

## PREFINISHED HARDWOOD FLOORING PLANCHERS DE BOIS FRANC PRÉVERNI

# INSTALLATION GUIDE GUIDE D'INSTALLATION

## SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORING

### HOW TO INSTALL

#### INSTALLER / OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

**HARDWOOD FLOOR IS A PRODUCT OF NATURE AND THEREFORE EACH FLOOR STRIP IS UNIQUE. THIS IS WHY PRE-ASSEMBLY IS ESSENTIAL:**

**WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU FIRST PRE-ASSEMBLE THE WOOD STRIPS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE COLOUR AND SHADE MIX.**

The manufacturer's prefinished solid hardwood floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance of up to 5%. Prior to installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the job-site environment and the sub surfaces meet or exceed all requirements as stipulated in the instructions of the manufacturer's prefinished solid hardwood floors and in accordance with recognized trade practices. **ONCE INSTALLED, A STRIP IS CONSIDERED ACCEPTED BY THE INSTALLER / OWNER.**

The manufacturer's prefinished solid hardwood floors declines any responsibility for installation problems resulting from or associated with sub surface of job-site environment deficiencies. The installer/owner of a prefinished solid hardwood floor has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacturing quality and factory finish. Pieces that are questionable must be discarded, installed in less visible spaces or cut off. The use of stain, filler or wax sticks for touch-ups during installation is accepted as normal procedure. When the order is placed, 5% must be added to the actual square meters/footage needed as allowance for waste due to cutting and/or defects.

#### TOOLS

- Power nailer, pneumatic or manual
- 2" (50 mm) nails for hardwood floors
- Rubber mallet
- Mitre saw or circular saw
- Electric drill and 3/32" (2 mm) bit
- Moisture meter
- Hygrometer
- Claw hammer
- Square
- Pencil
- Chalk line
- Nail punch
- Tape measure
- Wax stick
- Sub-flooring
- Safety glasses

**PREPARING THE SURFACE SUB-FLOORING IS NECESSARY SINCE PREFINISHED SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORS CANNOT BE INSTALLED ON CONCRETE OR CEMENT FLOORS OR IN ROOMS EQUIPPED WITH RADIANT HEATING.** Damaged sub-flooring or existing floors should be replaced. It is recommended to install asphalt felt paper (15 lb-6 kg) on cement floors and construction paper (15 lb-6 kg) on wood sub-flooring. The humidity of the sub-flooring

must not exceed 12% and the difference between the humidity of the sub-flooring and the floor strips to be installed should not exceed 4%.

The owner should take the appropriate measures to remedy the situation (open windows, increase heating, etc.), including postponing installation. **Use a moisture meter to ensure that humidity levels of the floor and the sub-floor are appropriate.** Sub-flooring must consist of at least 5/8" (16 mm) plywood, depending on the space between the joists. The sub-floor must be dry, free of debris or adhesives and must be level. To obtain a smooth surface, it is necessary to sand rough patches, drive down nails, fill cavities and then vacuum before installation. A new floor should be installed perpendicular to the joists or to the strips of a previously installed hardwood floor. To install in the same direction, first install sub-flooring.

#### PREPARING THE ENVIRONMENT

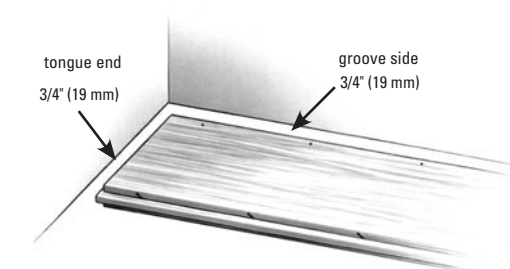
The temperature in the room must be maintained between 18°C and 22°C (64°F to 72°F) at least five days prior to installation; relative humidity should be maintained between 35% and 55% at all times before and after installation. This is the ideal level to avoid problems caused by humidity. **Use a hygrometer to maintain humidity at the proper level.** Open the packages and leave the boards in the room for 48 hours to let the wood adapt to its new environment. Never put tools and nails on the new flooring; use alternative surfaces for these items.

#### PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION

- Board installation will start parallel to the longest and straightest wall in the room, usually an exterior wall. Installation can also start near stair nosings and reducers, which will facilitate adjustments after reaching the wall.
- Install boards perpendicular to the joists.
- Arrange the boards in an approximate pattern: use the boards from several boxes to ensure a good mix of shades and select the ones that match stair nosings and reducers when installing close together.
- Set aside boards with small imperfections for cutting or installation in less visible spaces.
- Measure the room carefully to ensure that the last board is at least 1" (25 mm) wide; adjust the first board if necessary.
- Remove baseboards and other accessories and cut the bottom of the door frames and the doors if needed, in order to slide new boards under.

#### INSTALLING THE FIRST ROWS

- With the chalk line, trace a line parallel to the wall; the distance of this line from the wall must be equal to the width of the board, adding 3/4" (19 mm) for the expansion space (the baseboard and quarter-round will conceal it); make sure that the line is at a 90° angle from the adjacent wall.



- Use the straightest boards to start.
- Install the first board, groove side facing the wall, tongue side along the line, including the expansion

space. Leave 3/4" (19 mm) between the tip of the board and the wall.

- Drill and then nail the board from the top, 1/4" (6 mm) from the edge closest to the wall; nail every 12" (300 mm), leaving 3" (75 mm) at each end.
- Drive nails into the board with the nail punch, using a wax stick matching the shade of the boards to conceal the holes.
- Secure with concealed nails using the power nailer; if you are unable to use the power nailer because of proximity to the wall, drill and then drive the nails into the tongue at a 45° angle.
- Cut the last board of the first row, leaving a 3/4" (19 mm) distance between the wall and the tip of the board. In order to minimize waste, this board must be long enough so that the residual portion can be used to start the second row.

#### INSTALLING ROWS

- Always start a row by selecting a board that is at least 6" (150 mm) longer or shorter than the neighbouring one.
- Install boards by inserting the groove into the tongue, using the rubber mallet if needed.
- Secure with concealed nails driven in with the power nailer.

#### INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

Repeat the guidelines for installing the first row.

#### FINISHING

- Install baseboards using finishing nails; all accessories must be nailed to the wall and not to the floor, allowing boards to expand and contract.
- Unused boards should be kept for possible repairs in the future.
- Conceal the holes using a wax in a shade matching the wood.
- Vacuum and clean the floor with a damp mop and a hardwood floor cleanser.
- Slide furniture using a reserved piece of carpet or special gliders.

#### IMPORTANT NOTES

- Always maintain humidity levels between 35% and 55% as the boards can expand and contract with the seasons and humidity.
- To protect your floors and enjoy long-term satisfaction, it is recommended to use a humidifier during the cold season when wood and electrical heating tend to make the air overly dry, and a dehumidifier in summer.
- Always use cleaning products and methods recommended for prefinished hardwood flooring.
- It is recommended to use area rugs to cover high traffic surfaces or on flooring exposed to water spills.
- Leave high-heeled shoes at the door. Broken or worn heels can damage even a cement floor.
- Keep your pets claws or nails well trimmed.

#### RESIDENTIAL WARRANTY

Choosing this floor is your guarantee of satisfaction. Our exclusive manufacturing and finishing processes ensure product consistency and guarantee quality. That's why we are proud to warrant the floor strips against all manufacturing defects under normal residential use. It is important to note that because wood is a natural product, not one strip is identical to another. Variations in appearance and quality as well as minor imperfections are considered normal in up to 5% of strips according to industry standards.

#### COVERAGE

The manufacturer offers a limited lifetime structural warranty and a 25-year finish wear-through limited warranty from the purchase date. These warranties cover any defects in dimensions, milling, grading,

staining and finishing as long as the floors remain the property of the original purchaser and provided that strips were installed according to the instructions printed in the installation guide and warranty included in the boxes as well as industry and National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) trade techniques. The manufacturer's warranty applies to floors installed strictly for residential use. The prefinished hardwood floor strips must be installed on ground floors or above – never in basements, on cement or concrete floors or in rooms equipped with radiant heating.

#### EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

THE WARRANTY DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- Floors installed for commercial or industrial use.
- Improper sub-floor preparation and failure to comply with recommended installation procedures as detailed in this guide.
- Modifications to strips as originally manufactured, unauthorized modifications or removal of strips from already installed floors.
- Strip damage such as marks and scratches caused by blows, impacts, the rubbing of heavy objects or abrasives such as pebbles and sand, or high-heeled and hard-soled shoes.
- Deterioration caused by poor maintenance, negligence, inadequate protection or misuse.
- Problems resulting from an inappropriate humidity level or excessive moisture, such as high humidity on sub-floor or in basement; water damage, wet mopping or damage caused by animals, insects, extreme environmental conditions, natural disasters, fire and structural movement.
- Use of cleaning products or methods other than those specifically recommended for prefinished hardwood floors.
- Wear, loss of shine, colour variations or discolouration that may be considered normal after a few years of use and exposure to light.
- The wood's natural variations in features such as grain, colour, mineral streaks and knots.
- Cracks and gaps due to seasonal changes or heating.
- Damage caused by conditions or circumstances beyond the manufacturer's control, including during shipping, storage, and installation.
- The manufacturer's products such as seconds, sold "as is" or purchased through the Internet.

Responsibility for the handling or installation of the manufacturer's products lies with the distributor, retailer or installer. To this effect, instructions for installing prefinished solid hardwood are printed with the warranty in this guide, which is included in the boxes.

#### MANUFACTURER'S LIABILITY

The manufacturer fully supports its products. In the event of a problem, each situation will be appraised on an individual basis to ensure full customer satisfaction. For surface wear to be covered by the warranty, it must be highly visible and cover at least 10% of the surface. The manufacturer's obligation under this limited warranty is limited solely to repairing, refinishing or replacing defective strips in excess of the 5% standard ratio, at the manufacturer's discretion and excluding direct and indirect costs such as labour, tax on labour, shipping, tax on shipping and storage prior to installation. These costs are the responsibility of the Buyer. **A STRIP, ONCE INSTALLED, IS CONSIDERED "ACCEPTED" BY THE INSTALLER AND / OR BUYER.** If the quality of a strip is in doubt or if there are visible imperfections that cannot be remedied, the strip must not be installed or should be installed in a

less visible space such as a closet. This writing is the complete and exclusive statement of the limited warranty provided herein to the Buyer, is an exclusive remedy, and is in lieu of all other express and implied statutory or other warranties of any nature or kind, including, without limitation, any warranty as to merchantable quality, fitness for a particular purpose, durability, suitability or condition or any other warranty arising by statute, course of dealing or otherwise. There are no implied warranties extending beyond the terms of this warranty. The manufacturer shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from the use of the product other than liability as described in this limited warranty, and only in the event that the Buyer has expressly respected all terms, conditions and obligations of the limited warranty. In no event shall the manufacturer's prefinished hardwood floors and its suppliers be responsible for any direct, indirect, punitive, economic, commercial, consequential, incidental or special loss or damage or any claim by a third party resulting from the use or loss of use of the product.

**CERTAIN CONDITIONS, EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS SET OUT IN THIS LIMITED WARRANTY ARE NOT PERMITTED OR EFFECTIVE IN SOME STATES OR PROVINCES, THEREFORE SOME OF THE CONDITIONS, EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS LIMITED WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS AND YOU MAY ALSO HAVE OTHER LEGAL RIGHTS THAT MAY VARY FROM STATE TO STATE OR PROVINCE TO PROVINCE. TO THE EXTENT THAT STATE, PROVINCIAL OR OTHER LAWS BAR A DISCLAIMER OF THE IMPLIED WARRANTY OR DAMAGES SET FORTH ABOVE, THE SAID IMPLIED WARRANTY AND LIMITATIONS OF DAMAGES ARE LIMITED TO THE DURATION OF THE EXPRESS LIMITED WARRANTY SET FORTH HEREIN.** No part of the limited warranty described herein shall be assignable or transferable and the warranty shall be solely for the benefit of the initial Buyer of the product. No distributor, retailer, installer, sales representative, agent or employee associated with the manufacturer directly or indirectly may, in any way, alter or increase the written terms, conditions, exclusions or limitations of this limited warranty.

#### SUBMITTING A CLAIM

Claims under the manufacturer's residential warranty must be made to the authorized manufacturer's retailer where the original purchase was made. Claims must be made during the warranty period and no later than 30 days after a problem is discovered, and must be approved by an authorized manufacturer's representative before alterations or repairs are made. Please keep in a safe place the proof of purchase indicating the quantity of wood purchased as well as the label on the packaging with the product description and code since the manufacturer reserves the right to verify the purchase date and the identity of the original purchaser. **THIS LIMITED WARRANTY APPLIES EXCLUSIVELY TO THE MANUFACTURER'S FLOOR STRIPS AND NOT TO ANY OTHER PRODUCT.**

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