




## Installation Instructions


### Engineered Hardwood HDF Flooring

Visit [homelegend.com](http://homelegend.com) for latest version of installation instructions.

Products Included	Approved Grade Levels	Approved Installation Method
All Engineered Hardwood HDF with click lock/drop lock joints.	Above Grade. On Grade. Below Grade	Primary Method: Floating. Optional Method: Full Spread Glue.

#### CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS

 **WARNING:** This product can expose you to formaldehyde gas which is known to the State of California to cause cancer. For more information, go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov).

 **WARNING:** Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood).

#### CAUTION: ASBESTOS IN EXISTING FLOOR

**Home Legend product does not contain asbestos.** Existing installed resilient flooring and asphaltic adhesive may contain **asbestos fillers or crystalline silica**. **Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic “cutback” adhesive or other adhesive.** See “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” ([rfci.com](http://rfci.com)) for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

#### Owner/Installer Responsibility

The owner is advised to be at home during the installation for consultation/direction. The owner and installer should discuss installation and layout to maximize satisfaction. If this is not possible, consultation should be done prior to installation. Installers should be familiar with installation guidelines from National Wood Flooring Association ([woodfloors.org](http://woodfloors.org)).

The owner/installer assumes all responsibility for product quality of completed installation.

**PERFORM PRE-INSTALL INSPECTION. FOR CLAIMS PURPOSES, YOU ARE ALLOWED TO OPEN UP TO 4 BOXES FOR PRODUCT INSPECTION. DO NOT OPEN ALL THE BOXES. OPENING ALL THE BOXES CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRODUCT. INSPECT ALL THE PLANKS IN THESE 4 BOXES CAREFULLY. EXAMINE FLOORING FOR COLOR, FINISH AND QUALITY. IF YOU DISCOVER THAT PRODUCTS ARE DEFECTIVE, OR IF MATERIAL IS QUESTIONABLE, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE RETAILER. IF YOU ARE SATISFIED, PROCEED WITH INSTALLATION.**

*The length of each plank in any box can vary from 12 inches to the maximum full length stated on the packaging or other product descriptions. Each box can contain all full-length boards or a combination of full length and shorter boards. There is no specific percentage of product length distribution.*

Prior to installation, rack up planks from several boxes to ensure uniform distribution of colors, shades and characters in the installed flooring. Planks having similar widths should be placed together in the same row to minimize gaps between boards.

Wood floors are natural products containing natural variations. Variations in color, tone, grain, mineral streaks, small knots and other characters are found from plank to plank. Similar variations exist between samples, pictures and purchased flooring. They are normal and it does not mean the product is defective.

Flooring to be installed in one large area should be purchased at the same time. Product purchased at a later time than the first purchase may vary beyond your expectations.

Accessories, trims and moldings are manufactured to coordinate with the varied appearances of the floor planks. Any exact matches are coincidental. Non-matching accessories are not defective products.

This product is manufactured according to strict quality standards. In the event that defects are discovered in the field, the industry standards permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of any type, whether manufactured or natural. Order an additional 5% extra for cutting wastage and grading allowances (10% for diagonal installations).

During installation, inspect the planks continuously. Defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or held out.

Installing defective planks implies acceptance.

Squeaking and clicking noises are the result of interactions among flooring, joists and subfloors when they move. Limiting the movements of the flooring system usually eliminates most of these noises. Sometimes, it is impossible to eliminate them completely and minor squeaking or clicking noises are to be accepted as normal flooring phenomenon. Minor scratches can generally be repaired with the use of putty, stain or filler. It is an industry standard practice of flooring installation and it should be accepted as normal by the home owner.

#### If You Need More Information

To assure the warranty is not inadvertently voided, before proceeding with any activity that is not covered in this manual, please contact our Technical Support Department.

**Acclimation and In-service Conditions**

Acclimation is the process of adjusting (conditioning) the moisture content of hardwood flooring to the environment in which it is expected to perform. The hardwood flooring is fully acclimated when its moisture content and dimensions (width and length) are stable. For example, the averaged dimensions and moisture content remain constant for 3 consecutive days. Flooring must acclimate for as long as necessary to reach fully acclimated stage. Acclimation time varies depending on geographical area, interior climate control and time of the year. Minimum acclimation time is 48 hours. In open box, open plastic wrap.

