

A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ON PRAVADA FLOORS FINE PRODUCTS

# SPACES

HERRINGBONE | INSTALLATION



**PRAVADA**<sup>®</sup>  
F L O O R S



## PLEASE READ COMPLETELY BEFORE INSTALLATION

*Please inspect product for color, finish, quality and style BEFORE installing any material. Pravada Floors' warranty DOES NOT cover materials with visible defects once they have been installed. Any defects should be reported to the flooring dealer IMMEDIATELY for inspection and/or replacement. Failure to follow recommended installation procedures may void warranty.*

*ALL PLANKS ONCE INSTALLED ARE CONSIDERED AS ACCEPTED BY THE INSTALLER AND/OR HOMEOWNER AND THE MANUFACTURER ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ABOVE.*

### TOOLS & ACCESSORIES

- Rubber mallet & Tapping block
- Mitre saw, table saw or circular saw
- Framing Square
- Level
- Measuring tape
- Utility knife
- Square piece of plywood (length of a plank)
- Moisture meter
- Adhesive & trowel
- Adhesive remover
- Pencil
- Chalk line
- Safety glasses and dust mask
- Broom and dust pan

TIP: To prevent damaging this flooring, avoid pounding on it with a rubber mallet during installation. Instead, use a tapping block against the edge of the plank.

## BEFORE YOU START

### HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE

Wood is a natural resource made of fibers that will naturally contract and expand with changes in humidity. This contraction and expansion of wood is normal and will not harm your floor as long as relative humidity (R.H.) levels are maintained between 35% and 55% and temperature between 65-75° F (18-24°C) for at least 3-5 days prior to installation and maintained thereafter. This may require the use of an appropriate ventilation and/or humidification system including a humidifier or dehumidifier. Failure to maintain proper humidity levels can exacerbate any problems. Always maintain a 3/4" (19mm) expansion gap around all vertical obstructions including walls to allow for contraction/expansion.

Do not handle products in moist or damp areas. Store flooring in a dry, well ventilated, climate-controlled environment. If delivery is to a construction site, flooring should be placed inside a sufficiently enclosed building to ensure it is protected from the weather.

### ACCLIMATION

Floors should be acclimated for at least 72 hours in the room in which they will be installed. Planks with any visible defects must be put aside for replacement for warranty coverage to apply. Once floor boards are installed, they are considered accepted and warranty coverage will no longer apply. *Failure to allow flooring to acclimatize prior to install could result in stress cracks, cupping and/or squeaks.*



## POST-INSTALLATION COVERINGS

Once installation is complete, cover your floors using heavy-duty protective flooring paper prior to proceeding with further renovation projects. Pravada Floors does NOT recommend using any kind of tape on the actual flooring.

- Tape any covering to base or shoe mouldings using a low-adhesive tape.
- Do not tape to finished flooring! When taping the protective paper and/or sheeting, always ensure to overlap the rows in order to tape each row together.
- Do not allow floor covering to sit on the installed floor for an extended period of time.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for any type of cover.

## COLOUR CHANGES AND VARIATION

Hardwood flooring ages and matures over time with exposure to UV light. Most floors will darken and become richer in colour. To prevent spot darkening of floors, routinely rearrange area rugs and large pieces of furniture.

Many wood floors will display variation in colour from board to board. Some floors will have more variation than others depending on the species. This is not indicative of any fault in the floor, but is a natural occurrence with any wood product. Install boards simultaneously from several cartons to ensure good mix of colour and shading.

## MOISTURE

Water and wood do not mix. Spills or liquids should be wiped off your floor promptly and thoroughly. NEVER wet mop your wood floors. Damage resulting from standing water or liquid is not covered by warranty.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

IMPORTANT: Please follow Pravada Floors Care & Maintenance guidelines available at [pravadafloors.com](http://pravadafloors.com) for special recommendations on care and maintenance.

## PREPARING THE AREA

### ENVIRONMENT

- Maintain temperature between 65-75° F (18-24°C) and R.H. at 35-55% for at least 3-5 days before installation, during and maintain after installation. HVAC systems must be operational for at least two week prior.
- Radiant heat systems must be operating at least two week prior to installation. Turn off and let subfloor cool down to room temperature 3-4 hours before installation.
- Ensure basements and crawl spaces are sufficiently ventilated (1.4% of open venting per 1000/square feet ((92.90 m2)) of floor area).
- Insulate overheating and un-insulated heating ducts using a double layer of #15 asphalt felt paper.
- Pravada Engineered floors can be installed on, above and below grade where proper care has been taken to ensure flooring conditions meet installation and warranty requirements.



