Pioneered Wood

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR *PIONEERED WOOD* ANTIQUE ENGINEERED HEART PINE FLOORING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE YOU BEGIN, PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY

Thank you for choosing ***Pioneered Wood*** Antique Heart Pine flooring. Now that you have made your selection, you've measured the rooms and determined the layout. You're ready to-begin. But, before you actually start installing the flooring, it is very important that you review the information in this brochure for a successful installation.

We've put together a brief description of the tools you will need, information about determining adequate subfloor requirements, step-by-step installation instructions, as well as clean-up and maintenance tips. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that you read and understand this information completely prior to starting, as improper installation can void the warranties.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS REQUIRED For PROPER INSTALLATION

Power Tools

Table Saw, Band Saw, Chop Saw, Jamb Saw and/or Jig Saw

Hand Tools

Hand Saw
Tape Measure
Floor Scraper
Pry Bar
Chalk Line
Hammer
Straightedge
Rubber Mallet
Tapping Block
Safety Glasses
10’ of string, Level or Laser Level (optional if using string or level)

Additional Tools and Materials for Glue-Down Installation

Bostik’s Best or other recommended flooring adhesive
Trowel (see flooring adhesive for notch size required)

Additional Tools and Materials for Staple-Down Installation

Approved Pneumatic Stapler or Nailer (See Staple/Nail-Down section for approved tools)
Compressor w/Regulator and Hoses
Proper Flooring Adaptor (included with tool) Approved Staples or Nails (Cleats)
15 lb. Felt Paper
Ear Protection

Additional Tools and Materials for Floating Installation

Underlayment Pad with Seam Tape
Joint Adhesive
5/16” Spacer Wedges
Duct Tape

NOTE: Along with the flooring, be certain that you have all the transitions and moldings needed to finish the job.

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS and PREPARATION

Subfloor Inspection
All subfloors and subfloor systems must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturers' recommendations. *Pioneered Wood* warranties **DO NOT** cover any problems caused by inadequate substructures or improper installation of said substructures.

Subfloor Moisture Conditions
While a subfloor moisture test, taken prior to installation, is no guarantee of eliminating future moisture problems, it is highly recommended so that if an existing problem is present, remedial measures can be taken to correct the situation and thereby reducing the potential for failure in the future. Subfloors can be tested using a quality moisture meter. The subfloor moisture content should not be greater than 10% or 3 lbs./1000 using a calcium chloride test. **IF THE MOISTURE CONTENT EXCEEDS THESE LIMITS, DO NOT INSTALL THE FLOORING AND TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM BEFORE PROCEEDING (Talk with a licensed building contractor for the best solution for any moisture issues).**

The Subfloor Must be Flat
A variance of up to ¼" in 10 feet is acceptable. To check, use either a 10-foot straightedge (i.e., a level) or laser level, or stretch a 10-foot string across the floor noting any dips or crowns. If these dips or crowns exceed ¼" in 10 feet, they must be leveled. On a concrete subfloor, use a Portland cement based leveling material to fill all low spots and sand all crowns to meet the ¼" in 10 feet requirement. On wood Subfloors a high quality latex-based leveling compound can be used.

Structural Requirements
The subfloor must be structurally sound. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements for flooring systems and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance of a hardwood floor.

Concrete subfloors, whether they are on-grade or below-grade should be constructed to prevent groundwater for penetrating the concrete. A minimum 3mil poly barrier should be installed below the concrete prior to pouring the floor.

Pioneered Wood Heart Pine flooring can be installed above-, on- or below grade and can be glued-down, stapled/nailed-down or floated on concrete slabs or raised wood subfloors. It can also be glued-down to above-grade suspended concrete subfloors **ONLY** if the suspended concrete is a minimum of 1½" thick and is structurally sound (without deflection). **However, Heart Pine Flooring CANNOT be glued-down to lightweight concrete having a density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot.** This type of concrete is unsuitable for glue-down installations, therefore the floating installation technique is recommended. To test for lightweight concrete, take a coin and scrape it across the surface of the concrete. If the concrete crumbles or turns to a powder it is not sound and you should **NOT** use the glue-down technique for installation of our Heart Pine flooring.

