

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PROPER  
INSTALLATION & CARE FOR

# WOOD & LAMINATE



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## INSTALLING YOUR NEW WOOD OR LAMINATE

Prior to installation, please assure the following tasks have been completed:

- ☐ **DOORS** All doors must be removed if they are in an area where new flooring will impact their movement (i.e. closets, adjoining rooms, etc.) There is always the possibility that the door may not clear the new floor, which will require a carpenter to shave the bottom of the door.
- ☐ **FURNITURE** All furniture and furnishings must be moved off the existing floor (if it is to be replaced) or from the area where new flooring is to be placed.
- ☐ **FIXTURES** Flooring is normally placed around articles attached to the building (i.e. radiators, railings, etc.) Should you wish to have the flooring extend under these items, please have them removed prior to the arrival of the installer.
- ☐ **WIRES** All wiring for televisions, stereos, telephones, etc. must be moved away from the installation area prior to the arrival of the installer.
- ☐ **CLOSETS** If closets are to be done, all contents on the floor must be removed.
- ☐ **ELECTRICITY** Proper lighting must be available for good installation and ready access to electrical outlets is required.
- ☐ **CLIMATE** In cold weather, please ensure that the installation area is heated to at least 68° F for 48 hours prior to the installers arrival.

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- ☐ **FLOOR PREPARATION** Wood is a natural product and may show some surface irregularities. Laminate needs to acclimate in the home 24 to 48 hours prior to installation. Manufacturer's specifications must be followed regarding attachment of the floor as well as direction. Solid hardwood is affected by environmental conditions. Before installation, acclimate hardwood flooring in the areas where it is to be installed 2 to 14 days at consistent indoor temperatures between 68 and 80° F. Solid hardwood must be installed above grade and not over concrete. Engineered wood and laminate may be installed below grade and over concrete with a moisture barrier. Substrates need to be level in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines. In most circumstances Great Floors will not be able to actually gauge or estimate the project until the existing floor is removed.

- ☐ **MOULDING** Please remove all floor mouldings. If our installers remove floor mouldings, we cannot be responsible for damage to either the moulding or the wall behind the moulding. *(While our installers will make every effort to avoid creating scuff marks on walls or floor boards, it is suggested that you have a small amount of touch-up paint available to cover these marks after installation.)* Wood and laminate require a 1/4 inch space around the perimeter next to walls, islands, peninsulas and door jambs for expansion. Quarter round moulding may be required at additional owner expense.

- ☐ **GLUE DOWN** If your new floor is to be glued down, the area where the new flooring is to be placed must be smooth with no cracks or other damage prior to arrival of the installers.

- ☐ **SQUEAKS** We are not responsible for squeaky floors resulting from the installation of new flooring.

- ☐ **CRACKS** In a comfortable home with slight humidity variations through the seasons, wood flooring responds by expanding and contracting. These changes may be noticeable. During warm, humid weather, wood expands. During dry weather, wood contracts. This seasonal movement is a normal characteristic of wood flooring, and it never stops, regardless of the age of the wood. One of the best ways to ensure that wood flooring will give the performance homeowners expect is to install humidity controls and ensure that they are functioning before the floor is installed.

- ☐ **ESTIMATES** Occasionally estimates may need to be revised because of unforeseen damage to subfloors, which is not possible to see until the existing flooring has been removed. You will be notified of wet subfloors, water or pet damage, or if any type of this condition is discovered. On special order materials, we will keep you informed on any mill production delays.

- ☐ **SHORTAGES** If Great Floors did not measure the job, we accept no responsibility for shortages or overages. We cannot return any remnants that have been altered back into inventory.

- ☐ **HUMIDITY CONTROL** Homeowners should add moisture to the air during dry periods. It's your choice-live with cracks and wait until spring, or add humidity by opening the dishwasher after a rinse cycle, switching off the bathroom fan or hanging laundry to dry in the basement near the furnace. Better yet, Great Floors recommends you install a humidifier (or dehumidifier depending on your climate) on the furnace to maintain humidity levels between 35-50% and let the moisture in the air improve the environment in your home while helping minimize the damage.

## ADDED GREAT FLOORS SERVICES

Great Floors offers the following services for an additional fee. Check with your sales associate for costs for your project:

- ☐ **EXISTING FLOORING** Remove and dispose of existing flooring material. Great Floors can also prepare your site for the new flooring.
- ☐ **MOULDING/DOORS** Remove and replace floor moulding and doors.
- ☐ **FURNITURE/APPLIANCES** Move and replace of heavy furniture, appliances and other heavy objects. If using this service, you must empty drawers, bookcases, refrigerators and drain waterbeds. Great Floors will not do any plumbing or electrical work.

**\*If the acclimation and preparation guidelines are not met and humidity level is not maintained at a minimum of 35%, Great Floors can not assume any responsibilities arising from product failure and the manufacturer's warranty is voided.**

Great Floors will not do any plumbing, gas or electrical work including connecting or disconnecting icemakers, dishwashers or gas lines. We will not move organs, pianos, pool tables, grandfather clocks, aquariums, stereos, computers, firearms, collectibles or fragile items. Ask your sales associate for details.



## AFTER INSTALLATION

A few things to insure your floor performs at its best.

- ☐ Keep traffic light for at least 24 hours so adhesive has a chance to dry.
- ☐ Use manufacturer's recommendations for scrubbing or washing floor. Sweep and vacuum regularly.
- ☐ Support furnishings with wide-bearing, non-staining hard plastic floor protectors. Even high heels can damage your floor.
- ☐ Always use strips of wood or heavy cardboard to protect your floor when moving heavy furniture or appliances.
- ☐ Carpet with jute or Actionbak can scratch or damage your floor if used as a mat without a cushion under it.