

GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Eddie Bauer Hardwood uses an ingenious patented system to "click" the planks together for a floating floor installation. This system enables you to work much faster than with traditional glued floating floors. Since there is no glue, it is much easier, cleaner and quicker to install. The following instructions are for a floating floor installation over an underlayment such as Quiet Walk.

Important!

You will need a light hammer and a tapping block made from a cut piece of flooring approx. 8-10" long

Rip a piece of scrap flooring in half for easier use. Tap on the ripped square edge while fitting the matching "tongue" into the broad "grooved" side of the plank. Never use any other tapping block, as it may damage the planks. From time-to-time, if fraying or torn edges occur on the tapping block, cut a new one.

Tap planks together gradually, if needed - working along the full length of the plank. Begin tapping lightly at the end/corner of a plank until the joint has clicked together. Repeat the process approximately every 12"-18" until the entire long edge of the plank has clicked snugly into the next plank. Usually, a tapping block is needed to start just the first two or three rows. As you get used to installing the planks you will find they "drop down and seat themselves quite easily once you are working on top of the flooring.

Correct Installation

Solid hardwood is the primary component of Eddie Bauer Hardwood floors. Since the humidity of a room can vary from one season to the next, the floor should be installed with an expansion of gap of approx. 3/8" along walls and vertical objects. Door jambs can be undercut so flooring can slide beneath the casing while still leaving the flooring with a 3/8" gap from the 2x4 wall framing or studs.

These gaps may be covered by a molding (such as a quarter round) that is not fixed to the hardwood floor, but to the wall. Where possible, provide expansion gaps under doors. Install the planks in the same direction as the longest wall, or the same direction in which the light falls, for a more appealing look.

If you are having trouble clicking planks together, please examine both edges and grooves to ensure that there are no wood chips or materials in the way. Even small chips can prevent the planks from snapping together because the click joint is a tight and precise assembly.

Begin installing the floor from the left (facing) corner of the room. Always remember that the easiest way to install the floor is by placing the tongue (small bead) into the groove (wider open joint profile).

DETAILED INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

The first row

After your subfloor preparation is complete, install the vapor barrier or the underlayment first. Follow manufacturer's directions. Orient the first plank in the left corner of the room as you face the wall you want the flooring to run parallel to. Begin laying the planks with the small tongue side facing the wall. You may have to trim this tongue off if your wall base trim will not cover it. After setting the first plank on the sub floor, install the second plank in the first row by holding it at a slight angle, making sure the end joint is tight and square to the first plank, and then laying it down on the subfloor. Continue laying the first rows along the wall. An expansion space of approximately 3/8" must be provided along the wall, as well as at all columns, heating pipes, door frames, etc. before replacing any wall moldings or base. This expansion space can be achieved after installing the few rows of planks tight against the wall - and then pulling that installed floor section slightly away from the wall. Leave the expansion gap where the ends of the planks hit the wall also. Use spacers to maintain that expansion allowance until the flooring installation is finished and you are ready to attach the base shoe or quarter round covering the expansion gaps.

Installing the second row (and subsequent rows) into the preceding row. You can either use small wedges (approx. 1" high) underneath the row of newly installed planks, or if you have a two person crew, one person can hold the outside edge of the new row slightly off the floor. Using your cut flooring tapping block, work from the "raised end" of the new plank and start lightly tapping along the entire length of the plank — until the joint is fully together/closed. As you tap each section/length tight to the preceding row, release the plank (pull the wedges) and be sure the plank is firmly positioned flatly on the floor.

Step 1



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6 and Repeat...

Working on the floor

Once 3 or 4 rows are installed, it makes sense to finish the room by kneeling on the installed floor and "pulling" the new planks into position. This eliminates the need to use wedges to keep the new planks slightly raised while "clicking" them together.

Staggering/Offsetting the planks

Use shorter lengths to provide a "staggered" placement of plank ends. It is normal to start the first row with a full length plank. Then progress to the end of the first row — cutting the required length for the last plank length. This allows you to use the "cut end" of the trimmed plank as a "starter" plank for the next row. It makes sense to imagine using a stagger pattern such as: First row, full length starter plank. Second row, half length plank starter. Third row one third length plank starter. Fourth row, two thirds length plank starter. You can repeat for a more uniform look or be more random if desired. In most installations the last piece in the row can be used as your starter boards. The key is simply to use lengths that give a separation of at least 18" between end joints of adjacent rows.

Setting the Last Row

There should be a 3/8" expansion joint between the final row and the wall. Tap the edges together using a board puller and hammer, or using a crow bar while protecting the wall and flooring with placement of protective "shims" between the tool and the wall.

A Note on Bowing or Side Bend

Occasionally a board may be slightly concave or convex along its length. Generally, this condition will correct itself once the planks are properly installed. If there is too much bend to snap the plank into place, cut the board for use as starter and end pieces.

Fitting around/under Door Frames

To avoid having to scribe around door frames, place a piece of trimmed flooring adjacent to the door frame. Use a saw to "undercut" the trim molding. Place the saw, parallel to the floor, onto a scrap piece of flooring block and cut into the door frame so the flooring can slide underneath. If you are using underlayment don't forget to add a piece under your spacer block to achieve the proper height of your cut.

Finishing the Job

After installing your floor, you can immediately walk on it and begin the final touches. This is one of the major benefits of this click installation system. Remove all perimeter spacers and install baseboards and quarter rounds if desired. Never attach the baseboard to the floor itself. You need to allow room for the subfloor & flooring to expand and contract underneath the baseboard. If a vapor barrier has been used, attach the baseboard over the raised edges of that membrane. Finish the job by using a silicone seal where any gaps or slight openings still appear.