

Engineered Pontek Flooring Installation Instructions

Engineered planks can be installed over most sub-floors, and are engineered to be dimensionally stable, making them suitable for installation over all grade levels. See all information and installation guidelines below.

Attention - INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Inspect **ALL** materials carefully **BEFORE** installation. Wood and cork is a natural product containing natural characteristics such as natural variations in color, tone and graining. Some variation in color is to be expected in a natural wood floor. Even though our product goes through many inspections before it leaves the plant, it is the customer and installer's responsibility for final inspection prior to installation. **Pontek warranties DO NOT cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.**

TOOLS

Basic tools and accessories: broom or vacuum, chalk line, tapping block, Hard Surface cleaner, hand or electric jam saw, miter saw, moisture meter, safety glasses, straight edge, table saw, tape measure, 3M blue tape, square, utility knife, pry bar. Use a urethane wood flooring adhesive, towels and trowel if gluing or a Bostitch Floor Runner (S3297-LHFZ) with 1" staple (SB97) or a 50C Power Nailer for nailing with a 1-1/2" power cleat. (Note: you must use a 3/8" or 1/2" adapter as appropriate).

Caution: Improper use of a power nailer can mark the surface of the flooring.

JOBSITE CONDITIONS

It is the responsibility of the installers/owner to determine if the job site sub-floor and job site conditions are environmentally and structurally acceptable for wood floor installation. Pontek declines any responsibility for product failure resulting from or connected with sub-floor, subsurface, job site damage or deficiencies after product has been installed.

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

Concrete Sub-Floors

New concrete slabs require a minimum of 60 days drying time before covering them with a wood floor.

Light weight concrete

Light weight concrete that has a dry density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot is only suitable for engineered wood floors when using the floating installation method. Many products have been developed as self-leveling toppings or floor underlayments. These include cellular concrete, resin-reinforced cementitious underlayments, and gypsum-based materials. Although some of these products may have the necessary qualifications of underlayment for wood flooring installations, others do not. To test for lightweight concrete, scrape a coin or key across the surface of the subfloor. If the surface powders easily or has a dry density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot, use only the floating installation method.

Concrete sub-floors must be dry, smooth (level with 3/16" in a 10 foot. Radius-1/8" in 6') and free of structural defects. Hand scrape or sand with a 20-grit #3-1/2 open face paper to remove loose, flaky concrete. Grind high spots in concrete and fill low spots with a Portland based leveling compound (min. 3,000 p.s.i.) Concrete must be free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax

grease, dirt and curing compounds. These may be removed mechanically but do not use solvent-based strippers under any circumstances. The use of residual solvents can prohibit the satisfactory bond of flooring adhesives. It is important to ensure a proper bond between the adhesive and the concrete, and planks or strips. Pontek Engineered hardwood flooring may be installed on-grade, above grade, as well as below grade where moisture conditions do not exist.

To ensure a long lasting bond, make sure that the perimeter of the foundation has adequate drainage and vapor barrier.

Wood sub-floors

Wood sub-floors need to be well nailed or secured with screws. Nails should be ring shanks and screws need to counter sunk. The wood sub-floor needs to be structurally sound and dry. They should not exceed 14% moisture prior to installation. If the sub-floor is single layer, less than 3/4" thick, add a single cross layer for strength and stability (minimum 5/16" thick for a total 1" thickness). This is to reduce the possibility of squeaking Wood sub-floors must be free of paint, oil existing adhesives, wax grease, dirt and urethane, varnish etc. Underlayment grade OSB (not the wax side) is also suitable sub-floors. **Particleboard is not an acceptable sub-floor for staple or nail down installations** but can be used as a sub-floor in glue-down installations. When installing over existing wood flooring, install at right angles to the existing floor.

