

After Installation

Once you have been given the go-ahead to move back into your room, you should put felt pads on the bottoms of any furniture that will come into direct contact with your floor. This will help minimize scratches and dents to your new wood floors. To further protect your floors and prevent scratches, place scatter rugs at all entrances, avoiding those with rubber backing. Finally, avoid walking on your floors with cleats or high heels in disrepair, which can scratch the finish or even dent the hardwood.

As your floor ages, you should expect some color change to occur. Because wood is a natural product, it is prone to changes in appearance, though in most cases, the change is quite subtle. Direct sunlight, furniture and rugs can cause color changes as well, so try to move your furnishings and rugs from time to time to help minimize color variations.

You should also be prepared for gaps to appear and then minimize during seasons of high and low humidity. Being a product of nature, wood breathes and reacts to changes in humidity and temperature, which can cause temporary gaps in your floor. In most cases, these spaces will correct themselves when conditions are more favorable. You can help minimize this by maintaining a constant humidity within your home, at or above 30% RH.

Finally, to keep your wood floors looking their best, you will need to properly care for and maintain them. Ask your contractor to recommend a cleaning product that is specifically designed for your type of floor, and use it regularly to keep your floors looking beautiful for years to come!



Wood Floors



What to Expect *Setting the Expectation*



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Congratulations on selecting hardwood flooring for your home! Hardwood flooring adds lasting beauty and value to any home and in order for your floors to be installed correctly, there are a few key steps that must be followed. This brochure will help ensure that job site expectations are set between you and your contractor before work begins, and you can begin enjoying your hardwood floors as soon as possible.

Preparation

Before any work begins, the first step will be to remove all furnishings from the room, including paintings and other wall decorations. To protect your furnishings from unintended damage, it is recommended you hire professional movers. If there are appliances that need to be removed, you should contact a professional. This is especially true with regard to gas and water line disconnect and reconnection to minimize any risk to you, your family, and your wood flooring professional.

Acclimation

Now that your room is ready, the wood should be delivered to your home to acclimate if new floors are being installed. Acclimation is an important step in the installation process and critical for a high-quality job. The amount of time required for proper acclimation is dependent on manufacturer's recommendations along with the living conditions in the home, including humidity and temperature.

If your project is a new construction or new addition, all windows and doors must be installed, and all other trades such as painting, tile, etc. must be completed before wood floors can be installed.

The installation process can be an incredibly messy process. It is important that you take precautions to protect your family and home from excessive dust. In order to ensure your hardwood floor is installed successfully, be sure that you and your contractor have discussed all key details of your job including timeline, installation methods and direction (in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations), and care and maintenance after the job is complete.

Sanding and Finishing

If you are installing unfinished wood flooring, the floors must be sanded and finished before use. When your floors are ready to have finish applied, be sure you know and understand what type of finish is being used, and that you are happy with the sheen level. No matter what type of finish or what sheen, things will move very quickly once the finish process begins. Because this is a critical phase, once the finish is being applied to your floors, you will have no access to the room until the finish is completely dried and has had time to cure. The time required will vary depending on the type of finish, humidity levels and temperature. Your contractor will let you know exactly when your floors will be safe to walk on and when furnishings can be put back into place, including rugs.

Important Considerations

Be sure you understand up front each aspect of the installation process, from how long the job is expected to take, to which direction the flooring will be installed, and how the wood flooring may vary in appearance. Keep in mind that wood is a product of nature and no two boards will be identical, and variations are normal.