Provincial Series Rustic wood floors

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE * Provincial Series wood floors are factory finished using condensed and modified, non toxic, and environmentally benign - vegetable oil.
It is a necessary step in the installation process to apply through use of a **power buffer** and slightly abrasive 'pad', a final coat of compatible WOCA brand, either 'Master Oil', or 'Maintenance paste', to complete the sealing of the wood for actual use. Failure to do so will result in a slightly rough surface, poor performance in collecting of dirt, and possible deterioration of the surface requiring more expensive maintenance procedures in future.

Plan for this step as part of the installation process.

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION

1. **Sub-floors** must be flat**. Depressions or low spots of 1/8" or greater compared the groove edge of a flooring board** must be filled using self-leveling compound. **Flooring** may be installed over concrete, including Radiant heated floors; plywood, particleboard, tile, or sheet vinyl, provided the floor is flat & secure. (See special instructions relating to heated sub-floor installation sites)
   **** Creaking or open joints caused by installation over low spots in sub-floors are the responsibility of the INSTALLER.**

Moisture must be prevented from penetrating the flooring from the sub-floor. Use 'Solid Sound' pad for best results.
Installations over concrete sub-floors, new construction, above saunas, steam rooms, or other spaces of high humidity require a good quality, properly installed vapour barrier such as Solid Sound to validate warranty. Concrete sub-floors on or below grade should be sealed with concrete sealer beneath the Solid Sound.

Keep a damp cloth handy to wipe up glue, which may ooze up from the joint.

INSTALLATION

1. To determine the number of boards required, divide the area to be covered by the width of the boards (6") Calculate the width of the last board along the ending wall. If the last row will be narrower than 2-1/2", we recommend you rip to width, both the starting & ending rows equally in order to avoid having too narrow a strip along the ending wall.

2. Check the starting wall to ensure it is straight. If more than 3/8" variation is present, the groove edge of the first row should be scribed to the wall and sawn length wise, so that the first row follows the contour of the wall and the tongue side will be straight.

3. Lay the Solid Sound pad, placing the first row **groove edge** to the wall using wedges to establish an expansion gap (¼" on rooms less than 20' wide). At this point if the butt joints are tight the boards are straight. Check again to ensure the expansion gap is correct. If scribing is required, it is done at this time.
Caution: Do not use more wedges than necessary to establish the minimum expansion gap.

4. Start the second row using the 'off-cut' from the first row. Ensure that end joints are 40cm or 16" apart on adjacent rows. Lay both first & second rows without glue, to ensure the joints are tight and the first two rows are straight.
**** Special Note - Time spent ensuring the joints on the first two rows are perfect pays! Don't try to "cut corners".**
Once sure the first two rows are straight and the joints are fully seated, disassemble & reassemble, this time gluing them together **(Apply glue to the upper edge of the groove rather than on the tongue).** Clean the joint with a damp cloth to remove glue residue before it sets. After having done so, leave these first rows for ½ hour to allow the glue to set before continuing with laying the floor.

5. **Glue & set boards** in place by tapping with hammer & hardwood strip or block. The boards will fit together well, if the butt joints are partially seated leaving approximately ¾" gap between the long joint T&G at the butt area before setting the side joint. Start setting the side joint from the opposite end from where the butt joint is, working toward the butt joint. In doing so the butt joint will be tight once the side is fully set. This is important as once the side joint is in place & tightened, it is impossible to move the board end-wise to tighten the butt joint. Once feasible during installation, cover the flooring already laid to protect it from possible damage from tools.

6. **Fitting around obstacles.** Place the board to be cut adjacent to the obstacle in position where the cutout must be. Using the square, mark the position of the obstacle from both the sides & ends of the board. Ensure measurements are correct before cutting. Replace the board & test fit before applying glue.

7. **In doorways.** Undercut doorjambs using a handsaw & a piece of scrap flooring, or properly adjusted undercut saw, in order to allow flooring to fit beneath the jam leg forming a nice joint.
8. **Last board.** Measure between the second last board & wall. Deduct the allowance for expansion gap. Rip the last board to width and test fit. If necessary scribe this board to the wall to ensure an even width of expansion gap. Glue & place the last board in position & tighten the joint using the pry bar or last board bar.
9. **Clean the floor thoroughly with vacuum cleaner** in preparation for applying sealing coat of either Master Oil or Maintenance paste as the customer may wish, using a power buffer to work the sealer layer into the finish.
10. NOTE * This is part of the installation process to protect the flooring and remove any short fibre remaining on the surface to yield a smooth durable and repairable natural Oil finish.
    a. We recommend use of a "Random Orbital" buffer for the purpose. They're easy to use, easy to control, and do a great job with little effort.

COMMON INSTALLATION PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

1. **UN-EVEN SUB-FLOOR:** The most common error made by installers of wood flooring is not ensuring the sub-floor elevation is sufficiently flat. A deviation of 1/8" over a span of 6 feet, is the maximum you should accept. This means for example if you find a 1/8" hump or hollow over a 3 foot distance it must either be ground down or filled, to prevent stress on the flooring itself resulting in squeaking, open joints, audible air movement beneath the floor, soft or ' spongy ' flooring etc. (Looks bad on the installer to leave such things un-attended)
   Without question, filling the sub-floor requires effort, costs money, and delays the installation. Regardless, it is vitally important to a successful installation, which ultimately reflects on everyone involved.

2. **NEGLECTING TO 'SCRIBE TO THE WALL':** In instances where the starting wall is not sufficiently straight, IE: compared to a straight edge or chalk line there is more than 3/8" variation in the straightness of the wall. If this is not the case, the first row of boards must be scribed to fit the starting wall; otherwise it is very likely that open joints will result. **CAUTION:** If the gap exceeds ¼" the temptation is to use more than one shim to fill the gap. This will not work well, as it allows the board to "bounce" against the wall while the boards adjacent to it are being tapped into place. The result is an inability to seat the joints tightly.

3. **INSTALLING OBJECTIONABLE BOARDS:** Manufacture and grading of Hardwood flooring is a process influenced by human beings. Owing to this, there is inevitably boards produced which may not meet the particular expectations of the homeowner. To avoid the possibility of having boards installed, which are inappropriate, we caution the installer to know in advance what the owner expects, inspect each board before installing and make their own judgment as to suitability. Occasional colour variations in a board, which naturally occur, can generally be used in places such as closets where it makes little difference, as opposed to the centre of a floor area where such variation may be objectionable. Again the installer must make the call and apply standards compatible with end user expectations. Clearly in this case, as well as in the unlikely event of miss-machined boards, it is the responsibility of the installer to do final Q.C. on the product as part of the installation.

4. **USE OF THE WRONG GLUE:** Floated installation requires the use of glue formulated to remain flexible while retaining its bond strength. Woodworkers' glue is not the same or equivalent so don't use it. Use one of the many brands of T&G Floated flooring glues available.