

## How should you store your materials if you won't be ready to install them right away?

- a. Make sure to store the product in a controlled environment. Permanent HVAC systems must be working and in operation to stabilize the interior environment under normal living conditions and to acclimate the wood. Ideal conditions are a temperature between 60-80 degrees Fahrenheit (15-26 degrees Celsius) and relative humidity between 35-55% at all times during and after installation. The use of a humidifier or dehumidifier may be required to maintain these conditions.
  - i. The HVAC must also be in operation during and after the installation to ensure a stable environment to protect the hardwood floor. Ideal conditions for installation are the same as indicated above for storage
- b. If you are unable to store the product in a controlled environment, allowing time for the product to acclimate to an HVAC-controlled environment that it is going to be installed in is going to be important for ease of installation.
  - i. Permanent HVAC systems must be working and in operation 14 days before acclimation. Ideal conditions are a temperature between 60-80 degrees Fahrenheit (15-26 degrees Celsius) and relative humidity between 35-55% at all times during and after installation. The use of a humidifier or dehumidifier may be required to maintain these conditions.
  - ii. After the 14-day environment acclimation, an additional 3-4 days of product acclimation in this controlled environment is suggested for ease of installation.
  - iii. The HVAC must continue to be controlled and maintained during the installation to stabilize the interior environment under normal living conditions and to acclimate the flooring. The HVAC must also be in operation during and after the installation to ensure a stable environment to protect the hardwood floor.
- c. If the product is not stored in the proper HVAC-controlled environment, planks may appear to be warped or swollen. If this does happen, please note that the product is not defective and can still be installed. As a resolution, acclimation will help the plank settle. If you choose not to wait for acclimation the installation process may be more difficult, however, we can assure you that the flooring will relax once installed and acclimated to its surroundings. The most important thing to remember is that the installer must follow our installation instructions and stagger the boards at a minimum of 15"-17" offset.

Please see the staggering sequence example below for reference.

The goal is to not repeat or line up offset lines for at least every 3-4 rows. Try to avoid having boards that are shorter than 12" or 17" in your pattern. The rule of thumb is that if it's a 48" product, use the 12" rule on the offset. For 72" products up to 8 feet, use the 17" offset rule.