Elevate cartons from the floor by placing them on 2"X 2" lumber or equivalence. Place spacers (3/4" to 1" sticks) between each layer or cross stack the layers for maximum exposure to ambient conditions. Acclimation temperature range is 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 35%-55%. Conditions in which the floor was acclimated should be maintained continuously thereafter. Document as much acclimation information as possible below.

Date: _____ Relative Humidity (%): _____ Temperature (°F): _____ Subfloor Type: _____ Subfloor Avg. Moisture Content (%): _____ Acclimation Period: _____	Pre-acclimation Flooring Avg. Moisture Content (%): _____ Pre-acclimation Flooring Width: _____ Pre-acclimation Flooring Length: _____	Post-acclimation Flooring Avg. Moisture Content (%): _____ Post-acclimation Flooring Width: _____ Post-acclimation Flooring Length: _____
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**Job Site Condition**

Prior to installation, the installer must ensure that at the time of installation, the job site conditions including subfloor/substrate, ambient temperature and relative humidity, and all impacting variables will not negatively affect floor. Home Legend will decline responsibility for damages associated with improper installation or poor site conditions.

**Storage and Conditions**

Do not store flooring in uncontrolled environmental conditions. For example, garages and exterior patios are not acceptable areas to store flooring. Handle and unload wood flooring with care and store within the environmentally controlled site in which it is expected to perform. Flooring stored on concrete slab should be elevated at least four inches to allow air circulation under cartons.

**Existing Home**

Existing home should have a consistent room temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 35%-55%. Continual deviation from these conditions will affect the dimensions of flooring. During heating season, humidity may be much lower than the acceptable range. During heating season, a humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage flooring to low humidity levels. During the non-heating season, humidity levels can be maintained by using an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically.

**New Construction or Remodel**

All work involving water, such as pouring basement concrete floors, drywall and plasterwork, plumbing, etc. must be completed well in advance of the floor delivery. Ensure that the building is enclosed. Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air conditioning systems should be operating at least five days preceding installation to promote proper acclimation and should be maintained during and after installation. If it is not possible for the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that simulate normal living (occupied) conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system is fully operational.

Your job site should have a consistent temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 35%-55% which should be maintained continuously thereafter.

**Basements and Crawl Spaces**

Concrete slab or ground must be dry. The ground in the crawl spaces must be completely covered using 6 mil black polyethylene. Crawl space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 18 inches and the perimeter vent area should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code.

**Concrete Subfloor Requirements**

It must have minimum rated strength of 3000 psi.

It must be flat. It should be flat to within 1/8" in a 6-foot span or 3/16" in a 10-foot span; no bumps or low spots. High spots can be removed by grinding; depressions can be filled with patching compound formulated for use in floor installation.

It must be clean; no construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on/or adhering to the floor; if necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation; no protrusions of nails, debris, metals should remain.

New concrete slab must cure for at least 60 days. It must have a minimum 10 mil polyethylene sheet between the ground and the concrete. It must meet concrete moisture requirement below.

It must be free from moisture related conditions which can damage the installed flooring.

**Light Weight Concrete**

It is concrete which rated strength is less than 3000 psi.

Perform a quick check by drawing a nail across the top; if it leaves indentation, it is probably light concrete.

For glue-down application, the concrete must possess shear strength greater than the glue. If concrete rated psi is unknown, contact the adhesive manufacturer for guidance.

#### **Concrete Moisture**

All concrete subfloors should be tested for moisture content and the results documented. Visual checks are not reliable. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near walls containing plumbing, near foundation walls and in the center of the room. Minimum sample size is 3 per 1000 square feet of area and one test for every additional 1000 square feet thereafter.

Its moisture content should meet one of the following criteria below:

- 4.5% when tested using Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter
- Less than 3 pounds per 1000 square feet per 24 hours when using Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F 1869)
- 75% when using Relative Humidity Testing (ASTM F-2170).

Please note: Concrete moisture content may be acceptable the time of the test, but these tests do not guarantee a perpetual “dry” concrete slab. The concrete slab moisture content can vary at other times of the year. We are not responsible for moisture related damage to installed flooring.

#### **Wood Subfloor Requirements**

It must be clean; no presence of construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; no protrusions of nails, debris, metals should remain. If necessary, scrape and sweep the subfloor before the installation.