Sub-floor moisture check

Hard Surface Flooring Adhesive may be used for above, on-, and below grade applications and on all common substrates, on- and below-grade applications are susceptible to moisture and should be tested for moisture prior to installation in several locations within the installation area. Acceptable conditions for above-on-and below-grade applications are:

- Less than 3lbs./1000 sq. ft./24 hrs. on a calcium chloride test.
- Less than a reading of 5.0 on a Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter (moisture meter).
- Wood Substrates must have a moisture reading of less than 14% when using a Tramex or equivalent moisture meter.

To correct any sub-floor problems concerning moisture, either wait until the sub-floor dries to meet specifications or use an appropriate moisture barrier.

Sub-floors other than wood or concrete

Note: Perimeter glued resilient vinyl and rubber tiles are unacceptable underlayments and must be removed.

Terrazzo, tile and any other hard surfaces that are dry, structurally sound and level, as described above, are suitable as a sub-floor for Pontek Engineered hardwood flooring installation. As above, the surface must be sound, tight and free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax, grease and dirt. Terrazzo and ceramic tile must be scuffed to assure adhesion.

Warning! Do not sand existing resilient tile, sheet flooring, backing, or felt linings. These products may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Inhalation of asbestos dust can cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Check with local, state and federal laws for handling hazardous material before attempting the removal of these floors.

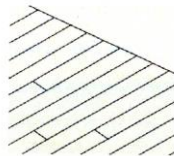
Radiant Heated Sub-floors

Before installing over a radiant-heated floor turn off heat and wait until the floor has reached room temperature. After installing the floor return the heat to the previous setting.

Caution: The slab surface must never exceed 84° F in temperature.

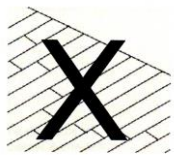
PREPARATION

Remove all moldings and wall-base and undercut all door casings with a hand or power jam saw using a scrap piece of flooring as a guide.



“Racking the Floor”

Whether you choose to install the floor with glue, nails, or staples start by using random length planks from the carton or by cutting four to five planks in random lengths, differing by at least 6". As you continue working across the floor is sure to maintain the 6" minimum between end joints on all adjacent rows. Never waste material; use the left over pieces from the fill cuts to start the next row or to complete a row.



Note: When installing a pre-finished wood, cork or bamboo floor be sure to blend the wood from several cartons to ensure a good grain and shading mixture through out the installation.

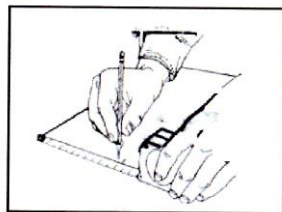
GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

There are two ways to install when using a hard surface adhesive (wet lay meaning to lay directly into wet adhesive and dry-lay method meaning to allow the adhesive to flash or to tack up.)

Caution: Whether you choose to install using the dry or wet method follow all guidelines set by the adhesive manufacturer. By not adhering to the guidelines you can void your flooring warranties.

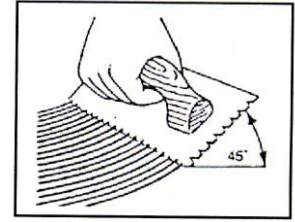
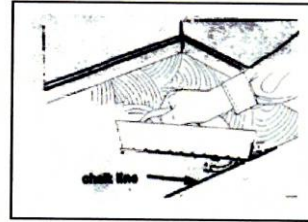
Step 1—(Wet Lay Method)

Select a starter wall. It is recommended to start the installation along an exterior wall; it's more likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from the wall the width of two planks and mark each end of the room and snap your chalk line.



Step 2

Spread the Adhesive from the chalk line to the starter wall using the recommended trowel by the adhesive manufacturer. It is important to use the correct trowel at a 45° angle to get the proper spread of adhesive applied to the sub-floor, which will produce a proper and permanent bond. Improper bonding can cause loose or hollow spots.



Note: Change the trowel every 2000 to 3000 square feet due to wear down of the notches. This assures you always get the proper spread of adhesive.

