMERS WARNING !**

Installation of this product may create wood dust which is known to the State of California to cause Cancer.

Sawing, sanding, and/or machining of wood products can produce wood dust that can cause respiratory, eye, and skin irritations. Equipment should be equipped with a dust collector to reduce airborne wood dust. Wear an appropriate NIOSH designated dust mask to reduce exposure to airborne wood dust. Avoid wood dust contact with eyes.

STEP 5: Installing the Floor

- Open several different cartons and mix the pieces to maximize the color and shade variations.
- Install the product parallel to the longest wall to provide the most appealing visual effect.
- Stagger the ends of the boards at least 10" in adjacent rows to insure a random visual effect.
- Allow for a ½" minimum expansion gap around all fixed vertical objects that reach the substrate. Solid Wood as well as the housing structure expands and contracts with changes in humidity. Wood will buckle and break loose if an adequate expansion space is not provided. **ALWAYS** provide for expansion space when fitting flooring adjacent to vertical objects (i.e. walls, baseboards, door frames and facings, pipes, etc.).

DOORWAY/WALL PREPARATION:

- Undercut all door casings, including all door frames, and all fixed vertical structures, 1/16" higher than the thickness of the floor being installed where quarter round or surface trim cannot be used.
- Remove existing base and shoe molding on wall as well as doorway thresholds. Trim may be reapplied after the installation is complete.

PREPARING THE INSTALLATION:

1. Before starting, measure the width of the room, and divide the room's width by the width of the plank. If this means that the last row of planks will be narrower than 2", you will need to cut the first and last row of planks to be installed in such a way that both rows of planks will have the same approximate width for an overall continuous look. To cut the boards, always saw with the saw teeth

rotating or cutting down into the face or top of the board. Cutting from the top down helps protect the surface from excess chipping . Use a carbide tip blade to ensure smooth cuts.

2. Always install SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring with the groove side of the plank facing the wall, and with the installer positioned off the floor when possible.

Begin the installation at the corner of the room so that the groove side can be placed against the starting wall. Be sure to leave an expansion gap of approximately 1/2". If the starting wall is not straight, it may be necessary to scribe the first row to match the wall, allowing the opposite side of the row to present a true square base for the rest of the floor. Once the installation of the first row is complete, there will be an extra piece from the last plank which, if long enough, may be used to begin the next row. To locate the best starting point, an exterior wall is usually the straightest and best reference line to start the installation from. If possible, the direction of the flooring being installed should be at right angles to the floor joists. Establish a starting line by leaving a minimum 1/2" expansion gap around all vertical obstructions. In at **LEAST** 2 places, measure out equal distances from the starting wall equal to the width of the starting plank calculated earlier in this section regarding the room width and plank width. Allow for all doors and openings as well as the 1/2" expansion space needed at all fixed vertical structures. Mark these points and snap a working chalk line parallel to the starting wall allowing the required expansion space between the starting wall and the edge of the first row of flooring. Plan the floor layout (width-wise) so you don't have to rip (which is cutting the board lengthwise to make it narrower) the last row **NARROWER** than 2". You may have to rip the **FIRST** row to ensure that the **LAST** row is at **LEAST 2"** wide.

INSTALLING THE FIRST ROWS:

- Establish your starting row (SEE ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT ABOVE).
- Using a pneumatic brad nailer, face-nail the groove side of the boards (first row only) 1/2" from the edge at 6" intervals and 1" – 2" from each end; then at a 45 degree angle down through the nailing pocket on top of the tongue. Another option is to pre-drill the face-nail holes 1/2" from the groove edge of the first row, 1" – 2" from each end, and at 6" intervals. Pre-drill at the same intervals at a 45 degree angle down through the nailing pocket on top of the tongue. Face-nail the groove side where it is pre-drilled. When the face-nailing is complete, blind-nail at a 45 degree angle using 4d or 6d nails. Countersink all nails to ensure the next boards install smoothly. Make sure to use a nail set to countersink the nails – failure to do so can damage the surface of the wood. Keep blind-nailing the following rows until the nailer can be used.
- **REMINDER:** Take boards from 5 to 7 boxes while installing. Do not install 2 pieces from the same box side by side or in the same row – rack or mix the colors and shades while installing to achieve the proper visual effect. Stagger the end-joints of adjacent rows at least 10" to add structural stability and create a more appealing look for the floor.
- Line up the edge of the first row against the temporary starter board. Install **SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring** with the groove side of the plank facing the wall with the installer positioned off the floor when possible. The tongue of the boards should always be facing the installer except where special circumstances exist.
- Make sure the end-joints of adjacent rows are staggered at least 10" across 4 to 6 rows to establish a random visual and avoid identifiable patterns forming in the installation, (stair-step appearance).

