



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS and WARRANTY

FACTORY FINISHED 3.25", 4", & 5" SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORING

PLEASE READ AND REVIEW THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

Hardwood flooring is a beautiful and unique product of nature, which is characterized by distinctive variations in grain and color. These natural variations in color and grain are not flaws, but are a part of the natural beauty and uniqueness of hardwood flooring. (These inherent variations should be expected and serve to enhance the natural beauty and enduring charm.) IPA Tropical Floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type.

- The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of all flooring should be done **before** installation. Carefully examine the flooring for color, finish and quality before installing it. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects whatever the cause. If material is not acceptable, contact IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. immediately.
- Before beginning the installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site and the condition and type of the the subfloor involved is acceptable, insuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements which are stipulated in Ipa Tropical Flooring installation instructions which follow. IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloors or job site environment deficiencies.
- The use of stain, filler or putty stick for the correction of defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- When IPA Tropical Flooring is ordered, a 5 - 10% waste factor, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (Diagonal Installations may require more.)
- Follow all recommendations of the National Wood Flooring Association, Installation Guidelines, revised March 2007. Certain aspects of installation are noted below, all of which follow these guidelines, however, the installer is required to follow all NWFA recommendations even if not noted below. Contact your distributor if you do not have access to a copy of these guidelines.

JOB SITE INSPECTION & ACCLIMATION

- In new construction, IPA Tropical Hardwood Flooring should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustical ceilings, dry wall taping, etc.) should be completed prior to wood flooring being installed. Heating and air systems should be fully operating maintaining a consistent room temperature at 68-74 F.
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 to 90 days old. Check basements and under floor crawl space to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.
- Flooring should be at the job site at least 72 hours prior to installation, but acclimation may take longer. Opening the hand packs and spreading out the flooring speeds up the acclimation process.
- Handle with care. Do not stand on ends. Store IPA Tropical Hardwood Flooring in a dry place being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under and around cartons.
- Do not store directly upon on grade concrete or next to outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the installation area
- The installation site should have consistent room temperature of 60o - 75o F and a constant relative humidity level of 40 - 60 % for a minimum of 5 days prior to installation of any IPA Tropical Hardwood Flooring product. This is achieved by having either the heating or air conditioning operating.
- **The heating or air conditioning must operate five days before delivery of the flooring to bring the interior to normal living conditions. The heating or air conditioning must continue to operate during and after installation.**
- **ACCLIMATION – Interior climate conditions vary from region to region and jobsite to jobsite. Because of this it is necessary to acclimate solid wood flooring to the living conditions of the home. It is your responsibility to know what your living conditions are and to build your floor around those conditions. Failure to adequately acclimate may result in gaps or buckling of wood flooring weeks or months after installation. Time necessary to acclimate is dependent on many factors such as geographic location, how the cartons are stored and how much air flow is present. Refer to the National Wood Flooring Association Installation Guidelines, Chapter 2 and Appendix B to understand the acclimation process.**

Important:

- 3/4” Solid Flooring is for on or above grade installation only!!
- 3/4” Solid Flooring **cannot** be installed over radiant heat

SUB-FLOORS

Approved Subfloor Types:

1. APA Sturd-I-Floor, ACX, BCX, CDX 3/4" or thicker plywood.
2. Concrete slab plus a 3/4" plywood subfloor. (see NWFA for guidelines, chapter 6)
3. Existing wood floors (installed at right angle only).
4. Resilient tile and sheet vinyl only over an above mentioned and approved subfloor.

Subfloors must be:

- **Clean** - Scraped or sanded, swept, free of wax, grease, paint, oil and other debris
- **Smooth/flat** - Within 1/8" on 6'. Sand high areas or joints, fill low areas (no more than 1/8") with a cement type filler no less than 3000 p.s.i. **Hint**- 2 pennies are equal to 1/8."
- **Structurally sound** - Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any damaged subflooring or underlayments.

Wood Substrates: Test the moisture of the wood substrate using a calibrated moisture meter approved for testing wood moisture according to the meter manufacturer. Be sure the species correction factor is applied. The reading should not be more than a 2% higher than moisture content of products being installed.

Concrete Slabs (regardless of existing floor covering): Must have a minimum of 3/4" plywood installed with a minimum of 6 mil polyfilm vapor barrier secured to the slab.

Follow the NWFA guidelines (Chapter 6) when testing for moisture in concrete and installing a plywood sub-floor over concrete. Always use a vapor retarder because a concrete slab that is relatively dry today, may contain excess moisture in the future.

IPA Tropical Floors does not recommend installing solid 3/4" exotic flooring by direct glue to concrete. Should you choose this method, IPA Tropical Floors will not accept responsibility for any problems that may develop.

Sub-floor Installation on Plywood and Wood Substrates: Do not install over particleboard.

