

INSTALLATION METHOD

Installation guide

In order to ensure the quality of a job, the installer must make sure that the environment meets the ideal installation conditions for a wood floor. For one week, the house must be constantly heated at 22 °C, in order to stabilize the temperature and humidity level on the premises. A few days before installation, humidity level in the house must be stabilized between 40% and 50%. Ambient temperature of the installation premises must be between 18 °C and 22 °C, ideally 20 °C.

Storage of the boards is done on the premises at least 3 days before installing the floor. Do not pile up more than 3 boxes. This minimal length of time gives wood the time to fully acclimate to ambient conditions.

Sub floor preparation

Once the old floor covering removed, the sub floor must be meticulously inspected, then prepared for the installation of the floor. The inspection of the sub floor is made on its whole surface. The creaks and imperfections found will define the weak points of the sub floor and the corrections to be made. Preparing the sub floor must consist of:

1. Eliminating all leftover of glue, staples and nails that held the old covering.
2. Leveling the area, correcting the differences in height by sanding and with a floor leveler.
3. When needed, the sub floor must be firmly fixed to the joists with screws driven in every eight inches. To ensure this fastening, use thread-free top screws.
4. The floor must be installed on a 5/8" veneer not exceeding 12% MC.
5. Once the inspection and the corrections completed, the sub floor will look like a plane surface with no differences in height.

Installation with nails fastener

It is better to use 2" long nails or staples. For the 2 π", 3 π" and 4" boards, the recommended nailing spacing is 8" to 10" and for the 5" boards, the spacing should not exceed 6". Operating pressure recommended for pneumatic tools is 75 to 80 pounds per in" for the larch and 100 pounds per in" for the hard wood. It is recommended to stick the end of each board of 5" and 7" of width (with white glue wood). Recommendations for 7": During a nail down installation ensure that the gap between nails does not exceed 4". Glue (yellow woodworkers glue or sub-floor adhesive) must be applied to the underside and to the ends of the board to eliminate the possibility of cracks.

Remarks: For the 5" and 7", a special attention must be given to the control of the room ambient humidity to ensure optimal efficiency. For a better stability, Bois Ditton recommends a 43% constant relative humidity level. A spacing variation is considered normal. A low relative humidity will have the effect of causing shrinking of the boards that causes spacing between them. A high relative humidity will have the effect of closing the spacing between boards.

Expansion joints:

The expansion joint located all around the room plays a fundamental role in the life span of the installed floor. Only it allows the floor to react to the variations of humidity in the room as well as those of the wood itself. The established norm is an expansion of 3/4" (1.9 cm) in the width of the board and of 1/4" (0.6 cm) in the length of the boards. For basement or any other higher relative humidity situation, we recommend to double expansion joint (1 inch).