If you're installation is a glue-down over ceramic tile, porcelain tile, terrazzo or other existing hard surface, the surfaces MUST be free of wax and sealers. Glazed tiles and some smooth terrazzo should be roughed with 60-grit sandpaper or carborundum stone to enhance adhesion. In addition, check for loose tiles by tapping with a block of wood. Repair any tiles that are loose or broken to be sure they are secured to the subfloor. Fill grout lines with a high-quality, self-leveling Portland cement/latex underlayment.

If you are using the glue-down technique over vinyl tile, sheet vinyl or reinforced vinyl tile, be sure that these products are not loose. Reglue or cut out any loose sections. **Clean all vinyl flooring with a quality cleaner/stripper to remove wax and sealed.**

NOTE: Be certain that the sheet vinyl is NOT perimeter glued (glued only around the edge). NEVER GLUE-DOWN *PIONEERED WOOD* FLOORING DIRECTLY TO A PERIMETER GLUED SHEET VINYL FLOOR.

CAUTION HEALTH HAZARD:

DO NOT sand existing resilient tile, sheet vinyl flooring, backing or lining felt. They may contain asbestos not readily identifiable. Inhalation of asbestos dust can cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Check with local, state and federal laws for handling hazardous material before attempting the removal of these floors.

All wood substrates MUST meet the following minimum criteria; a single layer of 3/4"-thick, tongue-and-groove plywood or 3/4"-thick structural grade oriented strand board (OSB) (Glue-Down ONLY) substrate over floor joists 16" on center.

If the plywood or OSB substrate is less than 3/4"-thick, a second layer, a minimum 3/8"- thick, underlayment-grade product, for a minimum total thickness of 1", must be installed perpendicular to first for strength and stability. Use the underpayment manufacturer's installation guidelines for structural stability and to reduce the potential for squeaking.

NOTE: Do not glue, staple or nail down *Pioneered Wood* Heart Pine flooring over particleboard subfloors.

NOTE: Structurally sound floors will not have movement or deflection. Subfloors with movement or deflection and improperly installed subfloors can and will eventually cause squeaking. It is the installers' responsibility to sure the subfloor system is free of movement, deflection and is installed in accordance with local building codes and minimum requirements described above. Problems caused by these issues are not covered under any of Pioneered Wood warranties.

CAUTION: Wood substrates fastened directly to concrete floors are not recommended for any *Pioneered Wood* flooring. This construction practice creates a non-ventilated installation and can result in deterioration of the wood substrate/flooring and can cause potential joint telegraphing of the substrate joints and is therefore not warranted.

PRE-INSTALLATION

1. Sweep or vacuum the entire floor to remove all loose dirt, dust and debris.

2. Remove existing wall base, quarter round, door threshold and other transitions. If possible, save them to reinstall after the flooring is installed.

3. Undercut all door casings 1/6" higher than the thickness of the flooring being installed. To do this, use a scrap piece flooring as a guide. Lay it on the substrate and cut the casing with a handsaw or a power jamb saw set at the correct height.

NOTE BEFORE INSTALLATION: Match all transitions and moldings to planks that have similar color and graining for best appearance. Set them aside for use as needed.

Inspect the Flooring
Wood is a natural product, containing natural variations in color, tone and grain. Before any *Pioneered Wood* floor is shipped, each plank goes through many inspection procedures. A slight variation in color, between planks, is to be expected. *Pioneered Wood* does not warrant against these natural variations between planks or between variations between samples and the flooring. We urge and expect you, as the final inspector whether consumer or installer, to inspect for color, finish and graining **PRIOR** to installation. Care should be taken **PRIOR** to installation to remove or repair particular characteristics you do not desire.