It must be structurally sound and stable: no movements or squeaks, no loose panels or loose nails, no signs of ply de-lamination or other damages. Repair all shortcomings before installation.

It must be flat with no visible bumps or low spots; the subfloor should be flat to within 1/8” in 6 feet span or 3/16” in 10 feet.

Test for moisture using reliable moisture meter. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near foundation walls, near walls containing plumbing lines and in the center of the room. Measure 20 locations per 1000 square feet.

Moisture content of subfloor should be less than 12%.

Moisture content difference between subfloor and acclimated flooring should be 4% or less.

#### *Plywood or Oriented Strand Board (OSB) Specifications*

On truss/joist spacing of 16” (406mm) O/C or less, the industry standard for single-panel subflooring is minimum 5/8” (19/32”, 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 plywood subfloor panels (CD Exposure 1) or 23/32” OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4’ x 8’ sheets. Expansion gap between panels should be 1/8” (3 mm). If panels are not tongued and grooved and there is not sufficient spacing or is inadequate, cut in the required spacing with a circular saw. Do not cut in expansion space on tongue and groove panels.

#### **Particle Board or Fiber Board**

Only for floating installation.

#### **Existing Floors**

Installation over existing floor requires the installer to consider potential issues related to moisture damage, adhesive failure and fastener failure. Contact the adhesive and fastener manufacturers respectively for their specific instructions, recommendations and requirements.

Acceptable floor coverings include: solid hardwood, linoleum, terrazzo, ceramic tile and other “moisture sealing floors.”

Unacceptable floor coverings include: carpet, needle punch felt, edge glued linoleum and other “moisture absorbing flooring.”

#### **Radiant Heated Subfloor**

This product can be installed over radiant heated subfloor. Operating surface temperature must be less than 84°F. Decrease temperature before installation. Increase temperature gradually after installation. Glue down installation may require additional installation requirement. Contact glue manufacturer for specific recommendation. Contact heater manufacturer for specific installation instruction.

#### **Moisture Barrier and Moisture Retarder**

*Concrete Subfloor:* For floating installation, use 6 mil polyethylene film or other means with equivalent permeability. Overlap the edge seams and tape it together. Extend moisture barrier up to the wall about 1 inch high. For direct glue installation, use a moisture barrier if moisture level exceeds requirement (see Concrete Moisture section above).

*Wood Subfloor:* Use asphalt-saturated kraft paper or #15 or #30 felt that meets ASTM Standard D4869 or UU-B-790, Grade D.

Overlap along the edge seams 2”- 4” wide. This retards moisture movement from below. Extend the moisture retarder to about 1” from the walls. Secure to the subfloor as necessary.

#### **Sound Control Underlayment**

Check with sound control manufacturer for application guidelines. Generally, the less compressive underlayment is preferred.

#### **Expansion Gap**

Required gap width is 1/2”. It is required around the perimeter of the floor and between floor and all vertical obstructions. Do not place permanently installed structures such as kitchen counter/cabinet on the installed floor.

#### **Transition Molding**

For floating installation, transition T-molding is required in the following cases: floor spanning greater than 35 feet in length or width; floor areas interrupted by wall sections extending out of the wall, floor areas which are not rectangular, wall openings-with or without door, L shaped or otherwise not rectangular rooms requires T-molding to split it into rectangular sections.

## Adhesive

Use premium flooring adhesive which is non-water based, formulated for hardwood flooring installation.

Preferred type: moisture cure urethane floor glue.

## Tools and Materials

### Basics:

Tape measure • Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both) • Chalk line & chalk • Hammer • Electric power saw • Carbide tipped saw blade for fine cut • NIOSH-designated dust mask • Hand saw or jamb saw • Eye protection • Straight edge or Spacers • Pry Bar • Mallet • Broom • Color matched wood putty • Tapping block • Pull bar

### Additional Supplies for Glue-Down Method:

Flooring adhesive • Trowels • Adhesive remover for selected adhesive • Clean rags • Weight roller • Flooring Straps

## Safety and Health Precautions

Power tools can be dangerous. Operate in strict accordance to manufacturer's operating instructions and safety precautions. Unsafe and improper use can cause serious injuries.

Avoid inhalation and exposures to wood dust by mechanical means and by wearing personal protective equipment.

