



# Up-to-the-Minute Tips on:



## Manufacturer's Guidelines

This page is for all of us who know everything, but unfortunately can't remember it all at one time.

### 1. What Condition Is Your Condition In?

Site conditions prepares before the wood arrives is the first and most important step to ensure beautiful wood floor, stairs, paneling or cabinets.

Turn on the air handling system (heating, ventilation, or air conditioning) about three weeks before the wood is due to arrive. Ideal conditions are humidity levels between 40-60% and temperatures between 50-90 degrees fahrenheit, established well before delivery and maintained throughout the life of the building.

Make sure all the drywall and concrete has cured a minimum of 30 days prior. It's best to use a moisture meter on the floor, subfloor, and walls. When dry, they will usually measure between 8-14%. If your area is outside these conditions, you may want to consider special measures such as a vapor barrier to prevent moisture intrusion, or a humidifier (usually just during winter).

### 2. Acclimation! Acclimation!

Allow time for your wood to acclimate to the site after it is received and before installation. This normally takes a minimum of 7-10 days and the preferred time is 2-4 weeks. We suggest using a moisture meter to make sure that the subfloor and flooring are within the correct range (There should be no more than 2% difference between them).

After arrival, the wood needs to be stacked so that air can circulate between every board. This can be done using 1"x 1" sticks (stickers), but make sure that the stickers are also

dry. Stack the boards in layers with stickers between each layer. If you don't have dry stickers you can stack the boards in a lattice or triangle pattern. Leave the air handling system running during the entire acclimation time.

### 3. Installation and Finishing Do's and Don'ts!

Our exceptional millwork makes it easier than ever—though even expert professionals may need to make a few adjustments for old-growth woods.

## DOs

- Acclimate the wood in the conditions in which it will live for at least 7 days.
- Stack the wood so that air can circulate around every board during acclimation.
- Flooring is sold in random lengths from 1' - 14'. Use the short pieces at the end of rows rather than the middle of the floor.
- Watch the color change before your eyes. The variation you see right after milling blends to a consistent rich color once the floor is exposed to sunlight. *The darker boards become the deepest color tones.*
- Use a nail gun with 2" cleats every 6-8" to secure the floor (closer on wide plank).
- Face nail planks over 6" face. fill countersunk nail holes with a matching color filler. Mix filler colors as needed on different parts of the floor. Be sure to trowel in all directions to completely fill the hole.
- Sand Heart Pine on the diagonal for the first cut from 7-15 degrees. Begin with 36-40 grit. Sand with the grain for remaining cuts and increase the grit one step at a time.

## DON'Ts

- Don't install if there is more than 2% moisture difference in the floor and subfloor.
- Unless you paid for specific upgrades such as longer lengths, color matching or purchased extra, don't upgrade on site. We can't be responsible if you select boards and run short.
- We don't recommend staple guns. Excess pressure can split the tongues and may also inhibit the wood's natural slight movements.
- Gluing Heart pine on the bottom also prohibits natural movement and is not recommended.
- Today's pine is not the same color as Heart Pine. Do not use filler lighter than the Heart Pine will be once it turns its eventual red color.

### Last but not Least...

Maintaining your floor is made simple by keeping grit off the floor with dirt trapping mats and a good dust mop. Use stick-on felt pads under furniture and rubber casters on chairs, and every couple of weeks use a spray wood floor cleaner and terry cloth mop to get any stubborn dirt.