## Mouldings

- If needed, use a jam saw to undercut door casings and jams so that flooring can slide underneath.
- Scrape the top edge of base mouldings with a utility knife prior to removing mouldings to prevent tearing paint or drywall.
- Remove all existing mouldings and doorway thresholds before installing floor.

## Materials

- Ensure the product you have ordered is the one you have received.
- Acclimatize floors for at least 72 hours.
- Ensure flooring application is appropriate for engineered flooring.
- Do NOT install floors in moist or damp areas such as, but not limited to, full bathrooms, saunas or outdoors.

## SUBFLOORS

ALL SUBFLOORS MUST BE LEVEL within 3/16" over 10' (5mm in 3m) prior to installation. Subfloors that are not level can cause creaking or squeaking which will not be covered by warranty. Carefully inspect your subfloor and replace any nails that are not completely secure. Close adherence to installation instructions can minimize the risk however, there is no guarantee or warranty that your engineered hardwood floor will not squeak. Squeaks are caused when the subfloor separates from the joist. This can happen with temperature and humidity changes or when new construction settles, changing the levelness of the subfloor. It is recommended that your subfloor is screwed down rather than nailed down to prevent squeaking. Sub-floor flatness is crucial to the overall design of herringbone installations. Depressions around an island, for example, may result in an off-square layout that can cause visual distress.

## Plywood

A minimum of 3/4" thick plywood is required. Inspect subfloor for creaking, loose edges, chips, sags, etc. and repair if necessary. Subfloor must be level. If installing new plywood subfloor, lay on a diagonal or perpendicular to flooring joists, 1/8" (3mm) spacing between panels. Install #15 felt floor liner under subfloor placed over concrete. Securely fasten down plywood panels at least every 6" (152mm). Over old wood floors, apply 1/4" to 3/8" (6.5-9.5mm) plywood. If a wood sub-floor is used above soil, a 6-mil polyethylene moisture barrier with taped seams should be placed over the soil to prevent moisture from getting into the engineered flooring. OSB must be APA rated, at least 3/4" (19mm) and maintained in a controlled environment.

## Concrete

Concrete subfloors must be cured for at least 45-90 days with 30-60 days drying time prior to installation. Moisture tests must be completed and documented on all concrete slabs using an accurate moisture test. All concrete slabs should have a minimum of 6-mil poly film moisture barrier between the ground and concrete regardless of results.

Subfloor moisture should not exceed 12% and the difference in moisture between subfloor and flooring should not exceed 3%. If moisture limits are exceeded, DO NOT INSTALL flooring, prior to correcting the problem. Correct by raising the heat and increasing ventilation until proper conditions are met.

*Please note: Proof of moisture testing documentation may be required for warranty claims. Existing carpeting or under pad MUST be removed.*



**POLYFILM TEST:** 1 test per 200 sq.ft.  
(2 test min. per job site)

For each test spot, place a 2'x2' piece of 6-mil polyethylene film (polyfilm) over concrete and secure with duct tape, ensuring no holes for moisture to escape. Examine film after two days and see if there is any evidence of moisture: fog, dampness, cloudiness or colour change.

**PHENOLPHTHALEIN TEST:** 1 test per 200 sq. ft.  
(2 test min. per job site)

Chip off a small piece of concrete from subfloor and apply 3% phenolphthalein in an alcohol solution to the subfloor (not the chip). Chipping off a piece gives a more accurate moisture reading than testing the surface if sealers have been used. Red colour indicates moisture.

**CALCIUM CHLORIDE TEST:** 1 test per 1000 sq.ft. 24 hours

You will need a calcium chloride test kit. Clean test area to remove any debris, wax, sealers, dirt or other contaminants. Floor and surrounding area should be at least 65°F. Follow instructions as per test kit.

Concrete subfloors must be free of any contaminants such as sealers, paint, oil, wax, etc which can affect proper adhesion of floors. DO NOT use a solvent based stripper to remove any contaminants. Sand any loose concrete with open grit #20 sandpaper and vacuum any debris. Grind down any raised areas and fill in low areas with leveling compound to ensure subfloor is completely level. DO NOT install over concrete with compressive strength less than 2500psi.

## RADIANT HEAT

Pravada Engineered floors are approved for use over hydronic (not electric) radiant heat. When installing Wood Flooring over radiant heat, glue down installation over radiant heat is acceptable. Please review our "Special Limited Radiant Heat Warranty" and follow all guidelines for subfloor preparation prior to installation.

