



Strandwoven TIMBER™ - Installation Instructions

Important: COMPLETELY READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES, AS THEY ARE PROVIDED TO HELP WITH THE INSTALLATION PROCESS. INSTALLATIONS SHOULD BE DONE BY A PROFESSIONAL FLOORING INSTALLER, AND THEY SHOULD ADHERE THE INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL WOOD FLOORING ASSOCIATION (WWW.NWFA.ORG; 800-422-4556). WHERE THESE INSTRUCTIONS DIFFER FROM THE NWFA'S, THESE GUIDELINES TAKE PRECEDENCE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT A SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS REPRESENTATIVE PRIOR TO STARTING THE INSTALLATION PROCEDURE.

Pre-Installation Jobsite Requirements:

- Carefully inspect all material before installation. Any material installed with obvious defects (grade, color, finish, quality, or other visual defects) will not be warranted, and should NOT be installed.
- Please note that Strandwoven TIMBER™ is comprised of natural material and slight variations in color occur naturally.

Jobsite Requirements:

Prior to the installation of Strandwoven TIMBER™, the installer must ensure that the jobsite and site conditions are suitable for installation. Sustainable Materials is not responsible for flooring failure resulting from unsatisfactory jobsite, subfloor, and temperature/humidity conditions.

- **Structurally sound subfloor** (5/8" plywood, 3/4" OSB, existing solid-wood subfloor, or concrete; particleboard is not an acceptable subfloor for the installation of hardwoods)
- **Level subfloor** (within 1/8" height difference over 10 linear feet in all directions); if wooden subfloor is used, ensure subfloor is well fastened to joists (6" on center nail pattern is suggested)
- **Dry subfloor** – subfloor must remain dry year-round.
 - On wood - when installing on a wooden subfloor, the difference between the moisture content of the flooring and the subfloor must not be greater than 2 percentage points. If you are unsure how to determine this, contact Sustainable Flooring. **Note: Acclimating is one of the most important steps to ensuring a healthy floor.**
 - On concrete - when installing on a concrete slab, you must ensure that the flooring installed is separated from any potential moisture coming from or transferring through the slab (see NWFA guidelines if you have questions). In addition, slab must not exceed 3lb. - as per the Calcium Chloride test; a general rule of thumb is that 60 days is the minimum for a concrete to properly cure. While Strandwoven TIMBER™, flooring is more stable than most woods, it is still subject to damage when in direct contact with a constantly wet slab. Strandwoven TIMBER™ must be isolated from this type of slab by use of a reverse vinyl, sleeper sub floor, or alternative. Urethane adhesives will usually fail when vapor pressure exceeds 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. in 24 hours. Strandwoven TIMBER™ flooring cannot be glued down under those conditions.
- **Site Conditions**- the temperature and relative humidity should be consistent for at least 10 days prior to installation (the minimum suggested acclimatization period; longer is always better). Hardwood flooring functions best when the room temperature ranges from 60-70 Fahrenheit, and the room relative humidity stays between 40-60%.
 - **Note: Room temperatures above 80 Fahrenheit, or below 50 Fahrenheit, or rooms with relative humidities above 65% or below 35% will void all warranties.** These conditions must be met not only with installation requirements, but also with year-round conditions. A humidifier or dehumidifier may be needed to remedy these conditions, which not only will ensure a healthy Strandwoven TIMBER™ floor; it will help ensure a healthy indoor air quality.
 - **Note:** In extremely dry climates, care should be taken to avoid shrinkage by allowing flooring to acclimatize under actual use conditions. Remove the planks from the box and expose them to local conditions until the material has sufficiently acclimated to the site.
- **Debris-free subfloor** – prior to installation, the subfloor should be thoroughly cleaned to ensure all debris is removed.



Important: Due to the unique construction of the compressed strandwoven wood products, excessive moisture such as subfloor moisture will have different effects on the product than traditional solid hardwood flooring. Strandwoven wood products, like Strandwoven TIMBER™, are made of layered scraps that are compressed like other composites. Excessive moisture, such as subfloor moisture can potentially cause it to expand and cup like normal solid hardwood but unlike normal hardwood, it can also expand vertically. This can cause the surface of the strandwoven poplar to bubble and blister when excessive moisture has entered between the layers and can also cause checking and cracking on the ends. This is NOT considered a product defect but only an adverse effect due to excessive moisture. When the excessive moisture is removed from the area, the cupping may subside slightly, but any bubbling, blistering and cracking will most likely remain. Sustainable Materials therefore HIGHLY RECOMMENDS that all subfloors are dry and properly sealed before any installation, and any topical moisture beyond recommended cleaning is avoided.