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which include NIOSH or OSHA approve dust masks, safety goggle and work gloves.

## Bond Failure

Bond failure is NOT flooring product defect. Most installation failures, including bond failure, result from jobsite moisture. Do not unpack or deliver flooring to the jobsite until moisture problems are corrected. Read adhesive manufacturer's instruction carefully. Certain wood flooring adhesives may have special requirements and limitations of use. Some existing floor may not be acceptable. Not following the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations can lead to installation failure or product damage and will void your warranty.

## Glue Spots on Face of Finished Floor

Adhesive can damage the floor's finish, especially when it has dried. It is extremely important to take precautionary steps NOT to leave finger prints or footprints marks on the face of the board. Preventive actions include wearing gloves when spreading glue and discarding the glove when finished. Use clean gloves before placing the floor planks in the adhesive layer. If glue comes in contact with the face of the board, remove immediately with the adhesive remover recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Use clean towels, changing frequently to prevent haze and adhesive residue. If the spot removal damages the appearance of the boards, replace the board.

## Helpful Pointers

### General Tips

- Make sure your work area is well lit. Good visibility ensures that color is consistent and that visually defective planks are detected and removed.
- The minimum length of the first and last plank is 12". If the last plank will be less than 12", adjust the length of the first plank. The remainder of the last plank can be used as a starter board on the following rows.
- Using a shorter piece at undercut door jams will help when fitting flooring in place.

### Glue-Down Installation Tips

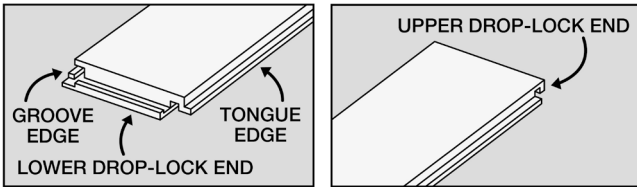
- ALWAYS REFER TO THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FLOORING ADHESIVE LABEL. The information given here is for typical installation. Adjust it according to adhesive manufacturer's instruction.
- Dry-lay means the glue must set before placing floor planks in it. Wet-lay means the glue does not need to set before placing floor on it.
- Use trowel as specified by adhesive manufacturer.
- Continuously check the transfer of adhesive THROUGHOUT the installation process. If the adhesive no longer transfers to the back of the flooring material, it must be removed, and new adhesive applied.
- Work your way out of the room.
- After the installation is completed, keep the floor free from daily foot traffic for a minimum of 24 hours to allow adhesive to properly cure.

### Cutting the Last Row to Width

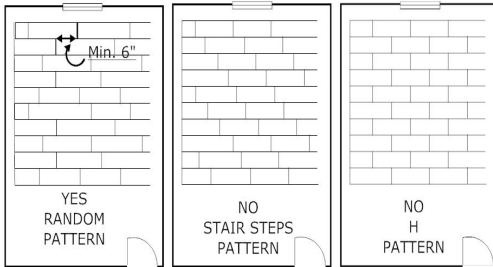
- Most often the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space.
- Measure the distance between the floor face edge (exclude the tongue) to the wall. Subtract 1/2" from this measurement for expansion gap. Draw a line. Cut through the line. Discard the excess piece. Proceed with installation.

## Pre-install Activities

- Subfloors should be in clean condition.
- Understand the parts of the locking part of the flooring plank. The tongue is the thinner extension coming out of the side of the planks. The groove is the wider extension coming out of the other side of the floor plank. The ends do not have tongue and groove. There is an upper drop-lock end on one side and a lower-drop lock end on the other side.



- Lay out several cartons. Randomly rack planks to ensure good color and shade mixture and end joint spacing. Minimum end stagger is 6". Inspect plank quality and grading.

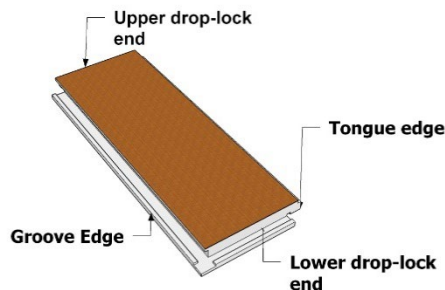


- Lay out trim moldings in advance and find planks whose shade closely matches. Set these aside for future use.
- Remove existing base, shoe molding or threshold carefully. They can be used to cover the 1/2" expansion gap left around the edge of the room.
- Undercut doors and casings using a handsaw laid flat on a piece of scrap flooring.
- Install moisture barrier on concrete. For concrete, let the moisture barrier run up the wall a bit before cutting to size and tape all seams
- Install the underlayment (if used) parallel to the flooring according to underlayment manufacture instructions. Any overlap (top) should be on the same side as the groove of the flooring so that the hardwood will slide smoothly into place. Tape all seams. Secure underlayment material as necessary to prevent excessive movement.

