



commercial hardwood installation instructions

ceilings & walls

Attention:

Before starting installation, read all instructions thoroughly. Should any questions arise, please contact your local Hallmark Hardwoods dealer or phone Hallmark Hardwoods direct at 888 551-0888. All installation instructions must be followed for warranties to be considered valid.

COLOR VARIATION

This is a natural product and color variations are to be expected. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons and do not install boards varying greatly in color next to one another.

ACCLIMATION

As relative humidity varies in different parts of the country, acclimation of planks prior to installation is the most important precaution to take in order to ensure a successful installation. Proper acclimation is necessary to adapt the moisture content of the wall panelling to the conditions of your environment. Improper acclimation can cause the wall panelling to buckle and/or the boards to shrink or cup after installation.

WALL PREPARATION

Wall should be smooth, in good condition, and relatively straight and plumb with minimal bowing or curving of wall. Masonry walls and exterior walls should be moisture proofed prior to applying planks to walls.

Owner/Installer Responsibility

Inspect all materials carefully prior to installation. Warranties do not cover materials with visible defects once they are installed. Inspect the hardwood flooring in well lighted conditions to ensure proper identification of any potential problems. Carefully inspect the flooring for grade, color, finish, and quality. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact Hallmark Hardwoods and arrange shipment of replacement material. Defective product will be replaced. Material that is subjectively viewed as unacceptable but falls within Hallmark Hardwoods grading norms will not be replaced. Prior to installation of any flooring, the installer must ensure the job site and sub-floor conditions meet the requirements specified in these instructions.

Caution: Wood Dust

Governmental agencies have determined wood dust to be a nasal carcinogen. The sanding and sawing of wood flooring can produce wood dust that can cause eye, nose, skin, and respiratory irritations. All sanding and sawing equipment should be fitted with dust collection systems to reduce airborne dust. Wear appropriate NIOSH designated dust masks to reduce the risk of dust inhalation. Wear proper eye protection and avoid prolonged contact with eyes and skin. In the event of skin or eye irritation, flush with water for 15 minutes and seek medical attention!

Storage and Handling

Handle and unload wood flooring with care. Store in a dry place; make sure to provide at least a four-inch space (using dry 4" x 4" stickers or a dry pallet that provides enough clearance) under boxes for proper air movement. Prior to delivery of flooring, outside doors and windows must be in place. All concrete, masonry, plastering, and other "wet" work must be complete and thoroughly dry. Roofing and the exterior shell of the structure must be finished and weather tight with doors and windows installed. The wall coverings should be in place and all painting completed—except for the final coat on the base molding. Room temperature and humidity should be consistent with year-round conditions for at least one week prior to installation. When possible, install base molding after floor installation is complete. HVAC must be running with a room temperature of between 60° F to 80° F and relative humidity constant between 30 and 50%.

Pre-Installation Inspection & Requirements

Hallmark Floors cannot be held responsible for jobsite conditions

Carefully examine the material prior to installation for grade, color, finish, and quality. Ensure adequate lighting for proper inspection. If material is not acceptable, contact your supplier immediately and arrange for replacement. Hallmark Floors cannot accept responsibility for material installed with visible defects. Prior to installation of any material, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and walls/ceilings meet the requirements of these instructions. Hallmark Floors is not responsible for material failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite and/or wall/ceiling conditions.

Installation Tools

ALL INSTALLATION METHODS

Tape Measure
Tapping block (trimmed piece of flooring)
Pencil
Pry bar or pull bar
Chalk line
Crosscut power saw
Air staple/nailer compatible with profile of the flooring material
1.5"-2" nail, cleat, or staple that is compatible with the profile of the flooring material
Air compressor
Construction mastic for glue installation

Glue Installation

If walls are in moderately good condition, construction mastic is usually the easiest, fastest way to install wood paneling over drywall, plaster, hardboard, or even old paneling. To apply, follow the adhesive manufacturer's directions.

To help tighten joints while gluing, tack through tongue into drywall or plaster every two to three feet. Use small nails to hold paneling in place until mastic sets.

Nail Installation

NOTE: If installing in a horizontal or diagonal orientation, planks can be nailed directly on to wall with wood stud framing as long as nails are placed in studs. Planks installed in a vertical orientation will require furring strips be nailed to the wall.

Since natural wood planks expand with any increase in moisture content, always leave at least a 3/8" expansion space between walls and any other permanent obstructions, (such as pipes and cabinets). This space will be covered up once you reapply base moldings around the room. Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this 3/8" expansion space.

Nail 1 x 4 furring strips to the wall with a maximum spread of 36" or a minimum spread of 18". If installing planks vertically to the wall the furring strips must be nailed horizontally across wall (Figure 1). If installing planks horizontally to the wall, the furring strips must be nailed vertically across wall.

Begin installation at corner with groove facing perpendicular wall if installing in a vertical orientation or with the groove facing the floor if installing in a horizontal orientation. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank plus about 3/8" for expansion space. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of square.

Use a flooring air stapler/nailer compatible with profile of material or a stapler/nailer of your choice. Test on a sample to make sure that stapling/nailing will not cause dimpling (localized raised edges) in the finished plank. (Note: Be sure to look at the face of the installed flooring at a low angle from a distance to see if dimpling is occurring as it is hard to see when directly above the plank.) If dimpling does occur, STOP and adjust the stapler/nailer shoe and angle/place of staple entry in order to avoid it. Hallmark Floors is not responsible for dimpling.