General Installation Guidelines –

- **Use spacers** – spacing around the perimeter and other fixed vertical portions of the room must be maintained to account for the typical fluctuations in relative humidity found in most interior environments (3/8" recommended).
- **Work out of multiple boxes** – though great effort is made to ensure color consistency, Strandwoven TIMBER™ shades do vary, and there are no standards for this so the shade differences between cartons may be noticeable. Mixing cartons creates a natural, random shade effect. Color variation is normal and is not a warrantable claim.
- **Stagger Seams** – this ensures a random and flowing pattern to the floor.

Installation methods:

Nail/Staple Down: Planks shall be square with the room and parallel to its longest dimension by positioning with a chalk line, leaving 3/8" expansion from base plate, wall, or any other stationary vertical areas (site-made spacers work well to ensure proper spacing). Ensure starter rows are firmly in place by wedging or face nailing. Once initial rows are secure, second and further courses shall be blind nailed directly above tongue at a 45–50-degree angle to the face. Fasteners shall be spaced at 4–6-inch intervals with a minimum of 2 fasteners per piece. **NOTE:** There will not be a guarantee for Timber flooring installed over or onto particleboard. The Sustainable Materials recommends using a pneumatic nailer using approx. 1 -1/4" to 1-1/2" cleats in length at 18 Gauge. Powernail is a brand that has worked well with our products and you can find more specifics at www.powernail.com Compressor pressure should be tested on several test pieces to ensure the cleats are properly driven; splitting of the tongue and insufficient fastener depth are strong indicators pressure is not properly adjusted. Sustainable Materials will not be held responsible for improper or inadequate installation in any event.

Glue Down: Use an elastomeric moisture cured urethane wood flooring adhesive like "Dritac 7600", "Bostik's Best", "Taylor 2071", or "Franklin's 811 Plus". If installing directly on a slab, follow the NWFA guidelines for properly isolating the slab. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines for safe use, storage and handling. Spread with a notched trowel as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Planks shall be started square with the room and parallel to its longest dimension by positioning with a chalk line, leaving 3/8" expansion space from base plate, wall, or any other stationary vertical areas (site-made spacers work well to ensure proper spacing). Follow the installation instructions of the manufacturer of the glue used. Continue laying the adhesive in useable quantities, until the entire floor is laid. Important: Remove any adhesive on the plank surface(s) immediately, as this is extremely difficult to remove once cured.

Gyp-crete Underlayment: If installing on **Gyp-crete**, it is essential that the slab material is completely dry (Delmhorst BD 2100 or G79 are recommended for an accurate moisture reading in gyp-crete). For detailed recommendations on installing over the Gyp-crete line of products, contact Maxxon Corporation (800-356-7887) - "Procedures for Attaching Finished Floor Goods to Maxxon Underlayments". General suitable installation options over gyp-crete are glue-down, install a 3/4" plywood subfloor, float two layers (perpendicular to one another) of 1/2" plywood, nail and glue sleepers, or float the material.



- **Moisture (*Important):** While Strandwoven TIMBER™ flooring is more stable than most woods, it is still subject to damage when in direct contact with a wet slab. Strandwoven TIMBER™ must be isolated from this type of slab by use of a reverse vinyl or sleeper sub floor. Urethane adhesives will usually fail when vapor pressure exceeds 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. in 24 hours. Strandwoven TIMBER™ cannot be glued down under those conditions.

Care and Maintenance Instructions

Preventative Measures

Place walk-off/protective mats at all exterior doors, and any other place that endures high traffic (like by the kitchen sink, etc.). This will capture much of the harmful dirt/debris. Shake out, wash, or vacuum these mats frequently, as needed.

Floor protector pads should be placed on the bottoms of the legs of furniture that rest on the hardwood surface. When moving heavy furniture or appliances, it is recommended to always pick up the item as opposed to sliding it across the floor surface.

If you have a pet that claws the floor, trim their nails to avoid excess scratches and gouges in the floor's finish.

It is important to maintain proper climatic conditions in the installation space (during installation and throughout the year). The use of a humidifier or dehumidifier in conjunction with a furnace or air conditioning system, will help maintain a consistent relative humidity in the home (between 40-60% is ideal). This is very important, and as mentioned above, a function of warranty coverage.

Routine Maintenance

Every floor must be dust mopped, vacuumed, or swept with a soft bristle broom daily, or as often as necessary to remove grit, abrasives and dust from the flooring surface. Clean spills immediately. Remove sticky residue with a lightly damp cloth.

For general cleaning, use either a citrus based solvent or a urethane floor cleaner, and follow directions on product. Under no circumstance should excessive standing water be applied to any hardwood flooring surface.

Note: Do not use wax, oil soap, alkaline, or other household cleaners on your floor – they can dull and discolor the floor finish.

Long-term Suggestions

Protect your floor against intense, direct sunlight (by using shades, low-E window coating treatments, etc.), as, over time, intense Ultraviolet (UV) can tend to cause a fading effect on almost any exposed surface.

Recoat a worn surface per your installer's recommendations before the Timber is exposed to avoid refinishing/re-sanding.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact your Strandwoven Timber™ representative, or Sustainable Materials directly:

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