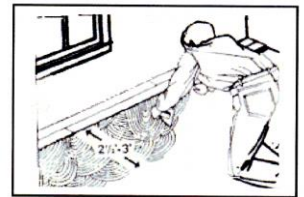
Step 3

Install the first row of starter planks with the tongue facing the starter wall and secure into position. Alignment is critical and can be achieved by securing a straight edge along the chalk line (2'x 4's work well), or by top nailing the first row with finishing nails (wood sub-floor), or sprig/pin nails (concrete sub-floor). This prevents slippage of the planks that can cause misalignment.

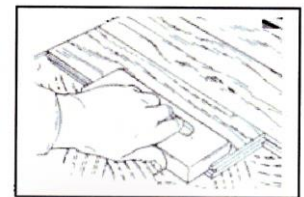
Note: The planks along the wall may have to be cut to fit since most walls are not straight, and leaving an expansion space is not necessary with Pontek Floorings engineered planks and strips.

Step 4

Once the starter rows are secure spread 2-1/2 to 3 feet of adhesive the length of the room. (Never lay more adhesive than can be covered in approximately 2 hrs.)

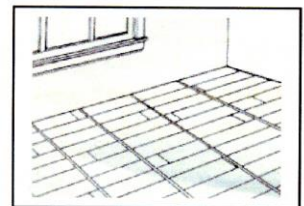


Place tongue into groove of plank or strips and press firmly into adhesive never slide planks or strips through adhesive. Use a tapping block to fit planks snug together at side and butt ends.



Clean any adhesive off the surface before you install.

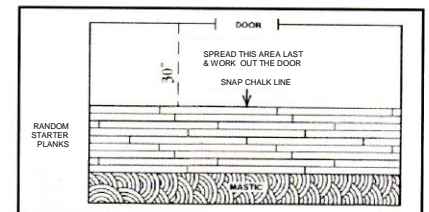
Use 3M Blue Mask Tape to hold planks securely in place as you are installing and continue the process through out the installation. Use caution when using a rubber mallet to butt material together, it can burn the finish and cause marring



Note: Never work on top of the flooring when installing with the wet lay method.

Step1—(Dry Lay Method)

Start by selecting your starter wall and measure out from the wall 27" when installing 2-1/4" strip flooring and 30" when installing 3" planks. This will allow adequate working space. Snap chalk line.



Step 2

Apply adhesive from the chalk line out 2 ½ '-3'. Allow adhesive to flash as per the instructions affixed to the top of the adhesive container. The humidity chart will aid in allowing the appropriate flash time based on the temperature and humidity.

Secure your starter rows with a straight edge (2'x 4's). Install planks and secure with 3M Blue Mask Tape as you continue through out your installation. If you must work on top of the newly laid flooring use a kneeling board.

Once the remainder of the floor has been installed go back to the beginning and remove straight edges and spread adhesive on the remainder of the open subfloor, allow flashing for the appropriate time and lay flooring as instructed. Remembering that the planks closest to the wall may need cutting to fit, due to irregularities along the wall. It is not necessary to roll the floor.

Clean Up

Use clean white terry cloth towels to clean as you go, along with mineral spirits or water depending on what type of adhesive used. Both are easy and convenient to use. Once the floor is completed clean the flooring as per recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.

Light foot traffic is allowed after 12 hours but wait 24 hours after installation to remove the 3M blue masking tape.

STAPLE OR NAIL DOWN INSTALLATIONS

Pontek Engineered floors may be installed over wood sub-floors using staples or nailing cleats.

When installing Pontek products by nailing or stapling, it is necessary to use the proper type of Flooring stapler or nailer.

Recommended Staplers and Nailer

We have tested and recommend the Bostitch Floor Runner (S3297-LHFZ). The recommended staple for the Bostitch Floor Runner is a 1" to staple (#S1397).

Caution: Pontek Flooring has tested the above-recommended tools. Other staplers, staples, nailers and cleats may work as well however, since they are not currently recommended if their use damages or fails to properly secure the flooring the responsibility is the installers and not Pontek.