### Special Care for Radiant Heat

- Ensure flooring is approved for use over radiant heat.
- Use adhesives specially formulated for use over radiant heat.
- NEVER penetrate heating elements when installing floors over radiant heat.
- Always check subfloors for moisture. Subfloors must have proper moisture tests performed.
- An outside thermostat should be installed to prevent changes in moisture content due to temperature.
- DO expect seasonal shrinkage and expansion with changes in temperature and humidity.
- DO expect seasonal shrinkage and expansion with changes in temperature and humidity.
- For hydronic radiant heat, a pressure test must be performed and documented by a qualified plumber or radiant heat installer prior to flooring installation.
- Overheating of wood flooring by boiler temperatures exceeding 31°C will result in excessive gapping/trauma voiding the warranty.

### IMPORTANT!

With radiant heating, it is **EXTREMELY** important to maintain humidity at 35-55% and never fall below 35%. Temperature **MUST NOT EXCEED 82°F**. A humidifier and/or dehumidifier may be needed to maintain humidity at desired levels. Some species may require 45-55% humidity levels. Please consult your local dealer for more details.



## Turning Radiant Heat OFF/ON

- Radiant heating system should be run at 2/3 of maximum output for at least 2 weeks before installation to allow any remaining moisture to dissipate.
- Three to five days prior to installation, reduce heating system to 65°F (18°C) so adhesive does not cure excessively or too fast.
- Two days AFTER installation, gradually raise temperature to desired level over the next week.
- SURFACE TEMPERATURE SHOULD NEVER EXCEED 27°C (82°F).
- MAINTAIN RELATIVE HUMIDITY AT 35-55%.

## GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION GENERAL RULES

- Le Rêve Herringbone Flooring by Pravada Floors Inc was designed to be installed exclusively using glue down method.
- Le Rêve Herringbone Flooring by Pravada Floors Inc was designed with the appropriate tongue and groove technology on all four sides of each plank. Each package will contain four lefts and four right reverse tongue planks. Each plank will be marked with an "L" for Left or "R" for Right.
- A left-tongue plank and a right-tongue plank will be required to form each joint.
- The Herringbone direction should run in accordance with client preference. The pattern may look best with the center line running in the direction of the longest dimension of the room or toward a major focal point such as fireplace, doorway or stairwell.
- It is crucial when dealing with a herringbone installation that the Sub-floor be flat and as level as possible. We recommend that the sub-floor level to be within 1/8" in 10 feet radius.
- Although the floor is fully bonded to the subfloor, an expansion gap should still be provided between the wall and the floor. It must be at least 1/16" for every 42" (1.5 mm for each metre) of floor width, including any fixed objects (walls, door frames, pillars, stairs etc.).
- Rooms up to 39' W x 120' L (12m W x 36m L) can be installed in one mass.
- Floors should be divided between rooms. Cover the expansion gap with a T moulding. All skirting boards or other mouldings must be at least 50 % thicker than the expansion joint.
- Clean any adhesive residue from the flooring surface IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT wait until the end of installation, since adhesive may dry and will be very difficult to remove without damaging the finish.
- DO NOT USE MASKING TAPE. Do not allow tape to sit longer than necessary. Tape removing floor finish is not covered by warranty.
- Avoid standing or putting weight on newly installed floors during installation.
- During installation it is recommended to periodically lift an installed plank to inspect for proper adhesive transfer. Adequate adhesive transfer is necessary to achieve proper bonding.
- Save a few boards in case board replacement or repair is necessary.
- DO NOT glue down any flooring DIRECTLY TO EXPOSED RADIANT HEAT PIPING. DO NOT DIRECTLY GLUE DOWN ANY WOOD FLOORING OVER BRITTLE LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE.
- USE ONLY RECOMMENDED GLUES: Bostik's Best or SikaBond T55 or Other Bostik adhesives for engineered flooring approved for use over radiant heat.
- Failure to comply with proper installation guidelines as stated in Pravada Floors Installation guide may void your floors warranty.