INSTALLING THE REST OF THE FLOOR:

- Make sure to use the straightest, longest boards available when installing the first two rows.
- **Continue to take boards from 5 to 7 boxes while installing. Do not install 2 pieces from the same box in a row – mix the colors and shades while installing to get a more favorable overall look.**
- Stagger the end-joints of adjacent rows at least 10" to add structural stability and create a more appealing look for the floor.
- When installing individual pieces, connect the end-joints first as close to the long tongue and groove as possible. Then slide (push) the long tongue and groove together as tightly as possible. You may need to use a scrap piece of the same flooring product as a tapping block to help align the product, use caution and tap only into the tongue, never the finished edge of the flooring.
- Double check the edges and ends of your installed planks – all joints should fit tightly together.

- Continue with this method while installing the rest of the floor. In some cases, it may be necessary to cut the flooring lengthwise in the last row. In order to do so, place the last board over the next-to-last row (Refer to Preparing the Installation), marking the exact cut and taking into account the 1/2" gap with regard to the expansion space.
- Once the flooring installation is complete, proceed to install the base boards and trim profiles, which will cover the expansion gap without obstructing it. Fasten all trim into wall base. Do not nail or staple trim into or through the flooring surface.

Special Circumstances

- **Doorways:** Attempting to continue installing rows through a doorway into another room can be difficult because the narrow opening is a very small base upon which to continue consistent, even rows into the next room. To correctly align plank rows from room to room, it is best to use a master reference line that runs through the doorway to the far ends of each room involved. Position the line so that it is perpendicular from the corresponding wall and parallel to the side walls. Use this line to align the plank rows from room to room.
- **Pipes, vents and other fixed objects:** Each instance of these items can be unique, but the general rule is to measure very carefully before you cut and remember to leave a 1/2" expansion gap between the object and the flooring. You will cover the expansion gaps with molding, vent covers or pipe rings when the floor is complete.
- **Installation on Stairs:** Working from the top step down, flooring and nosings should be installed using a premium grade wood flooring adhesive and screw type fasteners or nails for all trim pieces. All stair nose moldings must be glued and nailed / screwed every 6", as a safety precaution.
- e during the installation process.

INSTALLING WITH STAPLES/Nails/Cleats (Mechanical Fasteners):

Follow all guidelines outlined earlier regarding pre installation and the general installation process.

SIMPLE FLOORS requires the use of NWFA approved Staplers with 15-16 Gauge 1/2" crown with 1 1/2" to 2" Legs or NWFA approved Nailers with 2" Nails or Cleats to properly fasten the SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring with mechanical fasteners. Most staples have 2 legs that are treated with thermal adhesives that heat the adhesive when they are forced quickly into the floor and substrate and bond aggressively to the substrate. They also have divergent points that cause a slight curl at the end of the staple leg, making them much more difficult to loosen or remove. It is best to use branded staplers or nailers from a well known manufacturer such as Stanley-Bostich or Powernail. The Bostich MIII Pneumatic Stapler with 16 gauge staples and the PowerNail Pneumatic Nailer with 2" Power Cleats both have adjustable Foot Adaptors and are popular and reliable.

