



## COREWOOD INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

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PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING THE INSTALLATION

To maintain your warranty, COREWOOD floors must be installed following these instructions. Professional installation is recommended for floating floor or nail-down methods and required for glue-down applications.

### PART 1: PRODUCT USE

You can install this floor:

- On, above, or below ground level
- Using floating floor, nail-down, or glue-down methods
- Over plywood, OSB, or concrete subfloors

You can install this floor over radiant heat if:

- Using glue-down or floating installation
- The system is a hydronic (hot water) system or an electric system designed for hardwood flooring and approved by COREWOOD
- The system has both an exterior thermostat and interior controls
- The species is approved (see Radiant Heat Compliance Form)
- The Radiant Heat Compliance form is completed and submitted to COREWOOD to activate the warranty

Do NOT install this floor:

- In bathrooms, laundry rooms, or areas with high humidity, as it voids the warranty
- Over solid-board subfloors (running boards)

Ensure all other construction work (window/door installation, tile work, drywall, painting, HVAC activation) is finished before flooring installation. HVAC should be running for at least 7 days before installing the flooring. COREWOOD flooring is for indoor use only, in residential and/or light commercial settings. Certified installers are recommended for all installations.

### PART 2: PRODUCT INSPECTION

#### INSTALLER'S / OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY:

As a natural product, wood varies in color, grain, and appearance. COREWOOD allows a defect tolerance of up to 5%, including manufacturing and natural flaws. It's recommended to order an extra 8% to cover cutting and grading needs.

Both installer and owner must inspect the flooring for quality before installation. Check each piece for defects in manufacturing, finish, and color. If quality is unsatisfactory, do not install the flooring.

The installer must ensure the job site, subfloor, tools, and materials meet or exceed industry standards. COREWOOD is not responsible for issues due to incorrect site preparation or installation. Check local building codes to ensure compliance with these guidelines. If there's a conflict, follow local codes. For more information, visit the National Wood Flooring Association at [www.nwfa.org](http://www.nwfa.org).





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### PART 3: SITE PREPARATION

#### NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOME:

- Ensure the building is fully enclosed with secure outside doors and windows.
- Complete and dry all concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, painting, and other wet work.
- Ensure basements and crawlspaces are dry with no standing water, have a vapor barrier, and are properly ventilated.
- Ensure gutters and downspouts direct water away from the building.
- Ensure landscaping directs water away from the building.
- Ensure HVAC systems are fully operational to control and maintain temperature and humidity.
- Properly inspect and prepare the subfloor.
- For radiant heat, ensure the system has been running for at least two weeks before installation and turned off for 24 hours before installation (see Radiant Heat Compliance form).

#### EXISTING HOME (RENOVATION):

Follow the same conditions as for a new home. Ensure all wet work (painting, wallpapering, texturing, etc.) is completed and dry before flooring installation.

Additionally:

- Remove all furniture, artwork, and valuables from the installation area.
- Remove baseboards and moldings.
- Undercut door casings using a piece of flooring as a depth gauge.
- Remove existing flooring, if necessary.
- Consult a radiant heat technician to ensure the system operates effectively at acceptable temperatures for the wood flooring. Turn off the system for 24 hours before installation (see Radiant Heat Compliance form).

### PART 4: CLIMATE CONTROL

Maintain a temperature of 65-75°F (18-24°C) and humidity of 40-60% before, during, and after installation. Do not deliver flooring material to the job site until these conditions are met and maintained for one week over plywood and two weeks over concrete. These conditions must be maintained at all times to ensure proper floor performance (see Warranty for details).

When conditions are met, deliver the material to the job site. Cross-stack boxes to allow good airflow. Do not open the boxes until ready to install, and then open only as needed.

#### ACCLIMATION:

Adjust the moisture content of the wood flooring to the expected environmental conditions. The installer determines the appropriate acclimation requirements for each job site. Ensure the flooring is in the same temperature range as the installation site. Flooring transported in very cold conditions may need to reach room temperature before installation. In extreme climates, use humidifiers or dehumidifiers to maintain the recommended humidity range and recommended moisture content for the hardwood floor.





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## PART 5: SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The installer and customer must ensure the subfloor is suitable and properly prepared for installation.