## Right-handed or Left-handed Product

If your product appears like the image below, you have a *right-handed* product. With the right-handed product, you will be installing the products in the *left to right direction*. The following installation instructions are for right-handed products.

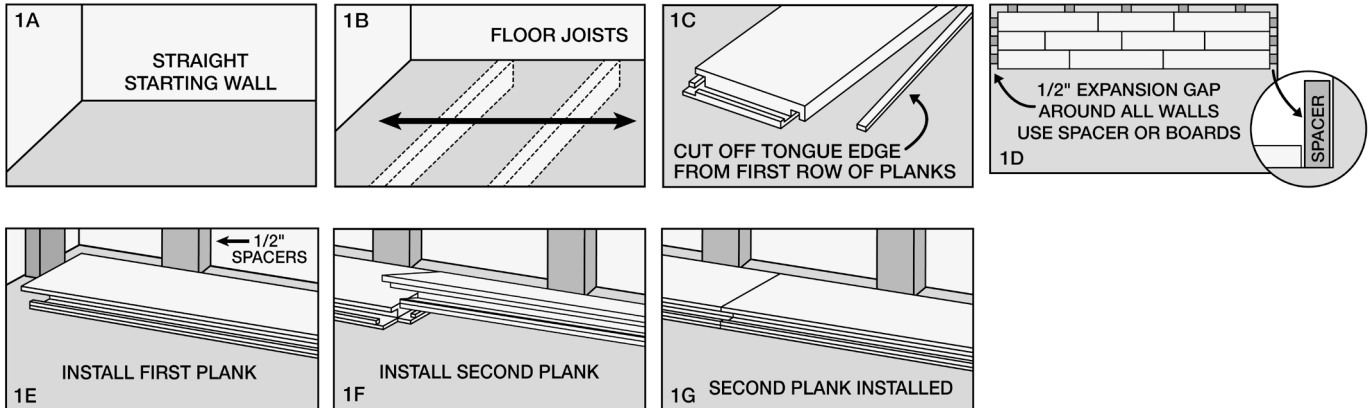
If your product does not look like the image below, you have a *left-handed* product and you must install the product in the *right to left direction*. Otherwise, everything else in the instruction is applicable to both right-handed and left-handed products.



## Floating Installation

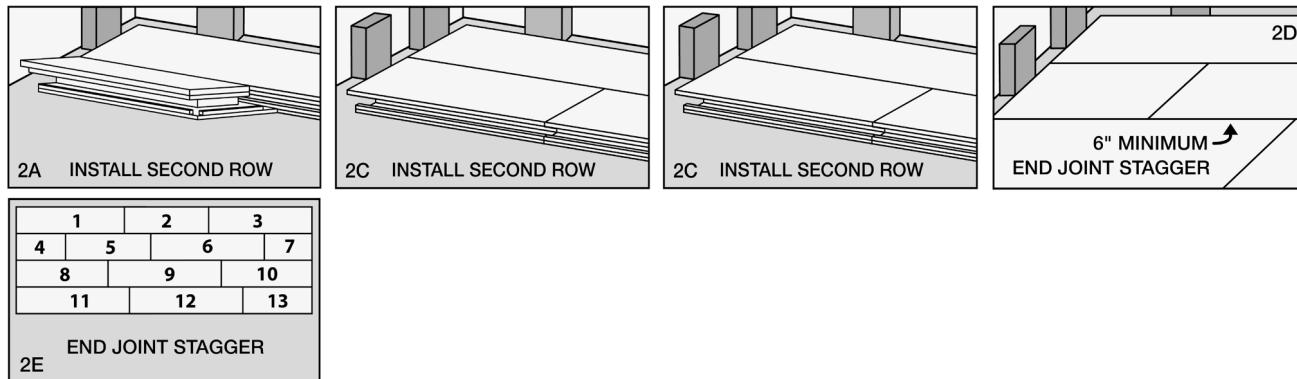
### Step 1 – Install the First Row

- When possible, begin installation from the straightest wall. If possible, install the flooring perpendicular to the joists.
- Cut off the tongue from the first-row planks.
- Allow 1/2" expansion gap between plank and the walls. Use spacers or board.
- Place the first plank with the groove side facing **away** from the walls.
- Place the upper drop-lock end of the second plank on the lower drop-lock end of the first plank. The ends do not click lock. Maintain straight edge along the rows.
- Continue placing the succeeding planks to complete the row