NOTE: If you are not satisfied with the flooring prior to installation, simply return the carton(s) to your dealer for a full replacement (accepting or rejecting the shipment must be done on full shipment quantities only, not carton-by-carton or plank-by-plank).

Blending of Cartons
To achieve a uniform appearance across the entire floor, we highly recommend that you open several cartons of flooring and dry-lay the flooring, mixing the planks from several cartons, being certain to "rack" the planks (see "Racking the Floor" below). 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.

PLEASE NOTE: *Pioneered Wood* does not accept responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been permanently installed.

Pioneered Wood flooring is a high-quality, sliced face, engineered floor, manufactured to high tolerances. The engineered planks have virtually no expansion or contraction compared to solid wood flooring. This unique structural ability permits versatility in selecting the direction the floor can be installed and increases choices in creating designs (whenever possible, however, install the planks perpendicular to joists for maximum strength).

This stability also allows the planks to be installed against walls or other vertical surfaces such as sliding glass doors, cabinetry and fireplaces (however we always recommend a minimum ¼" gap between the flooring and any walls where

wall base and/or quarter round will be installed, to eliminate rubbing against walls).

Racking the Floor
This process 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 6". When staring these first few rows or courses, make certain to always measure from the tongue end of the plank for cutting. As you continue working across the floor, be certain to maintain a 6" to 10" minimum between end joints on all adjacent rows. Randomly install different lengths to avoid a patterned appearance.

NOTE: Don't 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.

Underlayment Installation (For staple or nail down installations only)
When you are installing the flooring using the staple or nail down method, the next step is to cover the subfloor with 15lb. asphalt felt paper (red rosin paper is also acceptable). Install the felt by rolling it out over the cleaned cover the subfloor and tack it into place. Roll the next run out and butt the joints, **DO NOT LAP** the side joints of the felt paper. This will help keep dust away from the wood floor, retard moisture from below (there is no complete moisture barrier system for staple or nail-down applications) and may prevent squeaks from occurring.

INSTALLATION LAYOUT

1. Select a starter wall. An outside wall is usually best because it's more likely to be straight and square with the room. STEP #1. From the starter wall, at both ends, measure the width of the room and calculate the width of the last row of planks. If the last row is less than 2" for 5" wide planks, 4" for 8" wide or 5" for 10 ½" wide planks add that dimension to the wide of the plank being used and divide the sum in half. STEP #2. Now measure out from the starter wall, at each end, the width of two planks or one plank for flooring over 10" wide. STEP #3. Add the dimension from step #1 to STEP #2 to determine the location of the chalk line for your first row.

2. Snap a chalk line from these points, parallel to the starter wall and perpendicular to the adjacent walls.

3. Since most wails are not straight, the edge of some planks installed against that wall may have to be trimmed along their width to fit. Remember: It is not necessary to leave an expansion space, but a minimum ¼" is recommended.

Install a Straightedge
Prior to installing the flooring, it is highly recommended that a straightedge be firmly secured along the chalk line to act as a guide and to help prevent the first row of planks from shifting during installation. This straightedge could be a straight 2x4 or metal angle iron. As an alternative method of securing the planks, the first row can be face-nailed with finishing nails, in a wood subfloor, or sprig/pin nailed into a concrete subfloor.

Cleanup
Clean any wet adhesive from the flooring as soon as possible with a damp cloth. If the adhesive has dried, use a small amount of mineral spirits on a clean cloth if necessary.

Final Inspection
After the floor has been cleaned, inspect the floor for nicks, scratches, gaps or planks that may have moved during installation, as well as any other imperfections that need attention. Touch up nicks and scratches with quality touch-up products. In typical climates, the new floor can accept foot traffic within 24 hours. In areas where additional curing time is required, more time may be needed.