Figure 1

1"x4" Furring Strips

Match end joints
and nail over
furring strips

36" max
18" min

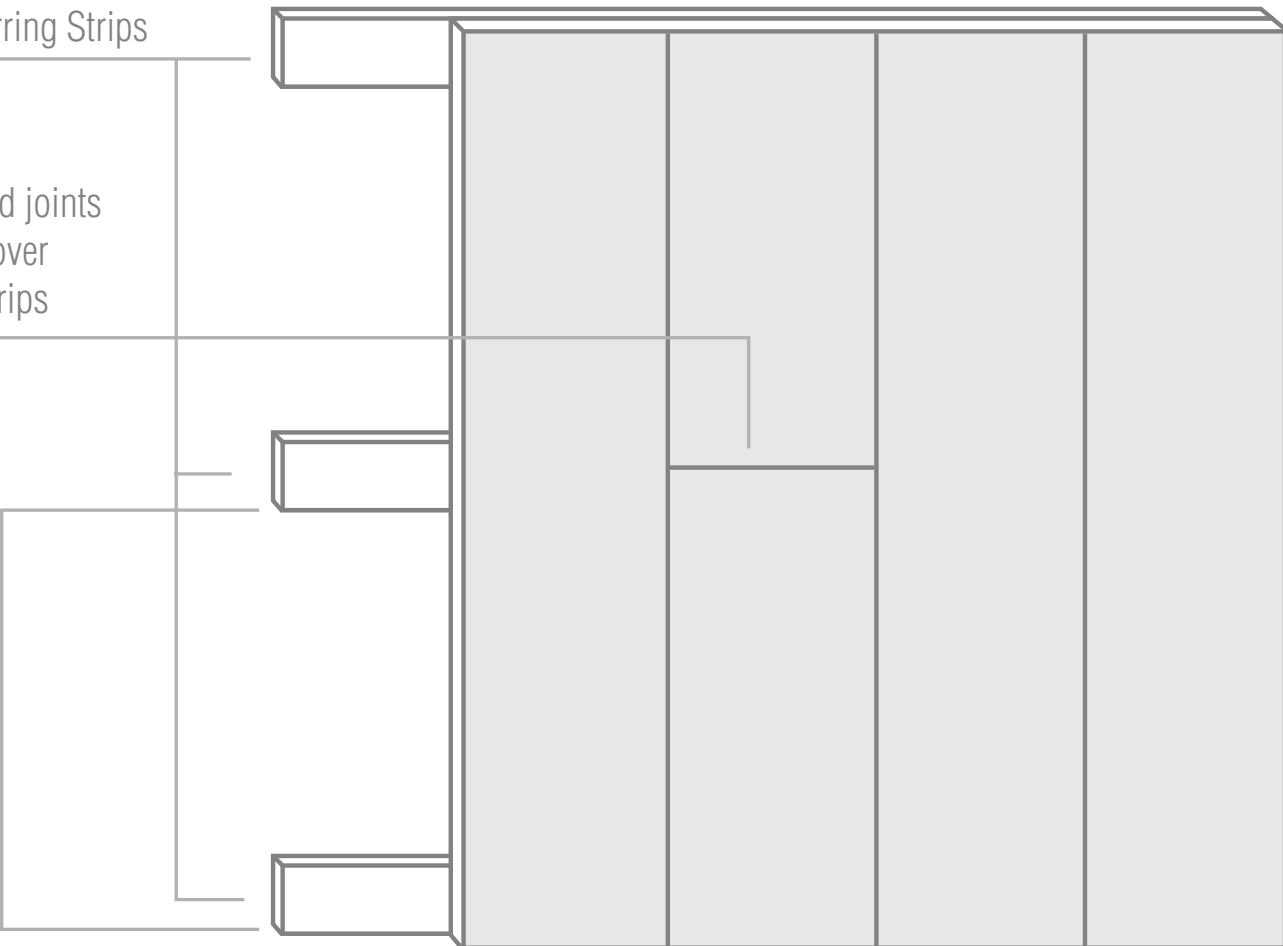
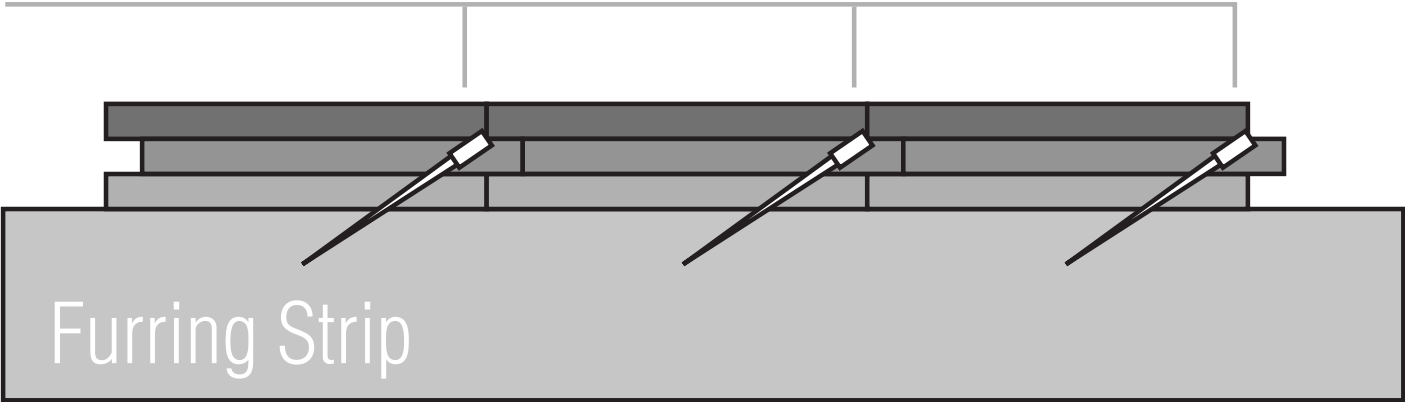


Figure 2

Nails





888.551.0888

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