

# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Notes:

**Please read and review the entire installation instructions before proceeding with the actual installation.**

**Guidelines for installing Quickstyle, Oak and Exotic range are the same as those recommended for installing hardwood flooring in general.**

**Guidelines have been developed by The National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA), The National Oak Flooring Manufacturers Association (NOFMA) and The Hardwood Council. For those considering installing over concrete or radiant heat, the subjects receive excellent coverage in The Hardwood Manufacturers Association's site ([www.hardwoodinfo.com](http://www.hardwoodinfo.com)) : Hardwood Flooring Over Concrete Slabs and Radiant Heat and Hardwood Floors.**

## OWNER / INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

Hardwood flooring is a beautiful and unique natural product, which is characterized by distinctive variations in grain and color. These natural variations in color and grain are not flaws, but are a part of the natural beauty and uniqueness of hardwood flooring. Quickstyle's Alpine Hardwood Flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be a manufacturing or natural type.

- The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of all flooring should be done **before** installation. Carefully examine the flooring for color, finish and quality before installing it. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces that are deemed unacceptable. If material is not acceptable, contact QUICKSTYLE Customer Service immediately.
- 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, insuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements which are stipulated in the Quickstyle's Alpine Hardwood installation instructions. Quickstyle Industries declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloors or job site environment deficiencies.
- The use of stain, filler or putty stick for the correction of defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- When Quickstyle's Alpine Hardwood Flooring is ordered, a 5 - 10% allowance factor, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed, (Diagonal Installations may require more.) to complete the installation.

### **JOB SITE INSPECTION & ACCLIMATION**

- In new construction, hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustical ceilings, dry wall taping, etc.) should be completed prior to wood flooring being installed. Heating and air systems should be fully operating maintaining a consistent room temperature at 15.5-16.6 degrees Celsius and a constant relative humidity of 30-50%.
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 to 90 days old. Check basements to ensure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.
- Flooring should be at the job site at least 72 hours prior to installation. **Do not open boxes until ready to install.**
- Handle with care. Do not stand on ends. Store hardwood flooring in a dry place being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under and around cartons.
- Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the installation area

#### **IMPORTANT:**

- Solid Flooring is for on or above grade installation only!!
- Solid Flooring **cannot** be installed over radiant heat

### **SUBFLOOR PREPARATION**

#### **Approved Subfloor Types:**

1. 5/8" minimum thickness, preferred 3/4" or thicker exterior plywood

**NOTE:** When installing approved plywood, refer to specific structural panel manufacturer's instructions.

2. 3/4" (23/32") OSB on 16" center floor joists properly nailed.
3. Concrete slab with additional approved wood sleepers and screed system. (See NWFA for guidelines)
4. Existing wood floors (installed at right angle only).

#### **Sub-floors must be:**

- **CLEAN** - Scraped or sanded, swept, free of wax, grease, paint, oil and other debris
- **SMOOTH/FLAT** - Within 1/8" on 6". Sand high areas or joints and fill low areas (no more than 1/8") with a cement type filler no less than 3000 p.s.i.
- **STRUCTURALLY SOUND** - Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any damaged subflooring or underlayments.
- **DRY** - Moisture content of subfloor **must not** exceed 14% prior to installation of wood flooring.

**Remember:** All moisture testing must be before wood has been acclimated 72 hours and job site requirements met.

## JOB SITE PREPARATION

- Acclimate product for 72 hours prior to installation.
- Verify floor is level and structurally sound. Repair as needed.
- Undercut door casings
- Remove any existing wall base, shoe molding, quarter round or doorway thresholds
- Cover the clean surface, wall to wall, with 15 lb. asphalt saturated felt paper. Butting the edges together. Use of felt paper is optional and will not prevent squeaks or any other noise reduction.

### Step 1: ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT

- Before beginning the actual installation, provide proper layout of flooring by distributing short and long lengths equally over the areas where the flooring is to be installed only in case of random length.

**Remember:** Flooring is to be installed at right angles to the floor joists and if possible, in the longest dimension of the room.

- Work out of several cartons at a time to insure proper color and shade mixture.
- Align the first row of planks to be sure you have a good straight line from one side of the room to the other. Snap a chalk line at the desired distance from the wall to help align the planks. The end joints of plank or strip flooring should be staggered to achieve the best appearance in the finished floor (Minimum 6".)