### MOISTURE CONTENT:

Before installation, open several boxes and test the moisture content. Wood flooring should have a moisture content between 6%-9%. Allow the flooring to acclimate in a climate-controlled job site until the moisture content is within the acceptable range.

### PLYWOOD OR OSB SUBFLOORS:

Must meet local building code requirements (US: minimum 3/4" T&G Exposure 1 rated plywood or 23/32" T&G Exposure 1 rated OSB. Canada: minimum 5/8" T&G Exposure 1 rated plywood or 23/32" T&G Exposure 1 rated OSB installed over joists 16" on center or less). They must be secure to the joists, free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%, and the variance in moisture content between the subfloor and the flooring boards must not exceed 2 percentage points.

### CONCRETE SUBFLOORS:

Must be dry, clean, and free of non-compatible sealers, waxes, oil, paint, drywall compound, or other substances. They must be fully cured (60 days) before installation. Check for sealers by applying drops of water to the slab; if the drops bead up, there may be sealers or oils on the surface.

Moisture content of the slab should not exceed 3 lb. /1000 sq. ft. / 24 hours, or as specified by the NWFA. BONA R540 is recommended by COREWOOD as a moisture barrier for concrete/wood subfloors. If installing over radiant heat, slab moisture content should not exceed 2 lb. /1000 sq. ft. / 24 hours. Turn off the system for 24 hours before installation and leave it off during installation.

## PART 6: COLOR RACKING

Wood flooring has natural variations in color and grain. To prevent color grouping or repetitive patterns, sort the boards before installation to create a balanced look. Before starting, unpack 5 to 6 cartons to see the range of color variation and position the planks accordingly.

Check all boards for visible defects. Boards with defects exceeding industry standards (5% of total quantity) may be replaced under warranty terms. Once installed, boards are considered accepted by the customer and are not eligible for replacement (see Warranty for details).

## PART 7: EXPANSION SPACE

Wood flooring expands and contracts with changes in temperature and humidity. During installation, leave a 1/2" expansion space around the floor's perimeter and around any vertical obstacles like stairs, pipes, door sills, tiles, and cabinets. In climates with extreme humidity changes or in large installations (800+ feet), a larger expansion space may be needed.





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## PART 8: NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION

### Tools & Recommendations:

- Pneumatic or manual nail gun
- Pneumatic finish nailer
- Brad nailer for top nailing

**Fasteners:** Use 2", 16-gauge cleats spaced 4"-6" apart and 1"-2" from the board ends. Glue assist is required for naildown installation. Contact your COREWOOD for more information on glue assist. Full trowel glue down is the highly recommended.

**Glue Assist:** Ensure the subfloor is clean and free of debris. COREWOOD recommends Bona R850T tubed adhesive. Run beads perpendicular to the flooring direction (approx. 8"-10" apart) or use a "lazy-S" technique. Only run glue in short lengths to avoid curing before installing the wood flooring.

## INSTALLATION

### STARTING WALL:

Install the flooring in straight rows parallel to the starting wall. Measure 12 inches from each end of the wall and snap a chalk line parallel to it. Measure the distance from the line to the wall every 2-3 feet to ensure consistency. If there is a variance of more than 1/4 inch, cut the first row of boards to match the wall shape.

Verify the moisture content of both subfloor and flooring before starting installation. Open 5-6 packages and rack and inspect boards. Select the starting wall and verify straightness. Set the first row in place with the groove side facing the wall, allowing expansion space. Set joints closed using a white rubber mallet or a tapping block. Distribute end joints at least 6" apart from row to row.

### NAIL & GLUE:

Once the first few rows are installed, blind nail the boards at a 45-degree angle. Continue across the floor, ensuring a random pattern with at least 6" end joint spacing. Fit pieces firmly into place to avoid gaps.

**Final Rows:** Rows next to walls or other vertical obstacles may need to be top nailed and filled with color-matching putty. To fit the final row, use a pull bar or end hook. Do not wedge or force boards in place.

### POST-INSTALLATION

Once installation is complete, remove expansion spacers and cover the expansion space with baseboard, quarter-round, or other moldings. Inspect the floor for any gaps or defects and fill them with color-matching putty if necessary. Clean the floor with a recommended hardwood cleaner. Maintain a consistent indoor climate to avoid excessive expansion or contraction.

Congratulations on your new COREWOOD floor!

