



Better Hardwood Flooring

Better Service, Better Quality, Better Value

What to expect with flooring installation

Getting Ready

- **Remove All Furnishings** - This includes all furniture, appliances, window treatments, paintings etc. We are not professional movers and we cannot be responsible for items that are in our work area - even though much care is taken, items can be accidentally damaged while the wood and equipment is being moved in and out of the area.
- **Clean the Area** - Take the time to remove debris from the room and sweep the floors or subfloor if necessary. This will minimize or eliminate any additional installation time.
- **Temperature Control** - The HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems should be in operation and the temperature and relative humidity should be at normal living conditions. All windows and doors should be in place and all other trades such as painting, grouting, etc. should be completed.
- **Ask Questions** - Be sure you understand each aspect of the process, from the estimated timeline, to which direction the floor will be installed, to how the floor boards may vary in appearance. Keep in mind that wood is a natural product and no two floor boards will be identical. Variations in appearance are normal and will add to the beauty and charm of real wood floors.

If there are any appliances in the room, such as stoves, dishwashers or refrigerators, you should contact professionals to disconnect gas and water lines and reconnect them once the work is completed.



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During the Process

Unfinished Hardwood

Dust & Debris - If your floors are being sanded & finished on site, you need to be prepared for some noise and disruption. Although our machines are equipped with dust and debris collection mechanisms, there will still be some dust in the room that we will try our best to contain.

Finishing - When your floors are ready to have finish applied, be sure you know what type of finish is being used, and that you like the finish sheen (gloss, semi-gloss or satin). Because this is a critical phase, when 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 being used, humidity levels, and temperature.

Regardless, pets should be contained, and everyone should be kept out of the room for the duration of the finish dry time.

Total Time - Unfinished flooring can take as much as a few days to install, a few days to sand and apply finish plus dry time.

Prefinished or Laminate

Dust & Debris - Of course, newly installed factory finished floors will not need sanding onsite, but the installation process may still create some minimal dust and debris.

Finishing - Because the finish is applied at the factory, there is significantly less time to wait before you can walk on and put furniture back onto your new flooring. This time depends on if the flooring was glued down, nailed down or floated.

Total Time - Prefinished and Laminate flooring can be installed and ready to walk on again in one to just a few days depending on the size of installation.



We will let you know exactly when you can walk on the floors, and when furniture can be put back into place.



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After we're done

- **Prevent Scratching** - Put felt pads on the bottom of all furniture that will come into direct contact with your floors. This will help minimize scratches and dents. To further prevent scratches, place rugs at all entrances but avoid those with rubber backs because they can discolor your floor. Finally, avoid walking on your wood floors with cleats or high heels in disrepair, these can scratch the finish, or even dent your floor.
- **Color Changes** - As your wood ages, you should expect some slight color changes 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 furnishing and rugs around from time to time to help minimize color variations.
- **Environmental Changes** - Be prepared for slight spaces to appear and disappear between floor boards during seasons of high and low humidity. Being a product of nature, wood breathes and reacts to changes in humidity and temperature, this can cause temporary spaces in your floor. Generally, anything less than the width of a dime is considered normal, and in most cases, these spaces will correct themselves when conditions are more favorable.
- **Cleaning & Maintenance** - Finally, to keep your wood floors looking their best, you will need to properly care for and maintain them. Be cautious of using floor cleaning materials (even those marketed as "wood friendly") that you purchase at your local store. These products may contain chemicals that could damage your finish and possibly prevent future coats from properly adhering. Broom sweeping (soft bristles) and cleaning spills with a damp cloth are the only advisable techniques.

*Properly maintained
hardwood flooring can last
a lifetime.*



*For more information check out the
FAQ (floor care tips) section of
www.BetterHardwoodFlooring.com*