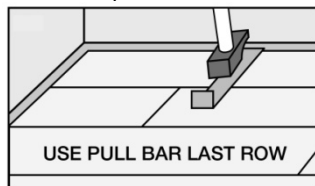
### Step 2 – Install the Second and Remaining Rows

- Cut off a section the first plank lengthwise to ensure 6" joints staggering.
- Hold the plank with the tongue facing the previous row. Keep it at about 30° angle.
- Insert the tongue into the groove.
- Make sure the tongue are snugly and securely engaged in the groove by exerting a constant pressure in the direction of the groove.
- Maintain the pressure while pressing the plank flat to lock the edge joints.
- If there is a slight gap along the edge joints, it can be eliminated with the help of a tapping block and a plastic mallet. Use caution to prevent impact damage.



### Step 3 - Install the Last Row

- Use the pull bar to draw the last row to fit tightly to the previous row.



**Glue Down Installation**

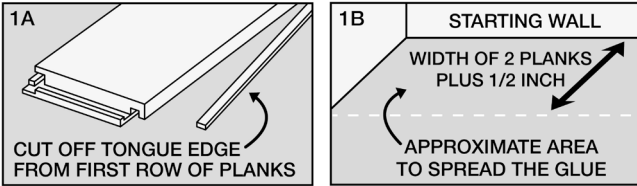
**PLEASE NOTE:**

**ANY GLUE WHICH GETS ONTO THE SURFACE OF THE FLOOR MUST BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY WITH ADHESIVE REMOVER**

The steps in glue down method are very similar to the floating installation method. The only difference is the application of the glue to the subfloor prior to installation. For more detail instruction, see the floating installation section above.

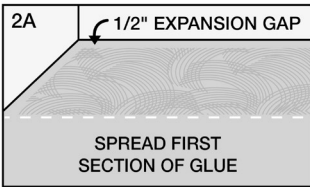
*Step 1 – Set up*

- Cut off the tongue from the long edge of the boards for the first rows.
- Ensure expansion gap by marking off a starting line 1/2" away from the starting wall. Mark off approximately 2 planks width area to spread glue.



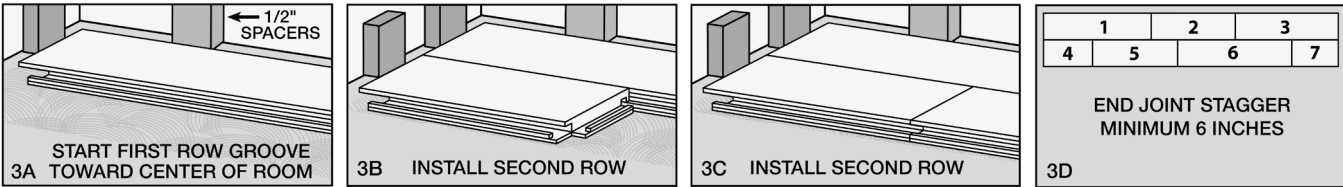
*Step 2 – Spreading the glue*

- Spread the glue from the starting line out in the direction of the center of the room, the width of two planks. Or spread only enough glue to install what can be set within 45 minutes (15 minutes of OPEN TIME and an additional 30 minutes for actual installation. Usually about two rows width coverage). Different manufacturer may require different open time and set time. Use spacers or boards to maintain expansion gap during installation.
- Repeat with the next two rows, etc.