NWFA approved Nailers and nails designed for installing Solid Flooring may be used by qualified flooring professionals at your risk. Do not use staplers or nailers specifically designed for Engineered Hardwood Flooring to install SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring. SIMPLE FLOORS Inc. SIMPLE FLOORS Inc. does not warrant flooring installations, and accepts no liability problems that may arise, including but not limited to loose flooring, dimpling or distortion of the face, breakage of the core or tongue, and noise when fasteners that are mis-used, and are not approved or designed for Solid Flooring, are used to install SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring.

- Use only Stapling and Nailing Equipment and Fasteners designed for Solid Hardwood Flooring Planks over NWFA approved APA Stamped E1- PS2 Underlayment Grade Subfloors
- Follow all instructions provided by the Manufacturer of the specific fastening equipment.
- Make certain the Fastener's air pressure is set, and guide angle and depth settings on the adapter foot are correct in order to allow the staple crown or nail head to recess the fastener flush in the top of the flooring tongue (not protruding above or recessed below) the tongue so no damage or breakage of the core or tongue occurs. Occasional noise is inherently common to staple and nailed installations and is not considered a manufacturing defect. Inherent noise may be minimized by maintaining recommended indoor climate control.
- **WARNING: Do not use mechanical fasteners or glue method to install SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring directly over particle-board or unapproved OSB (use floating method only for installations over particle board and Unapproved OSB Substrates)**
- **When using Mechanical Fasteners:** Using improper adapters and pressure settings can cause severe damage to the flooring while using the staple/nail/cleat installation method. Using the correct adapter and pressure will set the staple/nail/cleat correctly in the tongue. It is vital that the tool is adjusted properly so the staples/nails/cleats are being positioned at the proper angle. Air pressures set too high can cause damage to the tongue, putting blisters on the face (dimpling) of the flooring and making it difficult to install adjoining boards. Air pressure necessary to attach fasteners properly (PSI) on the compressor is usually around 80 PSI. A proper test is to set the Stapler/Nailer pressure initially at 70 PSI and adjust it until the staple/nail/cleat properly sets in the tongue. Test the stapler or nailer on a scrap piece of material first. If the tongue is being damaged when stapling/nailing, or the staple/nail/cleat is driving too deeply into the nail channel, lower the

pressure. If the staples/nails/cleats do not set deep enough, raise the pressure. SIMPLE FLOORS is not responsible for damage caused by mechanical fasteners. If you need to remove a staple/nail/cleat that has gone in crooked, do not pull straight up from the tongue. This will damage the surface of the board. Instead, pull out the staple/nail/cleat from the tongue at the front of the board with all pressure from the hammer's head directed to a fulcrum board on the sub-floor. SIMPLE FLOORS is not responsible for damage caused by negligent installation practices, the misuse of Mechanical Fasteners, hammers or other installation tools.

GENERAL TIPS: FLOOR REPAIR

- 1. Minor damage to your hardwood floor may be repaired by using a color fill putty stick or felt stain marker. This special product should be matched to the color of your floor and, when properly used, will make the damaged area virtually invisible.
- 2. A qualified hardwood flooring installer should repair extensive damage to traditional Solid hardwood flooring.
- 3. For splinters and loose edges, broken away or still attached, DO NOT PULL, carefully glue in place with clear CA Cyanacrylate (Super Glue), carefully trim small sprigs or raised edges with a chisel point razor and touch up with a matching color pen or putty stick available at most home centers.
- 4. Contact **your retailer** for information regarding locating matching Trim Pieces, board replacements, cleaning and maintenance, touch-up and minor repair, or other assistance.

HARDWOOD FLOORING CARE & MAINTENANCE

SIMPLE FLOORS Inc. does not warrant floors that are not properly maintained.

