

# Top Fifteen Do's and Don'ts

(When Installing Wood Flooring and Stair Treads)

## **MOST IMPORTANT!!!**

Always follow manufacturer instructions when installing hard wood or laminate flooring.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL**

- DO allow flooring or stair treads to acclimate to the relative humidity of the home. (Usually 1-2 weeks) Be sure to check moisture levels of the sub-floor.
- DO leave a gap of 5/8"- 3/4" (as much as possible depending on baseboard depth) to allow for expansion.
- DO install wood flooring over approved 5/8"- 3/4" thick sub-floor (particle board is not allowable). ALWAYS rip up old linoleum before installing hardwood flooring.
- Do use Red Rosin or 15 lb felt as an underlayment between the flooring and sub-floor in order to provide some moisture resistance as well as to reduce squeaking as the floor contracts and expands.
- DO NOT install solid wood flooring over radiant heat. Doing so will void the warranty on any solid prefinished or unfinished flooring. Engineered products are available for installation over radiant heat. ALWAYS follow manufacturer guidelines for setting radiant heat levels.
- DO install 3/4" solid wood flooring on or above grade but not below grade.

## **FLOORING INSTALLATION**

- DO follow a proper nailing schedule to insure minimal movement in flooring. On 2-1/4" strip flooring a nailing pattern of 6"- 8" between nails or staples is required with a maximum of 2" from the ends of the boards. On plank flooring 3"- 5" wide a nailing pattern of no more than 4"- 6" between nails or staples is required with a maximum of 2" from the ends of the boards. A general rule of thumb is to nail more often on a wider board.
- DO NOT glue joints on solid wood flooring. This will produce uneven gapping in the floor and may result in splits in the center of flooring planks. (Glue is only required on some engineered products or laminates that float and that are not adhered to the sub-floor).
- DO finish nail or face nail beginning and ending rows of flooring in order to provide room for the manual or pneumatic nail gun.

## **STAIR TREAD INSTALLATION**

- DO rip out old treads and put new treads over stringers when replacing stair treads . Installing new treads over existing treads may result in conflicting expansion and contraction rates.
- DO install treads before installing kick boards to allow for expansion in the treads leaving a gap of 5/8" to 3/4" between tread and back of stringers depending on the depth of risers.

## **FLOOR CARE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- DO NOT put a topcoat of finish on prefinished flooring because this may result in a voiding of the finish warranty.
- DO put pads on the bottom of furniture to prevent scratching or gouging in wood flooring.
- DO put runners or mats down in entranceways to cut down on dirt, rocks or debris scratching wood floors.
- DO NOT wet mop wood flooring. Use suggested wood floor cleaning products made specifically for prefinished wood flooring. Examples include Bona-Kemi and Mirage products.



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