

AKAFLOOR

Installation Guide

Solid Prefinished Hardwood Flooring

Professional Installation Standards for Residential and Light Commercial Applications

CORE PRINCIPLES

[NATURE]

NATURAL WOOD MOVEMENT

Hardwood is a dynamic, hygroscopic material that naturally expands and contracts in response to environmental fluctuations. Proper acclimatization and environmental control are paramount to ensure structural integrity and minimize seasonal gapping or cupping.

[CLIMATE]

MOISTURE & CLIMATE CONTROL

Strict adherence to indoor climate parameters is required before, during, and after installation. The environment must be maintained consistently between **60–80°F (15–26°C)** with a relative humidity of **30–50% RH** to validate warranty coverage.

[WARNING]

CRITICAL WIDE PLANK RULE

Planks 5" and wider **REQUIRE** full glue assist application in conjunction with mechanical fastening. Failure to utilize this dual-installation method on wide planks will void all structural warranties.

QUICK TECHNICAL STANDARDS

PARAMETER	SPECIFICATION
Application	On or Above Grade Only — No Below Grade Installations
Installation Method	Nail / Staple Down — Glue Assist required for planks \geq 5"
Climate Requirements	60–80°F (15–26°C) 30–50% Relative Humidity
Subfloor Flatness	3/16" tolerance in a 10' radius; 1/8" in a 6' radius
Moisture Limits	Wood subfloor max 12% MC; \leq 4% differential with flooring

PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

[SITE]

SITE CONDITIONS

The installation site must be fully enclosed and climate-controlled. All wet trades — drywall, paint, masonry — must be completed and thoroughly cured prior to flooring delivery. HVAC must be fully operational.

[BOX]

STORAGE & ACCLIMATION

Store materials in the installation environment for a minimum of **72 hours**. Acclimation is complete only when the moisture content of the wood aligns with the target indoor environment conditions.

[LEVEL]

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloors must be structurally sound, clean, dry, and flat. Sand high spots and fill low areas using approved leveling compounds to meet the strict **3/16" per 10'** flatness tolerance before proceeding.

[MOISTURE]

MOISTURE TESTING

Mandatory moisture testing must be documented. Wood subfloors must not exceed **12% moisture content**. The variance between the subfloor and the hardwood must not exceed **4%**.

INSTALLATION PROCESS

1

LAYOUT & EXPANSION

Establish a primary working line parallel to the longest continuous wall. Maintain a mandatory expansion gap of **3/4"** at all vertical obstructions — walls, cabinets, door frames — to accommodate natural seasonal movement.

2

FIRST ROWS

Face-nail the initial rows where the pneumatic nailer cannot reach. Pre-drill holes to prevent splitting, countersink nails, and fill with a coordinating premium wood filler matched to the species.

3

FIELD INSTALLATION

Blind-nail through the tongue at a 45-degree angle. Fasteners should be spaced every **6" to 8"** along the board length, and no closer than **2"** from end joints. Stagger end joints a minimum of **6"** between adjacent rows.

4

WIDE PLANK REQUIREMENT — MANDATORY

For planks **5"** and wider, apply a premium elastomeric wood flooring adhesive in a serpentine pattern to the subfloor prior to mechanical fastening. This glue assist is non-negotiable and must be documented for warranty validation.

5

FINAL ROWS & FINISHING

Rip the final row to fit, accounting for the required expansion gap. Face-nail, countersink, and fill. Install coordinating transition moldings and baseboards to conceal gaps and complete the installation.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

AKAFLOOR products are crafted from natural timber. Inherent variations in color, grain, and character are hallmarks of authentic wood and are not classified as manufacturing defects.

The installer assumes final responsibility for grading, culling, and placement decisions prior to installation. Once installed, the product is considered accepted in its visual and structural condition.

WHAT IS NOT A DEFECT

- Natural color and grain variation between planks
- Mineral streaks, small knots, or character marks
- Seasonal movement (expansion and contraction)
- Minor gaps appearing during low-humidity seasons
- Slight sheen variation under different lighting conditions

INSTALLER CHECKLIST

- HVAC system fully operational; climate stabilized
- Moisture testing completed and results documented
- Subfloor leveled to 3/16" per 10' tolerance
- Glue assist applied for all planks 5" and wider
- Proper 3/4" expansion gaps maintained at all perimeters

WARRANTY & LIABILITY NOTICE

AKAFLOOR guarantees the structural integrity and finish of our products under normal residential and light commercial use, provided they are installed and maintained strictly in accordance with this guide and all applicable NWFA standards.

This warranty explicitly excludes damages resulting from: improper installation practices; failure to utilize glue assist on planks 5" and wider; inadequate subfloor preparation; moisture-related damage including hydrostatic pressure, plumbing leaks, or flooding; and failure to maintain the required environmental conditions (60–80°F / 30–50% RH) before, during, or after installation.

Installation of this product constitutes the installer's and owner's acceptance of the product's visual and structural condition at the time of installation. Claims submitted after installation without pre-installation documentation will not be honored.