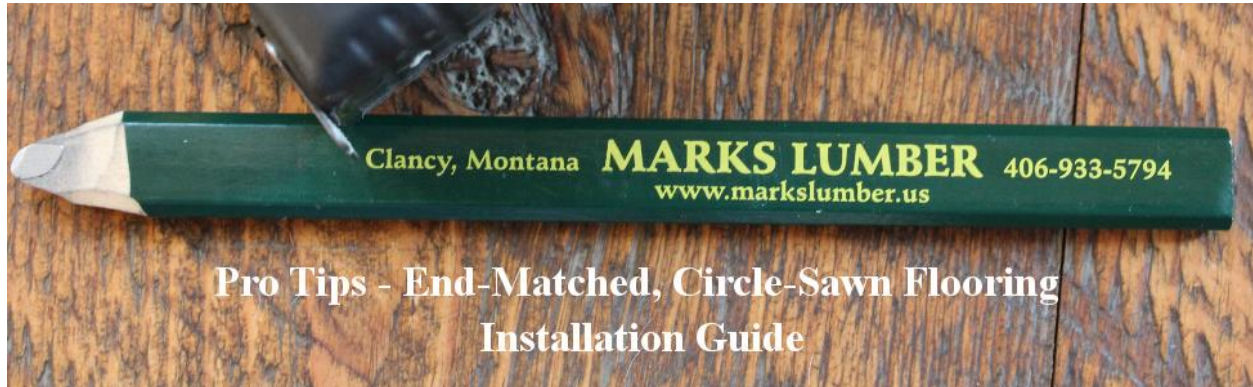


Important Installation Information



Overview

Proper installation of natural wood flooring is critical to its longevity. Marks Lumber recommends following Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) guide lines for installation and finishing of tongue and groove, with special attention to finish products to ensure long-term performance.

Acclimation is especially important for wood products like flooring that are installed edge-to-edge, over large areas. Letting all material reach climatic balance will greatly improve the quality of the install.

Acclimation

It is highly recommended to stack wood flooring materials with space between the pieces for 10 days and in the place of use. This process greatly aids in the long lasting beauty of Marks Lumber Circle Sawn flooring.

Pre-Installation Considerations

1. If your floor is over a non-heated crawl space, it can negatively impact the shrinkage of your wood floor. A vapor barrier is needed between your floor and the crawl space.
2. Before installing, check the sub-floor moisture content. The sub-floor and flooring moisture content should be close to the same percentage (6-8%) .
3. If installation is during winter or cold months, install at normal living temperature.
4. Do not install flooring right after or during taping, texturing or painting. The flooring will absorb unwanted additional moisture.

Tools Needed

- Cut off saw that will cut very square
- Chalk line
- 8 penny finish nails
- Flooring nailer*
- Flooring nails 1 ¼ to 2"

- Square vibrating floor sander*
- 120 grit sandpaper for floor sander- six of each
- Stain (not needed if leaving natural)*
- Bona Tech Floor Sealer- Marks Lumber has in stock
- Bona Tech Mega Finish- Marks Lumber has in stock
- Applicator & sleeve for sealer/finish- Marks Lumber has in stock

*Please ask for recommendations on stains, flooring nailer and floor sander

Installation

1. Start on a good straight wall and snap a line where the leading side (tongue side) of the board will be.
2. Nail the first board approximately ½" from the edge of the board on the wall side using an 8 penny finish nail about every 10". It is best to start with a 1X4 because they are easiest to make sure they are on a straight line.
3. Using a flooring nailer, nail the boards every 8-10" through the tongue starting about 1" from end of board. Hit the nailer once to set the boards as tight as possible, check all joints, and hit again to set the nail.
4. Use any short pieces as the first or last board in a row and the longer pieces in the center.
5. Use a pneumatic air nailer on the last couple rows, being sure to wedge the boards tight. The very last board will have to be nailed like the first row of boards.

Note: A few butt joints on a floor are not a big deal, so if you need to salvage a piece, go ahead.

Pre-Finish

1. Using the 120 grit paper, sand WITH the grain of the boards (Do not sand across the grain). Walk back and forth in a steady motion from one end of the room to the other. Usually just a couple times is enough.

Tip: Use a palm sander along the walls.

2. Check your floor for rough knots, sand with a palm sander as necessary.
3. Sweep and Vacuum the Floor

Stain – Skip to ‘Seal and Finish’ if you are not staining

1. Prior to staining; sweep and vacuum the floor, getting as much dust as possible.
2. How dark you want your floor will dictate how you stain. Our showroom floor has **Old Masters Dark Walnut** penetrating oil-based stain.
3. Start on the edge of your room and apply the stain liberally. We recommend 4ft width the full length of the room. Repeat until you have done the entire room.
4. Starting where you began staining, wipe off the excess stain. It will not hurt to walk on the stained floor since you will be wiping up your tracks.

5. It is important that you let the stain soak into each section for at about the same length of time to get a uniform appearance.
6. Let the stain dry using the stain manufacturer's specifications and proceed to the next step.
7. Using the 120 grit paper, sand again, one time to get light and dark look.
8. Vacuum the floor to get all dust removed.

Seal and Finish

Tip: Make sure you can SEE – Good Lighting is Key!

1. Dampen the applicator sleeve with water or use a damp cloth, to get any remaining dust. You will have to rinse the applicator sleeve a couple times during this process. When completely dust free, rinse applicator clean and shake off excess water.
2. Saturate the sleeve with Bona Seal and also pour sealer near the wall in a "w" pattern all along the wall. Wipe with the grain. It is very important that you have an even pool of sealer in front of the applicator so you won't have any dry spots. Angle the applicator so the excess finish "rolls off" towards you. Repeat in sections until finished. Work towards a doorway, out of the room. Let dry for two hours.
3. After the Bona Seal is dry, make sure and check your floor for any rough spots. Lightly sand these spots and dab with Bona Seal.
4. Repeat above application technique using Bona Mega Finish. You will need 2 or 3 coats of finish. It will be 70% cured in 24 hours, 100% cured in one week.

Further Information

Given the square footage, provided by you the customer, we will help you determine the appropriate amount of flooring to purchase without over buying. With our End Matching equipment in place, waste has been reduced in terms of defective boards within your purchase. Flooring material is not returnable.

Contact Marks Lumber:

Phone: 406-933-5794

Email: info@markslumber.us

Web: <http://www.markslumber.us>

This document draws heavily from the Western Wood Products Association guidelines. Complete installation guides can be purchased at their site:

Web: <http://www.wwpa.org>

Do it Right, Do it Once!

To ensure the lasting beauty of Marks Lumber T&G products, proper installation is critical.