HUDSON OAK

INSTALLATION

Installation Instructions

Performance Collection · glue-down or floating

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These instructions apply to HUDSON OAK Performance Collection flooring: engineered planks and herringbone 1/2 in. (12.6 mm) thick, with a 0.6 mm genuine oak or walnut surface, a high-density HDF core and a tongue-and-groove profile. The flooring can be installed glue-down or floating. Install it in accordance with these instructions and the NWFA Installation Guidelines. Where the two differ, follow the stricter requirement. Installation that does not follow these instructions may void the limited warranty.

1. Before you begin

- The installer and owner are responsible for inspecting every board in good light before installation. Do not install boards with visible defects. Installing a board means accepting its appearance, color, grade and dimensions.
- Mix boards from several boxes as you work for a natural blend of color and grain.
- Order 5–10% more than the room area for cuts and waste, and more for herringbone, diagonal layouts and irregular rooms. See how much flooring

you need.
- Typical tools: moisture meter, straightedge, tape measure, saw, spacers, tapping block, pull bar, rubber mallet, notched trowel (glue-down), wood glue (floating), painter's tape and clean cloths.

2. Job-site conditions

- Install only after the building is enclosed and wet work such as concrete, plaster, drywall and paint is finished and dry.
- Heating and air conditioning must be running. Keep the room at 60–80°F (16–27°C) and 35–55% relative humidity for at least 48 hours before, during and after installation, and for the life of the floor.
- Do not install in bathrooms, laundry rooms, saunas, exterior or unheated spaces, or rooms with constant water exposure.
- Below grade (basements), install only over a concrete slab that passes the moisture tests in section 4.

3. Acclimation

Store the boxes flat and unopened in the room where the floor will be installed for at least 48 hours, under the conditions in section 2. Do not store boxes in a garage, outdoors, against exterior walls or directly on fresh concrete.

4. Subfloor requirements

Every subfloor must be clean, dry, structurally sound and flat to within 3/16 in. in 10 ft (5 mm in 3 m). Sand down high spots and fill low spots with a cement-based patching compound.

Wood subfloors

- Plywood at least 5/8 in. (15 mm) or OSB at least 23/32 in. (18 mm), securely fastened to the joists.

- Moisture content of the subfloor no more than 12%, measured with a moisture meter at several points.

Concrete subfloors

- New concrete must cure for at least 60 days.
- Test and record concrete moisture before installation: relative humidity no more than 75% by ASTM F2170 (in-situ probe), or a moisture vapor emission rate no more than 3 lb per 1,000 sq ft per 24 hours by ASTM F1869 (calcium chloride). Higher readings require a moisture-control adhesive or membrane system rated for the measured level.
- Keep the moisture test record. It is required for warranty claims.

Existing floors

- A floating floor may be installed over a single layer of firmly bonded, flat resilient flooring or ceramic tile.
- For glue-down installation, use only substrates approved by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Never install over carpet, carpet pad or cushioned vinyl.

5. Layout and expansion space

- Run planks parallel to the longest wall or to the main source of light. Snap a straight starting line rather than relying on the wall.
- Stagger end joints at least 8 in. (200 mm) from row to row, and avoid repeating patterns such as H-joints and stair steps.
- Leave an expansion space of 3/8 in. (10 mm) at all walls, door frames, pipes and other fixed objects. Cover it with baseboard or molding fastened to the wall, never to the floor.
- Floating floors: add a transition molding at doorways between rooms, and wherever the floor runs longer than 40 ft (12 m) in either direction.

6. Glue-down installation

- Use a urethane or silane-modified (MS polymer) wood flooring adhesive approved for engineered flooring with an HDF core. Do not use water-based adhesives: water can swell the HDF core.
- Apply adhesive with the trowel the adhesive manufacturer specifies. Spread only as much as you can cover within the adhesive's open time.
- Set boards into wet adhesive and engage the tongue and groove with a tapping block. No glue is needed in the joints.
- Lift a board now and then to check that the adhesive covers the back of the board fully.
- Remove adhesive from the surface immediately, with the cleaner the adhesive manufacturer recommends.
- Allow light foot traffic after 24 hours. Wait for the adhesive's full cure time, usually 24–48 hours, before moving furniture back.

7. Floating installation

- Over concrete, lay a 6-mil polyethylene vapor retarder first, with seams overlapped 8 in. (200 mm) and taped, or use an underlayment with a built-in vapor barrier.
- Use a dense underlayment made for wood floors, no thicker than 1/8 in. (3 mm), unless the underlayment manufacturer approves otherwise.
- Apply a continuous bead of water-resistant PVA wood glue (D3 / ANSI Type II) in the groove on both the long and short sides of each board. Wipe off any glue that squeezes onto the surface right away with a damp, well-wrung cloth.
- Hold rows tight with painter's tape or straps until the glue sets, and keep traffic off the floor for 12–24 hours.
- Never fasten a floating floor to the subfloor. Do not install kitchen cabinets, islands or other fixed, heavy objects on top of it: install the floor around them.

8. Radiant floor heating

- The Performance Collection is compatible with hydronic and electric radiant heating systems approved for wood floors, with either installation method. For glue-down, the adhesive must be approved for radiant heat.
- Run a new system for at least 5 days before installation to dry the subfloor. Turn it down to about 65°F (18°C) or off for 24 hours before, during and for 24 hours after installation.
- Then raise the temperature gradually, by no more than 3°F (2°C) a day.
- The floor surface temperature must never exceed 80°F (27°C). Avoid thick rugs and mats that trap heat.

9. After installation

- Install moldings and transitions, then clean the floor with a dry microfiber mop.
- If other trades are still working, protect the floor with a breathable covering such as rosin paper. Do not use plastic sheeting, and do not tape directly to the finish.
- Fit felt pads under furniture and use chair mats under rolling chairs.
- Keep indoor conditions at 60–80°F and 35–55% relative humidity. Follow the care and maintenance guide.

Questions before or during installation: hello@hudsonoak.co.