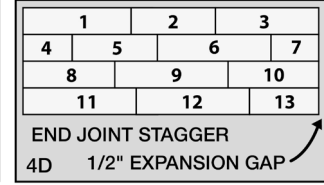
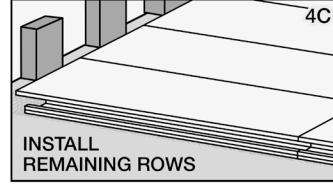
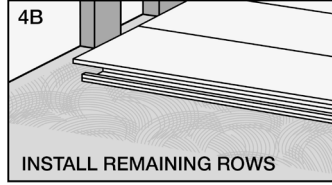
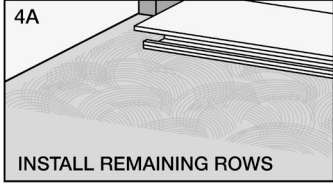
*Step 3 – Install the first two rows*

- Install the first row of starter planks.
- The last plank of the first row may have to be cut to size. Discard remainder because the tongue has been removed.
- Install the second row. Make sure there is a random staggering at the end joints of at least 6" apart.
- Be attentive to staggering the ends of the boards correctly in adjacent rows to avoid clustering end joints.
- Any glue that comes in contact with the face of the board should be removed immediately using adhesive remover formulated for the glue being used. Follow adhesive manufacturer's instruction on adhesive removal.



*Step 4 – Install the remaining Rows*

- Spread another section of glue. Never spread more that can be covered before the adhesive is set. If adhesive is set and will not transfer to the back of the plank, scrape off the adhesive and apply fresh adhesive.
- Continue to install the next rows. Make sure there is a random staggering at the end joints of at least 6" apart.
- Maintain 1/2" expansion gap between floor and the walls.
- Repeat the process for additional rows.
- Make sure that there is 100% contact between the wood floor and the adhesive.



**Finishing Touches**

- Clean the floor.
- Use matching putty where necessary
- Install or reinstall all wall trim pieces. Nail them through the wall, but not to the subfloor to avoid restricting the expansion gap.
- Install transition trim pieces. Nail them to the subfloor, not the flooring.
- At doorways, transitions should be used to protect the edges of the floor and to provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.
- If the floor is to be covered, use a breathable material such as cardboard. Do not cover with plastic.



**Accessories**

Pictures are for general illustrative purposes only. Actual products may differ from picture.

	<p>T-Molding is used to create a transition between floor coverings of similar heights or to cover an expansion gap.</p>
	<p>Stair Nose is used in conjunction with flooring installed on stair steps or finished edge of a higher-level floor like in a sunken living room.</p>
	<p>Carpet Reducer (also called Baby Threshold or End Cap) is used to transition floor coverings of differing heights. This reducer strip is also commonly used to border a fireplace, sliding glass door and other exterior door jams.</p>
	<p>Hard Surface Reducer is used to transition to another hard surface flooring of different heights such as tile, vinyl, concrete.</p>
	<p>Quarter Round is used to cover the expansion space between the Wall Base and your flooring. It can also be used them to make smooth transitions between the floor and cabinetry. It can be used with or without Wall Base molding.</p>
	<p>Wall Base is used to give a finished look at the base of the walls. It can be used with or without Quarter Round.</p>

**Technical Support**

For installation information and technical questions not covered in this installation guide, please contact our Technical Support Representative by calling the toll-free number below.

**Toll Free Number: 877-630-1800 or 877-960-8001**

**Warranty**

This flooring product comes with a Home Legend Limited Wear Warranty. The warranty applies to original purchaser of the flooring. It warrants the original purchaser that the finish surface will not wear through for duration of the stated warranty from the date of purchase. Please contact our Customer Service Representative by calling our toll-free number 877-630-1800 or 877-960-8001 or send in the warranty registration below for a written copy which provides detail terms of coverage and limitations. You may also email your request to [claims@homelegend.com](mailto:claims@homelegend.com).

**WARRANTY REGISTRATION**

UPON RECEIPT OF THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND COPY OF RECEIPT, WE WILL SEND YOU A WRITTEN WARRANTY DOCUMENT. SEND ONE COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH A COPY OF PROOF OF PURCHASE TO:

HOME LEGEND, LLC  
WARRANTY REGISTRATION  
P.O. BOX 887  
ADAIRSVILLE, GA 30103

Customer Name	
Customer Address	
City, State, ZIP Code	
Phone/E-mail	
Product Model Number	
Product Description	
Date Purchase	
Retailer Name	
Retailer Address	
City, State, ZIP Code	
Installer	