



HOW TO: Install Hardwood Flooring



Tools & Materials

- **Safety gear:** Ear protection, safety glasses, dust mask
- **Measuring and marking:** Tape measure, carpenter's pencil, chalk line
- **Cutting:** Circular saw, jigsaw, miter saw
- **Installation:** Flooring mallet, tapping block, pull bar, flooring stapler or nail gun
- **General:** Hammer, utility knife, level, sander, vacuum cleaner
- Hardwood Flooring
- Transitions (if required)

Preparation

- Stack the unopened boxes in the installation space for 48-72 hours before starting.
- Remove all furniture and belongings from the room.
- Ensure the subfloor is clean, dry, and level.
- Lay underlayment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Leave an expansion gap of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch around the room's perimeter to allow for natural wood movement.

Pro Tips

- Purchase an extra 10% SQ.FT of flooring for cuts and mistakes.
- Determine the plank direction and starting point for a visually appealing pattern. Avoid laying seams directly opposite doorways.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for nailing or stapling the planks to the subfloor. Pre-drill nail holes to prevent wood splitting.

Step By Step Installation

- 1)** Secure the starting plank with nails or staples, leaving the expansion gap. Slide the next plank's tongue into the groove of the first, tapping it into place. Repeat for the rest of the row.
- 2)** Stagger the seams as you lay each new row. Use a pull bar to tighten stubborn planks and ensure a level surface.
- 3)** Cut boards at the end of rows to fit the space using a saw. Check for uniform gaps and joints throughout the process.
- 4)** Utilize your saws to make precise cuts for doorways, pipes, and other fixed elements.
- 5)** Measure and cut the planks for the last row, leaving the expansion gap. Secure them with nails or staples.
- 6)** Reinstall the baseboards and trim, covering the expansion gap with shoe molding.
- 7)** Reattach the baseboards, trimming them as needed to fit around the flooring. Fill nail holes and caulk the gap between the baseboard and the wall for a finished look.

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