## HERRINGBONE GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

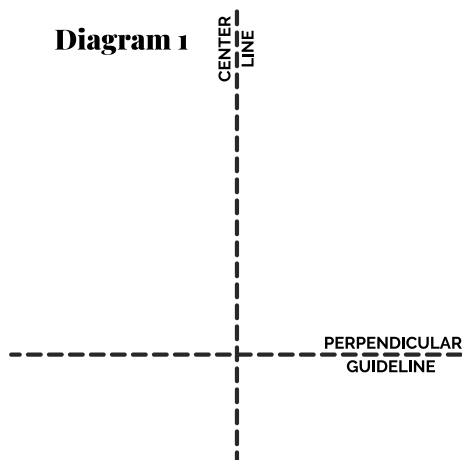
### STEP ONE: THE LAYOUT

#### Determine the direction of flooring.

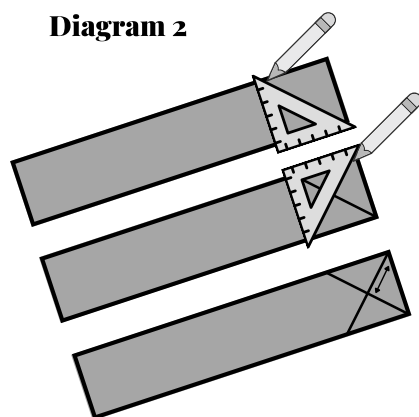
The Herringbone direction should run in accordance with client preference. The pattern may look best with the center line running in the direction of the longest dimension of the room or toward a major focal point such as fireplace or doorway. Be mindful of plumbness of walls as an off-square room can influence overall design. It is recommended to use a perfectly square piece of plywood that matches the length of your herringbone planks as a starting board to keep the pattern square throughout the process.

#### Establish guidelines.

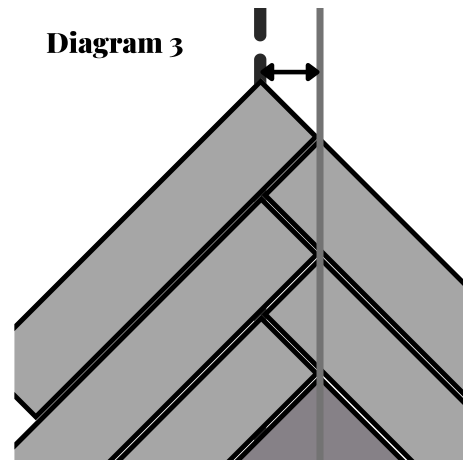
At the centre of the room, in the determined direction, snap a chalk line as your main centre line and another perpendicular to it in order to define your starting points. (Diagram 1)



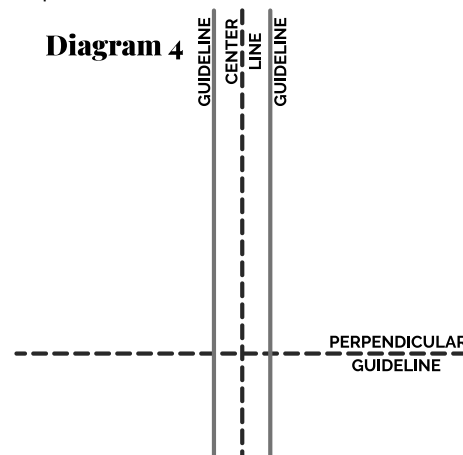
Mark a 45° angle from each corner at one end of a plank using a framing square, then measure the distance from the corner to where the lines intersect. (Diagram 2)



Alternatively, dry fit a few slats together then snap a chalk line through the corners and measure the distance between the lines. (Diagram 3)



Snap a chalk line exactly that distance to either side of the centre chalk line. These will be the guidelines to align to while installing the herringbone planks. (Diagram 4)



## STEP TWO: SPREADING THE ADHESIVE

Temporarily secure the square plywood starting board to the subfloor, with its top and bottom points aligned with the guideline to the right of centre. (Diagram 5)

The starting board will help to ensure the pattern stays true while the adhesive sets. It should be removed and replaced with planks once a good portion of the flooring has adhered to the subfloor.

Follow all directions according to the adhesive manufacturer (Recommended: Bostik EFA). Use a trowel recommended by the adhesive manufacturer to spread adhesive over an area that can be covered with flooring within 30-90 minutes. Work trowel at 45° angle in a circular motion. (Diagram 6)

To avoid adhesive bleedthrough and memory pull-back, avoid sliding pieces through the adhesive as much as possible when placing them in position.

If required by adhesive manufacturer, roll floor with appropriate weight roller before adhesive cures. If necessary, use weights to flatten boards with bows until adhesive cures in order to prevent hollow spots.

