Hardwood Professional Installation Guidelines for Walls

With the sales growth of engineered hardwood in new home construction, Mannington is aware of some changes in the Wood flooring applied to walls gives a room a warm luxurious atmosphere. Wainscoting, diagonals, borders, or patterns can give a wide range of design effects. We recommend that you use professionally trained installers to complete these types of projects. When completed, these installations will add value. to any home.

Preparation

One of the most important parts of the installation is preparation. While the flooring is inspected numerous times during the manufacturing process, the person who installs the floor is the final inspection point. Inspect all flooring before installation. Proper wall preparation is essential for a successful installation. The walls must be clean, dry, level, and structurally sound. Most installation problems will occur because of poor preparation. Consult local building codes prior to installation.

Pre-Installation Inspection

Most Mannington Wood carries a Pre-Installation Warranty. Simply inspect the flooring before installation. If the installation mechanic or consumer is not satisfied for any reason, return the flooring for exchange. Do not install unsatisfactory flooring. This warranty is intended for first-quality flooring only. Cabin-grade, shop-grade, or specialty flooring is not covered under this warranty. The labels on the end of the carton will designate the grade of the flooring.

Installation

Mannington Wood Floors come in varying thicknesses, widths, and lengths, depending on the style. All of the products may be installed with the same procedure.

1. Use adhesive and screws to apply a plywood base for the flooring. Apply several beads of quality construction-grade adhesive to 3/8” CDX plywood. Once the plywood is in place, drill 1-1.2” drywall screws every 8” to 10” into the wall studs.
2. Once the plywood is in place, layout the installation. Very few rooms, or walls are square. Measure the wall and determine a center point in the direction which the floor is to be installed. Pop chalk line along this center point. Divide the number of inches from the center point to the outside edge by the width of the planks to be used in the installation (2-1.4”, 3”, 5”, 7” or any combination of the 3”, 5” and 7”).

   Example: A wall 7’ tall x 12’ 8” long installed vertically with American Oak 3” Plank
   The center point should be approximately 80” from the corner of the wall.
   80” divided by the 3” wide California plank 80” ÷ 3” = 262/3 planks

   The starting and ending plank will have to be cut down to 2/3 (2”) of the width of a plank. The planks can be cut next to the wall, however most wall corners are not straight. The planks can be scribed to fit the corner. However, it is much easier to cut the planks back (1/2” or 1-1/2” wide) and cover the space with matching quarter-round or transition molding. Whatever technique is chosen, the starting and ending planks should be close to the same width.
3. The pre-cut starting planks should have the tongue facing the center line. Dry fit the starting planks and draw a line along the tongue. Be sure the line is parallel to the center line.
4. Pre-drill 4 or 5 holes in the starting planks for 1¼” finishing nails. The holes should be close to the corner edge of the plank so that they can be covered by the quarter-round or transition molding. If the planks are flush-cut, counter-sink the nails and fill the nail holes with a matching wood filler.

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5. Start the installation by buttering the back of the starter planks with Mannington Wood Floors Ultra-Spread EZ adhesive. Use a 3/16" x 1/4" x 1/2" V-notch trowel for ³/8" and 9/16" planks. Use a 1/8" x 1/8" x 1/8" U-notch trowel for 5/16" plank.
   (As alternative adhesive you may use a high-quality construction adhesive which can be applied with a caulk gun. Apply adhesive in an S pattern with at least a 1/4" bead.)

> NOTE: Do not allow any adhesive to dry on the finish. Keep a rag dampened with mineral spirits to clean as you install.

6. Place the buttered planks on the starter line and drive the 1¼" finishing nails through the pre-drilled holes into the plywood subsurface.
7. In laying up the following rows of planks, cut the planks so that no end joints are closer than 6" to each other. Try to achieve a random appearance.
8. Butter the back of the pre-cut planks with adhesive and push the tongue and groove into position. Drive the 1-1/4" finishing nails at 45° angle through the nail pocket into the plywood subsurface. The nail pocket is point where the top of the tongue ends against the plank. Counter-sink all nails with a nail punch.
9. Continue the above installation technique until the last row of planks. The last row of planks will be cut to fit on the tongue side. Pre-drill 4 or 5 holes through the top of the plank 1/4" in from the cut side of the plank. The same as the starter row of planks.
10 Butter the back of the planks and push them into position. Drive the 1¼" finishing nails through the pre-drilled holes in the planks into the plywood subsurface.
11. Finish the installation by installing the quarter-round, base, or transition molding and filling any nail holes with matching wood filler. Check the finish for any adhesive residue and clean with mineral spirits.

U.S. Patent 6,291,078; U.S. Patent 6,218,001; U.S. Patent 7,384,697 and other patents pending.

Be sure to register your new floor at Mannington.com/Register for a chance to win $100 and for proper warranty coverage.

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