Routine Maintenance

1. Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
2. For tough spots, such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, tar, or incidental topical residue from manufacturing processes, use Mineral Spirits, Denatured Alcohol (Clear Hand Sanitizer containing Ethanol) on a clean white cloth, then wipe the area with a damp cloth to remove any remaining residue. IMPORTANT! Never use Lacquer Thinner, or Citrus Based Solvents to Clean SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring. Test all cleaning chemicals on an inconspicuous area or loose piece of the flooring before use.
3. Sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor regularly with a proper hard surface non motorized attachment (not the beater bar) or microfiber dusting pad (such as available in the Bona floor care kit), to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish. **Do not Use Swiffer type dust mops, Steam Cleaning Equipment** or Swiffer Type steam or wet mops of any kind on the hardwood flooring surface.
4. Periodically clean the floor with **SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Floor** approved cleaning products, or a Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner Kit, made specifically for prefinished hardwood floor care. apply cleaning liquid to dampen (not dripping), a soft clean cloth or terry cloth mop cap. Dry the floor immediately after cleaning with a dry terry cloth towel to remove excess cleaner residue and avoid streaking.
5. Do not apply liquid cleaners directly to the flooring surface, never wash or wet mop the floor with soap, water, oil-soaps, detergents, vinegar, or any other liquid cleaning material. This can cause swelling, warping, delamination, or joint-line separation, and will void the warranty.
6. Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
7. Do not use any type of finish restorer, coatings to enhance shine, floor wax, or polishes.
8. For spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, harden the spot with ice in a plastic bag, immediately dry, and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
9. For tough stains, you may need to use a heavy-duty stain remover made specifically for hardwood floors.
10. A more frequent dust-mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.
11. Maintain a 35-55% air humidity and 60-78°F temperature at all times within the room.

On Site Protection

1. Entry mats will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that might otherwise be tracked onto your floor.
2. When placing a rug, do not use rubber or foam backed plastic mats directly on the flooring as they may discolor the flooring finish. To prevent slippage, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
3. Use 1" minimum diameter felt floor protectors. As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector. Proper Floor Protectors" on feet of all furniture is defined as any soft, cushioned product that will cover the feet/posts entirely. Metal or Plastic gliders, cardboard, or any other hard surface or pads too small for the feet are not considered "proper floor protectors".
4. Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 35 and 55% throughout the year to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of the wood.
 - a. Heating season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stoves and/or electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.
 - b. Non Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier, or periodically turning on your heating will help to maintain humidity levels during summer months.
5. Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.
6. Do not walk on your floor with stiletto heels, spiked golf shoes, or other types of sports cleats.
7. Do not allow sharp, pointed, or rough textured objects to be exposed to the hardwood flooring.
8. Keep your pet's nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.
9. Periodically rearranging your area rugs and furniture will allow the floor's finish to age evenly and the color to remain uniform. UV sunlight will change the color of hardwood to varying degrees based on exposure and species type.

10. Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances; but first, put down a piece of quarter inch plywood or Masonite to protect the floor. Never use Cardboard to protect the floor when moving or rolling heavy objects. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.

11. A hard, smooth bottomed protective mat designed for Hardwood Flooring should be used for furniture or chairs with casters.

GENERAL TIPS: HARDWOOD MAINTENANCE AND ANNUAL SEASONS

Wood floors will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity within your building. To make sure the floors are protected for as long as possible, it is necessary to keep the relative humidity levels between 35% - 55% and maintain the temperature between 60 and 78 degrees Farenheit throughout the life of the floor. Below are some recommendations on how to achieve proper indoor environment conditions throughout the year.

- **Wet/Humid Seasons(Wood may expand):** Heaters are not generally used during these months. Therefore the floor holds in the humidity and expands. To maintain a proper humidity level, the use a dehumidifier or air conditioner may be required.
- **Dry Seasons(Wood may contract or shrink):** Wood-burning stoves, gas and electric heating systems, and forced air heating systems are used often during winter months – creating very dry conditions indoors. Low indoor relative humidity causes the wood lose moisture and subsequently contract and change shape, (cupping), resulting in gaps, misshapen boards, and permanent damage from cracking of the flooring surface, delaminating of the core. The use a humidifier to keep the humidity level between 35% - 55% may be required. In Winter months, Forced air Heat Systems are capable of removing 15 gallons or more of water from indoor air per day in 1000 square feet of heated space.
- **Other Installation Methods and Warranty Information**
- You may obtain the “SIMPLE FLOORS Solid Hardwood Flooring Warranties and Floor Care Guide“ documents as well as the installation instructions for all approved installation methods at our website www.simplefloors.com.