FLOOR PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

If your flooring is installed during construction (we recommend that the flooring be installed after all construction is complete) **ALWAYS** protect the surface of the installed flooring during construction by laying a quality brown "kraft-type", rosin paper or other paper that will allow the floor to breathe, over the floor and taping it to the baseboards. **NEVER** apply any kind of tape to the finished floor.

NEVER use plastic or polyethylene sheeting to cover the floor since they will trap moisture that will damage the flooring.

INSTALLATION of FLOORING:

GLUE-DOWN METHOD

NOTE: With the glue-down installation, you **MUST** always install the flooring using the **"OFF THE FLOOR"** technique. In other words you **MUST** be working from the subfloor and **NOT** standing or walking on the newly installed flooring during installation. Failure to follow this procedure can result in the planks moving during installation, creating gaps at both end and side joints.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Bostik's Best is a moisture cured urethane adhesive. Open time for this adhesive varies with humidity and temperature. In addition, the proper notch sized trowel MUST be used for correct coverage and proper adhesion. This information can be found on the cans on Bostik's Best adhesive.

NOTE: Failure to follow all manufacturers' instructions for application of the adhesive will void all adhesion warranties, expressed or implied.

1. Spread adhesive from the chalk line/straightedge out to approximately the width of 2 planks using the correct trowel for the flooring being installed (see adhesive manufacturers recommendation).

2. Install the first row of starter planks along the chalk line/straightedge and secure into position with the tongue facing the starter wall.

NOTE: Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can ruin the entire installation and can cause side and end gaps. When you complete the starter row, begin the next row.

3. The precision-engineered tongue-and-groove system creates a very stable floor installation. But you **MUST** make certain that you have made a proper connection between planks. Using a tapping block, tap the planks together until the tongue-and-groove is flush and tight and no gaps are present at the sides and ends of adjacent planks.

NOTE: NEVER EVER use a rubber mallet or hammer directly on the flooring to engage the tongue-and-groove. This can damage the flooring and/or finish and is NOT covered under the warranties.

4. When you are certain the first two starter rows are straight and secure, spread 2 1/2 to 3 feet of adhesive at a time, across the length of the room, and continue the installation as before, installing and tapping planks into place. As a general rule, never spread more adhesive than can be covered in approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

NOTE: As stated earlier, it is extremely important to blend planks from several cartons to ensure a good balance of color and graining.

WARNING: DO NOT walk on newly installed flooring until the adhesive cures (Approximately 24 hours). Walking on planks before adhesive is cured can cause planks to move, causing gapping. It is also NOT advisable to use ANY type of tape on the top finish of the planks. Gapping of planks, do to movement and damage caused by the use of ANY tape on the finish are NOT warrantable defects.

5. When you get to the end wall you will likely be required to cut the width of the final row to fit against the wall. To do this, lay the plank in position and scribing a line on the plank. Lay the cut plank into place and use a pry bar on the edge near the wall and push tightly into place.

6. Go back to the beginning of the installation and remove the straightedge. Measure and cut the row at the starter wall to fit as necessary.

7. Spread adhesive on the exposed subfloor near the starter wall and install the final two rows using the pry bar to position the last row into place.

IMPORTANT: Retain several leftover planks in case a repair or replacement is ever needed.

8. In typical climates, allow the adhesive to cure for approximately 24 hours before permitting foot traffic or moving furniture onto floor. In areas where additional curing time may be required (low humidity or lower temperatures), more time may be needed.

IMPORTANT: Failure to allow the adhesive to cure properly before allowing foot traffic and moving furniture onto floor can cause the flooring to move, creating gaps between the planks. This gapping is NOT covered under any warranties.

9. CLEAN UP. Clean any wet adhesive from the flooring as soon as possible. If the adhesive has dried, use mineral spirits on a clean cloth.

