



Fine Antique Wood Flooring Since 1976

Can I Install Wood Flooring Over Concrete?

One of the most common questions we receive from both homeowners and professionals alike is if wood flooring can be installed over concrete. The answer is, YES! Many homes are built on a concrete slab rather than a crawl space. So, if you want wood floors and are dealing with concrete, don't worry. With the proper expertise, it is done all the time. There are many installation strategies to manage the job with both solid wood and engineered flooring:

Methods to Install Wood Floor Over Concrete

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- I. **Solid wood flooring over concrete** – first follow manufacturers instructions and strictly adhere to Installation Guidelines¹
 - A) Direct glue down²
 - a. Full spread adhesive
 - i. Over sealed concrete, e.g. Bostik Best over MVP trowel on, elastomeric adhesive preferred
 - ii. Multifunction adhesive, e.g. Bostik Ultra SingleStep
 - iii. Adhesive and Bone Dry or comparable
 - b. Partial glue down for sound reduction systems, e.g. Sika (follow manufacturers instructions)
 - B) Nail floor to plywood installed over concrete – common method
 - a. Mechanically fastened plywood subfloor over low permeability vapor retarder (Polyethylene film (PE), PE + asphalt, Fortiflash)
 - b. Float 16" strips of plywood over vapor retarder (NWFA¹ Ch 6)
 - c. Float double plywood fastened together over vapor retarder (NWFA¹ Ch 6)
 - d. Glue down plywood to concrete
 - C) Sleepers
 - a. Sleepers glued to concrete (NWFA¹ Appendix I) not for all widths and thicknesses
 - b. Sleepers over rubber pads for dance floors or sports floors
 - D) Plywood over sleepers for plank or shorts

II. **Engineered**

- A) Direct glue down
- B) Float over pad
- C) Install plywood sheets and nail
- D) Self-adhesive sheets, e.g. Elastilon (may not be NWFA sanctioned)
- E) Over sheet vinyl – used in some regions (may not be NWFA sanctioned)

¹ NWFA, National Wood Flooring Association Installation Guidelines, Call for further references

² Boards with crook or bow are not suitable, narrow widths preferred

These methods are gathered from general industry practice and are believed to be appropriate when used correctly. Goodwin does not offer any guarantee or warranty for non-Goodwin products or methods outside of Goodwin's published instructions for its products.

Goodwin is happy to work with you and provide technical expertise and guidance. For more information, feel free to give us a call.