Subfloor should be constructed of 3/4" or thicker plywood when installing directly over 16" on center joists. Plywood sheets should be laid with grained outer plies at right angles to joists, adjacent rows staggered four feet and nailed every 6" along each joist with 7D or larger nails. When installing directly over old wood or strip floor, sand any high spots, re-nail old floor to eliminate squeaks or loose boards, and install new planks at right angle (perpendicular) to the old floor, or over lay old floor with 1/4" plywood underlayment. Leave a 1/8" gap at the edges and nail with 7D or larger nails every 6" at the edges and every 12" in both directions and through the interior of each sheet of plywood. The moisture content of the wood or plywood should be within 2% of the moisture content of the acclimated wood flooring.

BEFORE FLOORING INSTALLATION

- Verify that the subfloor and flooring have acclimated.
- Verify floor is flat and structurally sound. Repair as needed.
- Undercut door casings
- Remove any existing wall base, shoe molding, quarter round or doorway thresholds
- Cover the clean surface, wall to wall, with 15 lb. asphalt saturated felt paper. Butting the edges together.
- Before beginning the actual installation, provide proper layout of flooring by distributing short and long lengths equally over the areas where the flooring is to be installed.

Remember: Flooring is to be installed at right angles to the floor joists and if possible, in the longest dimension of the room.

Important: Leave at least a 3/4" gap for expansion at all vertical surfaces. This gap will be covered by the baseboard and quarter round trim.

INSTALLING THE FLOOR

Wall Line Layout Method

- Align the first row of planks to be sure you have a good straight line from one side of the room to the other. Snap a chalk line at the desired distance from the wall to help align the planks. The end joints of plank or strip flooring should be staggered to achieve the best appearance in the finished floor. (Minimum 6")
- Align the first piece on the chalk line. The groove side and end will be facing the starting wall. Pre drill holes and drive 7D or 8D finish nails or screw type flooring nails into the face of the board every 12" approximately 1/3" - 3/4" from the edge closest to the starting wall and within 2" - 3" from the ends and in the darker grain of the wood.
- Edge nail the plank by driving the same type nails at a 50o angle through the tongue of the first piece, spacing the nails every 6" - 9" and within 2" - 3" from the ends. This process should be repeated for each piece in the entire first row. Upon completion of the first row, go back and sink the face nails with a nail punch. If it appears that the holes will not be covered by the wall base or quarter round trim, fill the holes with Floor Putty, which blends with your floor.

Note: Typically the first few rows must be edge nailed by hand rather than with a nailing machine due to a vertical wall obstruction. When clearance allows, a nailing machine, which drive 2" fasteners with an appropriate mallet, can be used to simplify and speed up the nailing process.

- Install each succeeding row of planks by edge nailing the tongue side every 8" - 10" to within 2" - 3" from board ends. Be attentive to staggering the ends of the boards at least 6" in adjacent rows to avoid clustering end joints. Upon reaching the last row to be installed, the planks should be ripped to allow a 3/4" expansion space. The last rows must be fastened by nailing approximately 1/2" - 3/4" from the back edge of the board every 12". The same process of counter sinking the face nails and applying Flooring Putty should be repeated (as above on starting wall).

Make sure when the installation is complete that the expansion space is covered with the appropriate molding such as, base board and quarter round.

Center Line Layout Method

- Using the trammel point method find the center of the room and snap a line down the center in the longest direction.
- Install a starter board along the line using wood screws.
- Nail the first row of flooring against the starter board, being careful not to move the starter board when nailing. The groove edge should be against the starter board.
- Drill and hand nail the first three rows through the tongue. Do not use top nails.
- Use a blind nailer to install the remaining rows of flooring.
- After installing in one direction remove the starter board and start rows going in the opposite direction. This requires installation of a spline or slip tongue to join the groove edges and reverse direction.
- Install the remaining rows to complete the room.

Special circumstances:

Doorways: Attempting to continue installing rows through a doorway into another room can cause problems because the narrow opening is a very small base upon which to continue consistent even rows into the next room. Instead install the floor in each room normally until you get to the door. Then cut to fit the board, connecting the floors of the rooms with a T-Molding.

Pipes, vents and other fixed objects: Each can be unique, but the general rule is to measure very carefully before you cut and remember to leave a 1/2" expansion gap between the object and the flooring. You will cover expansion gaps with molding, vent covers or pipe rings when the floor is complete.

CARE GUIDE

Your IPA Tropical Floors will add warmth and beauty to your home for many years to come. Following a few simple maintenance steps, however, will help protect your investment and keep your IPA Tropical Floors like new.

CLEANING

- Use a cloth to blot up spills and spots as soon as they happen. For tough spots such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, tar or cigarette marks, use acetone/nail polish remover then wipe with a damp cloth. Always avoid allowing liquids to stand on your floor.
- Vacuum, (using the hard floor attachment not the beater bar), dust mop or sweep the floor to minimize abrasive grit and dirt.
- Periodically clean the floor with a Hardwood Flooring Cleaner, which is specially formulated for factory finished floors. Brands include Bona X, Basic Coatings, Armstrong, Mirage.
- Do not use oil based, wax, polish, or strong ammoniated or abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring powder to clean the floor.
- Do not wash or wet-mop the floor with soap, water, oil soap detergent or any other liquid cleaning material. This could dull the finish and cause swelling or warping and void the warranty.
- Do not use any type of buffing machine.