INSTALLATION of FLOORING:

STAPLE / NAIL-DOWN METHOD

Set-up and use of Pneumatic Staplers and Nailers
Inspect equipment prior to use and become familiar with the tools and their operation, especially the pneumatic stapler and staples. When used improperly, staples/nails can damage wood flooring and cause injury to you and others. Test the tools on scrap material first.

Parts that engage the planks must not have any sharp burrs that can scratch or damage the flooring, especially the pre-finished surface. Make certain the tool's adapter seats properly in the tongue of the flooring.

WARNING: Make sure the adapter size for the pneumatic stapler or nailer matches the thickness of the product being installed. In other words. be certain to use the 1/2" adapter when installing 1/2" products.

See the manufacturer's instructions for complete setup and operation. **DO NOT** exceed the manufacturer's recommended pressure setting for the compressor since this can damage the stapler or cause harm to you or others. Calibrate the compressor so the staples/nails are properly set into the nail pocket to avoid damaging the flooring and to prevent squeaking.

NOTE: if the stapler/nailer is improperly set up, the staples will not be positioned correctly and may cause dimpling, peaking, squeaking or crackling of the floor.

Practice and Adjust: On a scrap piece of flooring, set the stapler/nailer flush onto the tongue side of the plank and install a staple. Should the staple penetrate too deeply or not deeply enough, reduce or increase the pressure, using the regulator, until the staple is flush. When the top of the staple/nail crown is flush with the nail pocket, the tool is properly positioned.

NOTE: Improper stapler/nailer adjustment, compressor psi and incorrect stapler/nailers can damage the flooring. This damage is NOT covered under ANY warranties.

Pioneered Wood recommends the following Staplers and Nailers for use in installing the *Pioneered Wood* Flooring products:

Staplers:
Spotnails W54840W2 - Flooring Stapler
Bostich LHF97125-2 - Flooring Stapler

Nailers:
Powernailer® Model 50P Pneumatic Nailer

NOTE: NEVER use a stapler or nailer designed for use with ¾" thick or greater flooring on the Pioneered Wood engineered flooring, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, as they can and will damage the flooring.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Only use *Pioneered Wood'* recommended staples or nails.

1. Install the first row of starter planks along the chalk line/straightedge and secure into position with the tongue facing **AWAY** from the starter wall (toward you). Pre-drill pilot holes through the face of the plank (preferably in the dark grain), near the chalk line side and secure with finishing nails.

2. Engage the stapler or nailer onto the tongue side of the plank, using with the proper adapter (see stapler/nailer in structions for proper set-up), and install the staples or nails. Install the staples or nails no further than 2" from the end of each plank and 6" to 8" on center.

NOTE: Proper alignment of the starter row is critical. Misaligned starter rows can ruin the entire installation and can cause side and end gaps.

3. The precision-engineered tongue-and-groove system creates a very stable floor installation. But you **MUST** make certain that you have made a proper connection between planks. Using a tapping block, tap the planks

together until the tongue-and-groove is flush and tight and no gaps are present at the sides and ends of adjacent planks.

NOTE: NEVER EVER use a rubber mallet or hammer directly on the flooring to engage the tongue-and-groove. This can damage the flooring and/or finish and is NOT covered under the warranties.

4. When you are certain the starter row is straight and secure, continue to staple/nail the remaining rows using the same stapling schedule of no further than 2" from the end of each plank and 6" to 8" on center.

5. NOTE: As stated earlier, it is extremely important to blend planks from several cartons to ensure a good balance of color and graining.

6. You will likely NOT be to use the stapler/nailer on the last row or two because of interference from the ending wall. To fasten the final planks into place, you must either manually nail into the tongue, or face-nail through the surface.

7. To attach into the tongue, drill pilot holes at a 45 degree angle to the floor and install finishing nails. Alternately, pre- drill pilot holes in the face and install finishing nails or using a brad tacker to secure the planks in place.

