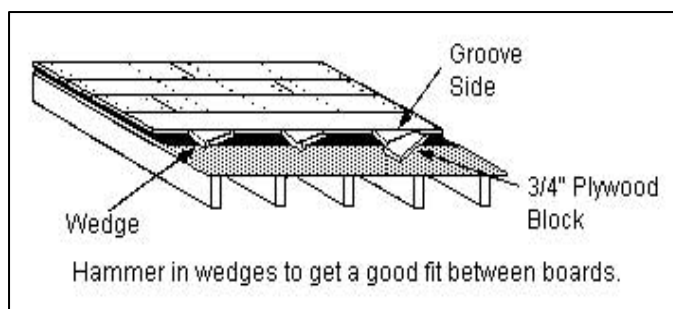
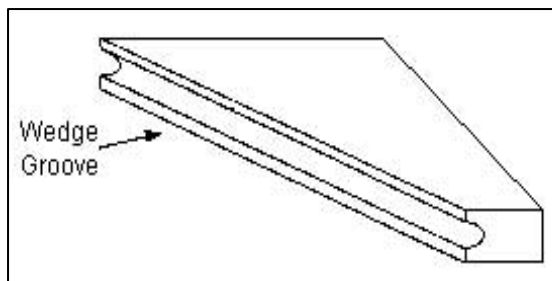


## Wide Plank Flooring Install Tips

While wide plank and longer boards are a beautiful touch to a home they must be installed properly in order to ensure longevity. Tight seams are critical to the lasting beauty of plank wood products and proper care should be taken to eliminate any potential for gapping or movement for years to come. Here are a few techniques that may assist the installer, helping to insure a quality installation.

**WEDGES:** Wedges should always be used to achieve the tightest seam possible, especially when using wide boards. Wedging should begin with the second board from the wall and continue until the floors are complete.

1. Make wedges from the scraps of flooring. Cut sections that have the groove intact into triangular shapes. Cut at least 10 to begin with.
2. Cut 4 or 5 sections of 3/4" plywood, 12" in length. Drill holes in both ends so the #16 nails can be easily hammered through.
3. Place the new board as close as you can to the existing board.
4. Place a plywood block at each end and one in the middle at an angle to the new board.
5. Nail the block into the sub-flooring.
6. The triangular wedge is placed groove side to tongue. With your hammer, force it into the space between the board and the block. It sometimes helps to have someone stand on the groove edge of the board you are trying to wedge. The weight of one person helps fit over the tongue of the board already nailed.
7. Some longer boards are more difficult to wedge into place, it is not uncommon to cut these boards to minimize gapping to accommodate a tight fit.



**BUTT JOINTS:** Like Wedging, you'll want as tight a seam as possible when two boards meet on any run. If the board ends at the wall, use a crow bar or catsclaw against a wall stud to push the board into place tight against the existing board. Never hit the end of the board with a hammer to move it tighter!

## Critical Job Site and Installation Instructions:

**SITE PREPARATION AND ACCLIMATION:** Flooring should be delivered to the job site 10 to 14 days prior to installation. Proper acclimation is critical to the lasting beauty of Pine flooring. The fully enclosed jobsite should have the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system on. The temperature should reflect expected living conditions of the owner, between 60-75 degrees Fahrenheit and humidity of 40-44%. Open cartons to allow flooring to acclimate. All wood expands and contracts, the wider the plank, the more expansion and contraction will occur. To minimize movement, relative humidity should be maintained at 40-55% year around and acclimation procedures should be followed.

Installation should take place only after the structure is tight and dry. All outside doors and windows must be in place. All concrete, masonry, drywall, tape, texture, and painting should be completed and thoroughly dry prior to installation. Basement crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated.

***Prior to installation, carefully inspect all flooring and DO NOT install an unacceptable or damaged plank. Industry standards permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%.***

**SUBFLOOR:** Moisture content should not exceed 14%, or 4% moisture content difference between pine floors and sub-floors. Subfloors should be structurally sound and FLAT and SMOOTH to 3/16" per 8'. Construction requires a minimum of 5/8" thickness with preferred 3/4" or thicker exterior plywood. Full 3/4" plank pine is not recommended on installation below grade. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and ventilated. 6 or 8 mil poly vapor barrier on ground must be installed on crawl spaces.

**NAIL DOWN:** We recommend the use of a Powernailer rather than staples. Use 2" powercleats for Powernailer.

**GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS:** Proper preparation of the subfloor should take place. Clean the subfloor and cover completely with 15# asphalt felt, lapping edges 4" when positioning. Double the felt around heat ducts. For any product over 4" in face width, use Bostik's Best adhesive trowel on application instead of 15# asphalt felt. This glue will act as a stabilizer and a moisture barrier when applied according to manufacturer's recommendation. Flooring should be laid at right angles to the floor joists. Begin installing along the longest continuous wall with the long groove of the strips facing the wall. The first run of planks should be face nailed and counter sunk. All others should be nailed with Powernailer on 8" centers at the tongue and groove at a 50 degree angle and within 2" of each end joint. Wedges should always be used to achieve the tightest seams possible, especially when using wide boards. Leave 3/4" expansion space at walls and cover with quarter round when the installation job is complete. Stagger end joints and use planks from several cartons. Insure proper use of fastening machines so as not to damage the finish. To insure proper installation, use a wood flooring installation specialist.

**CLEANING:** Routine cleaning is as easy as sweeping with a soft bristle broom or vacuuming with a soft brush attachment. Use a non-wax wood floor cleaner on a damp cloth for periodic care.

*Note: These instructions are recommendations only. Installation procedures may vary based on climate, local building codes, wide plank or strip floors, etc. Follow all NWFA installation guidelines when installing Pioneered Wood floors.*