**Important:** Leave at least 13.0MM-19.0 MM (1/2" to 3/4") for expansion at all vertical surface, or leave at least what will be covered by the baseboard or quarter round trim.

### Step 2: INSTALLING THE FLOOR

#### Nailing Method:

- Align the first piece on the chalk line. The groove side and end will be facing the starting wall. Pre drill holes and drive 7D or 8D finish nails or screw type flooring nails into the face of the board every 12" approximately 1/3" - 3/4" from the edge closest to the starting wall and within 2 – 3" from the ends and in the darker grain of the wood.

- Edge nail the plank by driving the same type nails at a 50 angle through the tongue of the first piece, spacing the nails every 8 – 10" and within 2 – 3" from the ends. This process should be repeated for each piece in the entire first row. Upon completion of the first row, go back and sink the face nails with a nail punch. If it appears that the holes will not be covered by the wall base or quarter round trim, then fill the holes with Floor Putty, which blends with your pre-stained floor.

**Note:** Typically the first few rows must be edge nailed by hand rather than with a nailing machine due to a vertical wall obstruction. When clearance allows, a nailing machine, which drive 2" fasteners with an appropriate mallet, can be used to simplify and speed up the nailing process.

- Install each succeeding row of planks by edge nailing the tongue side every 8 – 10" to within 2 to 3" from board ends. Be attentive to staggering the ends of the boards at least 6" in adjacent rows to avoid clustering end joints. Upon reaching the last row to be installed, the planks should be ripped to allow a 3/4" expansion space. The last rows must be fastened by nail approximately 1/2 - 3/4" from the back edge of the board every 12".

The same process of counter sinking the face nails and applying Flooring Putty should be repeated (as above on starting wall). Make sure when the installation is complete that the expansion space is covered with the appropriate molding such as, base board and ¼ round.

## CARE GUIDE

Quickstyle's Alpine Hardwood floor will add warmth and beauty to your home for many years to come. Following a few simple maintenance steps, however, will help protect your investment and keep your hardwood floor like new.

### CLEANING

- Use a damp cloth to blot up spills and spots as soon as they happen. For tough spots such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, tar or cigarette marks, use acetone/nail polish remover then wipe with a damp cloth. Always avoid allowing liquids to stand on your floor.
- Vacuum, (using the hard floor attachment not the beater bar), dust mop or sweep the floor to minimize abrasive grit and dirt.
- Occasionally wipe the floor with a damp mop or cloth
- Periodically clean the floor with Quickstyle Everwood floor cleaner specially formulated for hardwood floors.
- Do not use oil based, wax, polish, or strong ammoniated or abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring powder to clean the floor.
- Do not wash or wet-mop the floor with soap, water, oil soap detergent or any other liquid cleaning material. This could cause swelling warping, delamination and joint-line separation, and void the warranty.
- Do not use any type of buffing machine.

### PROTECTING

- Use quality area rugs and doormats by outdoor entrance areas to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substances such as oil, asphalt or driveway sealer from being tracked onto your floor.
- Sweep, dust or vacuum the floor regularly to prevent accumulation of dirt or grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- Use floor protectors and wide bearing leg bases/rollers to minimize indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule of thumb, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector should be.
- Do not use rubber or foam backed plastic mats as they may discolor the floor. To prevent slippage use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
- Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 45 and 65% throughout the year, to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of wood.

**Heating Season (Dry):** humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tends to create very dry conditions.

**Non-Heating Season (Wet):** An air conditioner or dehumidifier or periodically turning on your heating system can maintain humidity during the summer months. Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.

- Avoid gouges or cuts in your floor from sharp objects. While your hardwood floor is one of the most wear resistant floors on the market, sharp or pointed objects can nevertheless damage it.
- Don't walk on your floor with stiletto-style heels, spiked golf shoes or cleats; they may cause indentations in your floor.
- Rearrange area rugs and furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. UV sunlight will soften or darken the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees
- Keep pet's nails trimmed, or consider slippers available at pet stores.
- Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances. But first, put down a sheet of quarter inch plywood to protect the floor. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.

#### **REPAIRING**

- Minor damage can be easily repaired with finishing putty available in blending colors.
- For more extensive damage, please contact QUICKSTYLE Customers Service.

**Quickstyle Customer Service: 1-800-387-8953**