8. When you get to the end wall, you will likely be required to cut the final row in width to fit against the wall. Do this by laying the plank in position and scribing a line on the plank. After cutting the planks to the proper width, install them by using a pry bar against the end wall pushing the last plank the others to get a tight fit. Face nail or use a brad tacker to secure the planks in place.

9. Go back to the beginning of the installation and remove the straightedges. Measure and cut the row at the starter wall to fit as necessary.

10. Install the planks, using a pry bar to position the final two rows into place and face-nail or tack as needed.

IMPORTANT: Retain several leftover planks in case a repair is ever required.

Alternate Manual Nailer Method
If a manual nailer is desired, use the POWERNAIL Model 50C with 1 1/4" cleats. Again, stapler every 4" to 6" on center and no more than 1" from the end of each plank, while using the same procedures described in the previous sections.

PLEASE NOTE: If you use a manual nailer it is highly recommended that you practice with scrap material so you get a feel for the force required to set the staple as excessive force will can dimpling and damage to the tongue which can telegraph to adjacent planks.

WARNING: Use of any non-recommended staplers or nailers may result in dimpling or damage to planks. Do not use manual or pneumatic staplers not recommended by Pioneered Wood floors.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT STAPLE AND NAIL-DOWN INSTALLATIONS
Some squeaking, popping and crackling of the flooring is inherent to all staple-down and nail- down floor installations. This is **NOT** a manufacturing defect and is therefore is NOT covered under Pioneered Wood' warranties (see warranty brochure for complete warranty coverage). You can help reduce squeaking, popping and crackling by being sure that the subfloor is structurally sound, does not have any loose decking or joists and is swept clean prior to installation. You should also be sure the stapler/nailer is setting the fastener properly, not damaging the planks and you are using the correct nailing schedule.

INSTALLATION of FLOORING:

FLOATING METHOD

Underlayment Choices
Underlayment material discussed here is for a floating installation method and is different than structural underlayment required for subfloor stability and to eliminate deflection in the substrate. This underlayment is designed and required to provide a cushion between the subfloor and the flooring. This material can be a foam product, cork or wood and can include a barrier that can inhibit moisture in a below grade or a concrete slab application. It can also be designed to decrease sound transfer from floor to floor. Your choice will depend on the application.

NOTE: While there is no such thing as a moisture barrier that can completely protect the flooring from subfloor moisture, Pioneered Wood DOES recommend that you use an underlayment with a vapor barrier when installing the flooring below-grade for maximum protection.

IMPORTANT: While the floating method offers some advantages, there are some things you should be aware of: 1.) The floor may have a hollow sound when walking on it. 2.) The wood rests on the subfloor with its own weight. This may cause the floor to have slight vertical movement when it is walked on. 3.) A damaged plank cannot be replaced as simply as in a staple/nail-down, or glue-down installation.

1. Install one sheet of underpayment along the starting wall. Unroll and lay only one sheet at a time during plank installation to prevent damaging the underpayment. If any part of the underlayment is punctured or damaged during installation, seal the area with duct tape.

NOTE: Once the first sheet of underpayment is covered with wood flooring, install the second sheet by butting the two edges together and sealing them together with tape supplied by the underlayment manufacturer or using duct tape along the entire seam.

2. Position 5/16" spacing wedges around the entire work area (put two wedges together, face to face, and place on edge against vertical surfaces). This will help prevent squeaking and rubbing against the walls due to the potential vertical movement of the floor.

3. **DRY LAY FIRST TWO ROWS.** Before starting to glue planks, dry-lay the entire first **TWO** rows on top of the underpayment. Begin in the upper right corner of the work area (when looking at the starter wall from the work area) and **lay the planks with the groove side toward the starter wall.** Place spacer wedges along the walls on both the ends and sides of all planks.

4. Mark the final plank and cut to length. An easy way to mark the last plank in a row is to place the plank in position with the tongue against the tongue of the previously laid plank and the end of the plank against the spacing wedge. Mark across the plank with a pencil and saw along this line. Place cut plank with cut end toward wall and pull into place with a pry bar.