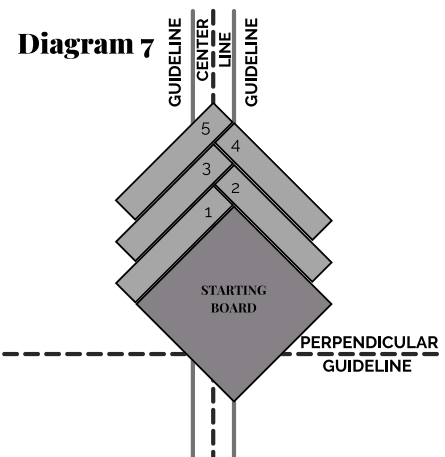
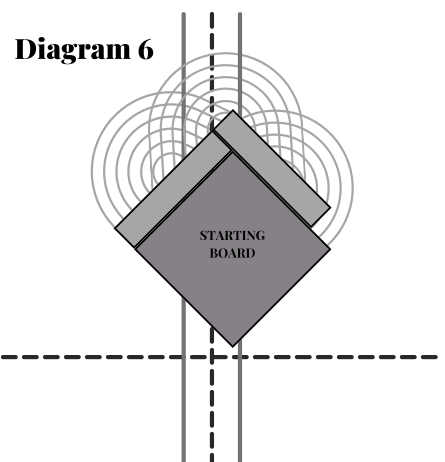
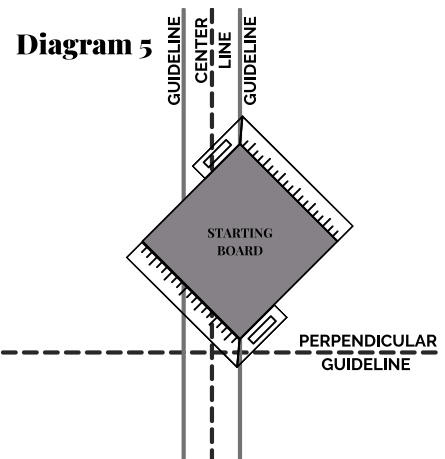
## STEP THREE: INSTALLING THE FLOOR

Le Rêve Herringbone Flooring by Pravada Floors Inc was designed with the appropriate tongue and groove technology on all four sides of each plank. Each package will contain four lefts and four right reverse tongue planks. Each plank will be marked with an "L" for Left or "R" for Right.

Place a left plank, groove side down, against the left side of the starting board. Connect the right plank perpendicular to it, ensuring that the edges line up perfectly with the starting board, the guidelines and each other. (Diagram 7)

Use a tapping block and rubber mallet to secure planks.

Proceed with installation by alternating sides and ensuring that each plank is tightly connected and aligned before the adhesive sets.





## STEP THREE: INSTALLING THE FLOOR (cont...)

After a number of planks are secured, remove the starting board that was temporarily secured to the subfloor. Replace the starting board with planks to complete the first row of the pattern.

As planks are placed, it is important to pay close attention to the working lines. Ensure guidelines stay visible through the adhesive to make it easy to identify when the pattern is jogging.

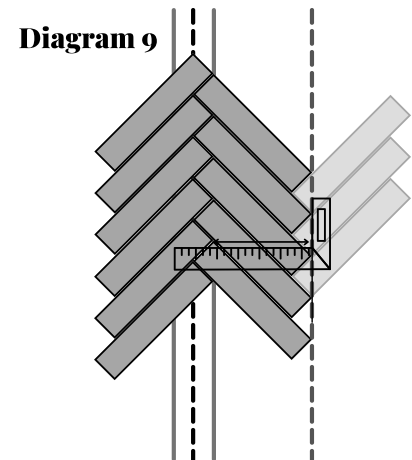
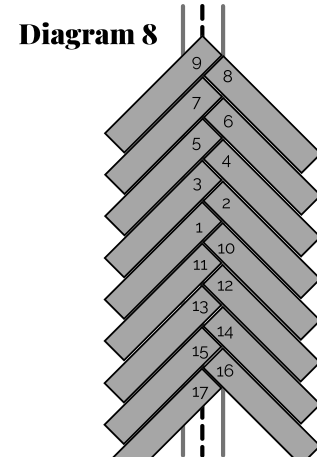
Adjust as needed throughout the installation, to ensure the alignment of planks stays true, before the adhesive sets. (Diagram 8)

Use a framing square to measure the distance from the top points of the right planks (or the right guideline) to the outer points of the right planks. Mark your chalk line. (Diagram 9)

This measurement is used to establish centre for the next row.

The process can also be used to establish centre on the left side of the first row. Starting points will be the centre line

Using this method, patterns that jog will be immediately noticeable.



## STEP FOUR: FINISHING

Inspect floor for any gaps, chips and adhesive residue. Remove all residue, touch up chips and fill with appropriate filler if necessary. Use coloured latex filler for factory finished floors.

Install or reinstall all mouldings, nailing to wall, not the floor. Add shoe base if necessary.

Vacuum or sweep floor thoroughly.

Use only cleaners formulated for pre-finished hardwood floors. NEVER WET MOP OR SPRAY CLEANER DIRECTLY ON FLOOR.

Once installation is complete, cover your floors using heavy-duty protective flooring paper prior to proceeding with further renovation projects. Pravada Floors does NOT recommend using any kind of tape on the actual flooring.