Step 1

You must staple or nail 1"-2" from the ends and every 4"-6" along the edges. This will help insure a satisfactory installation. It is best to set the compressor PSI at 80-85lbs. to keep the staples from going through or breaking the tongues. Improper stapling techniques can cause squeaks in the floor.

Adjustments may be necessary to provide adequate penetration of the nail or staple into the nail bed. You want it flush in the nail pocket. Use a scrap piece of flooring material to set tools properly before installation.

Before installation of the engineered flooring begins, install a 6-mil polyethylene layer over the sub-floor. This will retard moisture from below and may help prevent squeaks. Keep in mind there is no complete moisture barrier system for staple or nail down installations.

Note: 15lb roofing felt or resin paper may be substituted for the polyethylene and installed as below.

Installing 6-mil Polyethylene

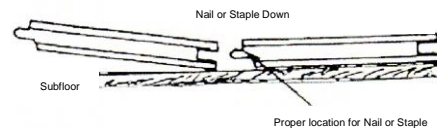
Install the polyethylene parallel to the direction of the flooring and allow a 3" overhang at the perimeter. Make sure each run of polyethylene overlaps the previous run by 6" or more.

Layout the job

Measure out from the ends of your starting wall, 2 ¾" when installing 2 ¼" strip flooring or 3 ½" when installing 3" planks and mark both ends. Where possible lay the flooring at 90° angles to the floor joists. Make a chalk line along the starting wall using the marks you made.

Beginning installation

Place the planks with the tongue facing away from the wall and along your chalk line. Use brads or small finishing nails to secure the first starter row along the wall edge 1"-2" from the ends and every 4"-6" along the side. Counter sink the nails and fill with the Professional's Choice Filler that blends with the flooring installed. Place the nails in a dark grain spot in the board. The base or shoe molding will cover the nails when installed after completion of the installation.



Blind nail at a 45°-degree angle through the tongues. It will be easier IF YOU PRE-DRILL THE HOLES IN THE TONGUES. Nail 1"-2" from the ends and every 4"-6" along the sides. It will be necessary to blind nail the next 2 rows. A Stanley BT35 brad nailer with 1"-1-/38" brads can also be used to blind nail and no pre-drilling is needed.

Continue the installation using an engineered wood flooring stapler, using staples or nails. Nail or staple the flooring 1"-2" from the ends and every 4"-6" along the edge tongues.

Final Touches

Install the proper trim molding at the doorways to achieve the transition and along the walls to cover the edges of any gaps along the wall due to irregularity.

Complete the job by using Filler that blends with the installed flooring to fill any gapping along the joints and clean the finished floor.

MAINTENANCE

Pontek floors are very easily maintained. No wax, no mess. Simply use a Hard Surface Floor Cleaner and a terry cloth flooring mop.

STEP ONE: Sweep your floor to remove any particles that could scratch your floor.

Warning: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a wood floor and never should be used.

STEP TWO: Apply the Hard Surface Cleaner directly to the terry cloth flooring mop, **not** to the floor!

STEP THREE: Use a back and forth motion with the mop. When the terry cloth cover becomes soiled, simply replace it with a clean one. Cleaning the floor with a soiled cover could cause streaking. The covers are re-usable so simply throw the cover in the wash and dry it as you would any towel.

Tips & Warnings:

- Sweep regularly.

- Remove spills promptly using Hard Surface Floor Cleaner and a clean white cloth.
- Use felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture and chairs.
- Use protective mats at all exterior entrances.
- Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage your floor.
- Never wet or damp mop your wood floors. Water can cause damage to wood flooring.
- Never use oil soaps, wax, liquid or other household products to clean your floor.
- The sun's UV rays can change the color of your floor.
- Keep animal nails trimmed.
- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. **Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.**
- If your floor becomes scratched or dull repairs can often be made using repair accessories.