5. Begin the next row being certain to rack the floor as described previously.

6. Now lay the remainder of the second row and tap into place with a tapping block.

NOTE: If any plank is shorter than 8" in length do not install it. Instead cut a new piece to measure at least 8" long.

7. After you cut and dry laid the first two rows cut the adhesive applicator nozzle at a 45^0 angle with a utility knife. **DO NOT cut** off any part of the cap locking ring around the nozzle.

NOTE: *Pioneered Wood* recommends the use of *Franklin Laminate Flooring Glue* from Franklin International. This glue provides a superior bond at the tongue and groove. It is non-toxic and nonflammable, making it safe to use and environmentally friendly.

IMPORTANT: In a floating floor installation, the flooring is NOT nailed or glued to the underlayment, but is glued in the plank's groove only. Apply *Franklin Laminate Flooring Glue* to the bottom of groove along the entire length and on the end of each plank. However, DO NOT completely fill the groove with adhesive.

8. **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** The installation sequence is critical and provides stability to the first two rows. Proper alignment is critical. Misaligned starter rows can ruin the entire installation. Closely follow the next several steps to achieve the proper gluing sequence for the first few rows of planks.

9. To start, glue the first plank in the second row to the first plank in the starter row, and so on.

10. Use a tapping block to tap glued planks together until no gaps are seen. Immediately wipe away any excess adhesive with a glue scraper or a clean damp cloth.

CAUTION: Never use a hammer or mallet directly on the flooring.

11. Glue the next plank to the plank in the previous row. Apply adhesive only to grooves being attached together. Tap the planks together carefully with a tapping block. Remember to continually remove adhesive squeezed up between the joints with a glue scraper or a clean damp cloth.

12. Glue the next plank in the same row to the previously glued plank from the previous row. Apply adhesive to both the length and width edges of the plank.

NOTE: As stated earlier, it is extremely important to blend planks from several cartons to ensure a good balance of color and graining.

13. Continue to install the planks using this stair-stepping method. Simply install each subsequent plank accordingly.

NOTE: Be sure to continue using 5/16" spacing wedges at all walls and obstructions throughout the installation.

WARNING: DO NOT walk on newly installed flooring until the adhesive cures (Approximately 24 hours). Walking on planks before adhesive is cured can cause planks to move, causing gapping. It is also NOT advisable to use ANY type of tape on the top finish of the planks. Gapping of planks, do to movement and damage caused by the use of ANY tape on the finish are NOT warrantable defects.

14. The last row will most likely require cutting to width but it should be no less than 1 1/2" wide. To mark the width required, lay the plank on top of, and edge-to-edge with, the plank in the next-to-the-last row. Trace the wall contour on the last plank using a scrap piece of plank and cut as required.

15. Install cut planks and pull into place with a pry bar. Install spacing wedges between planks and wall. Allow the flooring to dry for a minimum of 12 hours before removing all spacing wedges and allowing foot traffic.

IMPORTANT: Retain several leftover planks in case a repair is ever required.

Cleanup
Clean any wet adhesive from the flooring as soon as possible with a damp cloth. If the adhesive has dried, use a small amount of mineral spirits on a clean cloth if necessary.

Final Inspection
After the floor has been cleaned, inspect the floor for nicks, scratches, gaps or planks that may have moved during installation, as well as any other imperfections that need attention. Touch up nicks and scratches with quality touch-up products. In typical climates, the new floor can accept foot traffic within 24 hours. In areas where additional curing time is required, more time may be needed.

Floor Protection During Construction
If your flooring is installed during construction (we recommend that the flooring be installed after all construction is complete) **ALWAYS** protect the surface of the installed flooring during construction by laying a quality brown “kraft-type”, rosin paper or other paper that will allow the floor to breathe, over the floor and 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.**

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