PROTECTING

- Use quality area rugs and doormats by outdoor entrance areas to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substances such as oil, asphalt or driveway sealer from being tracked onto your floor.
- Sweep, dust or vacuum the floor regularly to prevent accumulation of dirt or grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- Use floor protectors and wide bearing leg bases/rollers to minimize scratches from heavy objects. As a rule of thumb, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector should be.
- Do not use rubber or foam backed plastic mats as they may discolor the floor. To prevent slippage use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
- Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 40% and 60% throughout the year, to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of wood.

Heating Season (Dry): In colder climates a humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tends to create very dry conditions.

Non Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner or dehumidifier can maintain humidity during the summer months. Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.

- Avoid gouges or cuts in your floor from sharp objects. While your Ipa Tropical Floor is one of the most wear resistant floors on the market, sharp or pointed objects can nevertheless damage it.
- Don't walk on your floor with stiletto-style heels, spiked golf shoes or cleats; they may cause indentations in your floor.
- Rearrange area rugs and furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. UV sunlight will affect the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees
- Keep pet's nails trimmed.
- Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances.



IPA TROPICAL FLOORS, Inc.

LIMITED WARRANTY

FACTORY FINISHED HARDWOOD FLOORING

This IPA Tropical Factory Finished Hardwood Floor comes with a 25 year finish and wear warranty.

This warranty, which begins from the date the flooring is purchased, applies to wood flooring used in dry residential applications.

What IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. Factory Finish Limited Warranty covers:

Finish and Wear Warranty - IPA Tropical Floors, Inc warrants to the original purchaser that its finish surface will not peel off or wear through for the indicated period of time, from the date the factory finished flooring is purchased.

Product determined to have any possible defect by the person doing the installation should be returned to your dealer for inspection and possible replacement **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**. All questions of product quality are to be addressed prior to installation. Installation implies acceptance.

What you should do if peeling or wear through occurs and you need warranty service:

You (the original retail customer) should notify the dealer or distributor from which the original purchase was made of any defect no later than 30 days after discovering the defect, but within the time period of the applicable limited warranty.

You (the original retail customer) must present to that dealer or distributor the following items for a warranty claim to be considered:

- a valid proof of purchase in the form of a sales receipt or other documents which establish proof of purchase
- a description of the problem and a photograph or sample that clearly shows the warranty problem

The dealer or distributor will then forward this information to: Claims@ipa2go.com

What IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. will do should you need warranty service:

If IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. accepts a claim under this limited warranty, it will authorize your dealer or distributor to repair or replace, at IPA Tropical Floors, Inc.'s option, the affected flooring material. IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. will pay the reasonable labor and materials costs to perform the replacement or repair during the first five years from the date of the original purchase. IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. will pay the reasonable materials costs to perform the replacement or repair during the next twenty years from the date of the original purchase. In the event that the style installed in the home is no longer available, IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. will authorize your dealer to replace the affected floor with another style of equal value. The above described remedy is the customer's sole and exclusive remedy for claim under this limited warranty.

This IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. Limited Warranty is subject to the following conditions:

This limited warranty is valid only in North America. The warranty is not transferable. It extends only to the original retail consumer. This limited warranty applies only where the affected area of the IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. finished flooring is visible and covers an area greater than 10% of the room. The flooring must be installed in accordance with National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) recommended installation guidelines. This limited warranty shall not apply to damage arising from and specifically excludes any of the following:

- Natural color variations, nor the normal difference between color samples or photographs and colors of installed floors.
- Indentation, scratches or damage caused by negligence, water moisture, insects, animals, and high heeled or spiked shoes, or failure to use pads under rolling chairs or other furniture.
- Excessive or inadequate humidity in the area. Relative humidity in the area of use must be within a normal range of 40%-60%.
- Damage caused during the installation process.
- Improper or insufficient protection, care and maintenance.
- Accidents abuse or misuse. Warranty will be made void if man-made or natural disasters including leaking or broken plumbing, fire, flood, earthquake, or standing water occur during or after installation.
- Improper alteration of original manufactured product. Alterations or repairs to the manufacturer's original product will void any and all warranties
- Changes in color due to full or partial exposure to sunlight and weather
- Hardwood Flooring may darken due to light exposure. This is a natural occurrence and is not covered by this warranty.
- This warranty does not cover removal or replacement of cabinets, appliances, furniture or other fixtures.
- Gloss reduction is not considered wear.
- Freight

Please Note: IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. does not grant to any person or entity the authority to create for it any obligation or liability in connection with wood flooring finished by IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. IPA Tropical Floors, Inc. shall not be liable to the consumer or any other person for any incidental, special or consequential damages, arising out of breach of this limited warranty or any implied limited warranty (excluding merchantability). Some states do not allow the excluding of limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to the purchaser. This warranty gives the customer specific legal rights, such rights may vary from state to state.