MULTILAYER ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORING (TONGUE & GROOVE SYSTEM) INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

> ⚠ **ATTENTION:**
> Pre-Install Inspection Required. You may open up to two boxes for inspection. Do not open all boxes, as this confirms acceptance of color, grade, and quality. If defects are found, stop and contact your seller immediately.

1. Pre-Installation Requirements

1.1. Important Pre-Installation Checklist & Waste Factor

- Waste Allowance: Natural wood flooring contains natural variations in grain, color, and character. You must add a 5% - 7% waste factor to your total square footage for cutting and grading allowances. For diagonal layouts, add a 15% waste factor.
- Jobsite Condition: The building must be completely enclosed. All concrete, plaster, masonry, drywall, and painted surfaces must be thoroughly dry before flooring delivery.

1.2. Acclimatization & Jobsite Climate Control

- Nature of Wood: Wood is a natural, hygroscopic material that expands and contracts with environmental changes.
- Acclimatization Advantage: This premium flooring is engineered for ultimate dimensional stability and is ready for immediate installation upon delivery. However, as a professional safeguard against extreme transit temperature fluctuations, a 48-hour resting period (flat in the installation room) is highly recommended to allow the wood to adjust properly to your home's environment.
- Temperature: Maintain indoor temperature between 60°F and 80°F.
- Relative Humidity (RH): Maintain indoor relative humidity between 30% and 50% before, during, and after installation. Constant climate control is mandatory to prevent seasonal gapping or cupping.

2. Materials and Tools

2.1. Materials

- T&G multilayer engineered hardwood flooring
- Underlayment (foam or cork)
- Vapor barrier (if required)
- Flooring adhesive (for glue-down installation)
- Flooring nails or staples (for nail-down installation)

2.2. Tools

- Saw (hand saw or power saw)
- Hammer or nail gun
- Rubber mallet
- Tapping block

- Measuring tape and pencil
- Spacers
- Trowel (for glue-down installation)
- Level

3. Installation Methods

Always leave a small expansion gap around all perimeter walls and vertical structures to allow for natural movement. Make sure the final row of planks is reasonably wide; if it's too narrow, trim the first row to adjust.

3.1. Floating Floor

In a floating floor installation, the planks are joined to each other rather than fixed to the subfloor. For this tongue-and-groove system, the method requires applying a continuous bead of tongue-and-groove flooring glue along the groove of each plank to lock them together. We highly recommend installing an underlayment over a properly prepared subfloor before starting.

⚠ Warning: DO NOT screw heavy furniture, cabinetry, or kitchen island supports directly through the floating flooring into the subfloor. Doing so will pin the floor down, locking its natural expansion cycle, which can cause severe buckling or warping.

3.2. Nailing

In the nailing method, the planks are secured to a wooden subfloor using blind nails driven through the tongue, providing a secure and long-lasting installation. Nail or staple through the tongue at a suitable angle and spacing to ensure stability. When installing over a concrete subfloor, a plywood or wood layer must be installed first, as hidden nailing cannot be performed directly to concrete.

3.3. Gluing

In the gluing method, a moisture-cure urethane adhesive is applied to the top of the subfloor with a trowel, and the individual planks are then laid on top. This is our preferred method for tongue-and-groove flooring, as it provides a stable and durable installation. Adhesive can also help maintain stability during temperature fluctuations and significantly reduce creaking in the floorboards.

4. Floor Care & Maintenance

Proper maintenance ensures your engineered wood floor remains beautiful and durable for decades. Follow these guidelines to protect your investment:

- Sweep, dust mop, or vacuum regularly with a soft-bristle attachment to prevent scratch damage.
- Use a slightly damp microfiber mop every few weeks; avoid excess water.
- NEVER use a steam cleaner or steam mop.
- Only use pH-neutral hardwood cleaners. Avoid vinegar, soap-based products, oil soap, wax, or ammonia.
- Place felt protective pads under all furniture legs to prevent scratching.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed regularly and avoid walking on the floor with high heels, cleats, or work boots.