Evocore Nature Installation Guide

When properly installed in accordance with EvoCore Nature flooring installation instructions, this product will not swell, cup, or crack due to exposure to water from topical spills or moisture from the sub-floor when exposed to such conditions. This product is not designed to withstand submersion from standing water or flooding.

Any pre-existing moisture water infiltration or flooding problems should be corrected prior to installation, do not install over concrete slabs with a history of being wet, damp or flooding, keeping in mind that a slab that appears dry now, may be wet, damp or flood seasonally. Moisture, wetness or flooding must be repaired or fully resolved prior to installation of this product and if installation is over concrete, it must be a minimum of 60 days old.

This flooring is a natural wood product on a solid polymer core, which has natural variations in colour, texture, and sheen/gloss. For best visual effect, install planks working from several boxes.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY BEFORE BEGINNING INSTALLATION.

Warning!

Do not install EvoCore Nature flooring as a floating floor where it will be exposed to temperatures greater than 60°C (140°F). In areas where the floor may be exposed to direct, intense sunlight resulting in excessive heat to the floor, use the full spread glue down method. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods, doing so may result in discolouration. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended.

Preparation

It is the installer/owners' responsibility to ensure that the job-site conditions and job-site subfloor are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to the installation of any hardwood flooring. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of hardwood flooring resulting from or related to sub-floor, sub-surface, or job-site environmental conditions. All substrates must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.

Room temperature and humidity of installation areas should be consistent with normal, year-round living conditions for at least one week before installation of flooring. Maintaining an optimum yearly room temperature of 21°C (70°F) and a humidity range of 35-55% is recommended.

Subfloor Preparation

- Note: All subfloors must be flat to within 3/16"in 10' or 1/8" in 6'
- Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete or over dimensional lumber or plywood used over concrete. Refer to ASTM F1482 for panel underlayment recommendation.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. Use of a 6 mil black polyethylene is required to cover 100% of the crawl space earth. Crawl space clearance from ground to underside of joist is to be no less than 18'' and perimeter vent spacing should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space area to provide cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail.
- All other subfloors-plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, ect. Must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations. Local building codes may only establish minimum requirements of the flooring system and may and may not provide adequate rigidity and support for proper installation and performance. If needed add an additional layer of APA rated underlayment, fasten and secure according to the underlayment manufacturer's recommendations.
- EvoCore Nature flooring is not recommended directly over fire-retardant treated plywood or preservative treated plywood. An additional layer of APA rated 1/4" thick underlayment should be installed.

Concrete Subfloors

- Floors shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free from all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. The surface must be hard and dense, and free from powder or flaking.
- New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture level per CaCI test method is 5 lbs per 1000 in 24 hr. Maximum level for ASTM 2170 In-situ Relative humidity test method-85%.
- Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions. PH level of concrete should be between 7-10.
- The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.

Existing Floor Coverings

- EvoCore Nature flooring can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings (including ceramic tile) provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat dry and structurally sound.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Installation is NOT allowed over any type of carpet.
- Do NOT install over wood subfloor or wood floors adhered to concrete.
- Never use solvents or citrus adhesive removers to remove old adhesive residue. Solvent residue left in and on the subfloor may affect the new floor covering.

Because houses and buildings, as well as adjacent hardwood or laminate floors, expand and contract, We recommend leaving a 8mm expansion gap between the perimeter walls and any adjacent hardwood floor.

For floating installations an underlayment is generally not required. However, if you prefer an even quieter installation you can include an underlayment approved for resilient products.

Note: Larger rooms require additional expansion space. Add 1/16" to the width of the expansion space for every 3' the room extends beyond 25'. Dimensions exceeding 40' in length or width - it is recommended to use a T-Molding for proper expansion.

Work from several open boxes of flooring and "dry lay" the floor before permanently laying the floor. This will allow you to select varying textures, colours, and sheens, and to arrange them in a harmonious pattern. Remember, it is the Installer's responsibility to determine the expectations of what the finished floor will look like with the end user first and then to cull out pieces that do not meet those expectations.

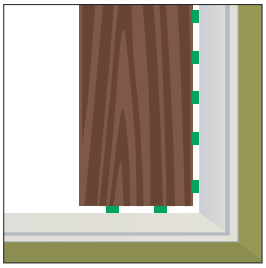
Begin Installation next to an outside wall. This is usually the straightest and best reference for establishing a straight working line. Establish this line by measuring an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snapping a chalk line. The distance you measure from the wall should be the width of a plank. You may need to scribe cut the first row of planks to match the wall in order to make a straight working line if the wall is out of straight.

You may want to position a few rows before starting installation to confirm your layout decision and working line. When laying flooring, stagger end joints from row to grow by at least 8"(20 cm) for planks. Use the cut-off end to begin the next row when cutting the last plank in a row to fit. If the cut-off end is less than 8'', discard it and instead cut a new plank at a random length (at least 8'' in length) and use it to start the next row. Always begin each row from the same side of the room.

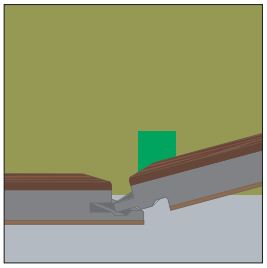
Installation

Tools

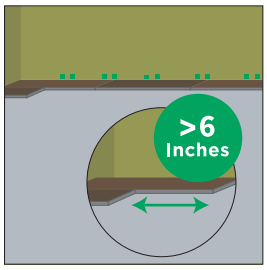
Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Jigsaw, Tapping Block or Rubber Mallet, Pull Bar, 1/4"Spacers, T-Square, Safety Glasses, Broom or Vacuum and, if necessary, tools for subfloors repair.



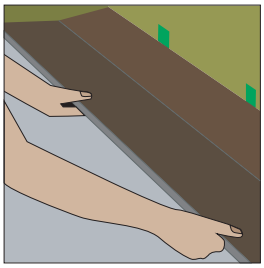
Step 1:
Begin Installation working from left to right. Insert spacers at ends and edges where planks meet wall to maintain 8mm expansion space.



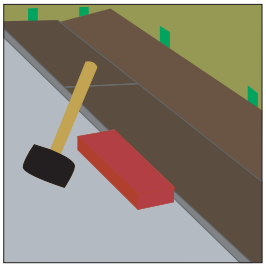
Step 2:
Lock short end of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an angle and drop in place. Continue to end of first row.



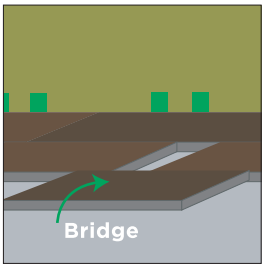
Step 3:
Use leftover plank from first row as starter for second row. Minimum 8 inch stagger between plank end joints.



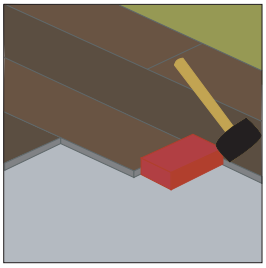
Step 4:
Lock long edge of plank by inserting tongue into groove at an angle and drop in place. Slide plank toward end of previously installed plank until the tongue just touches the groove.



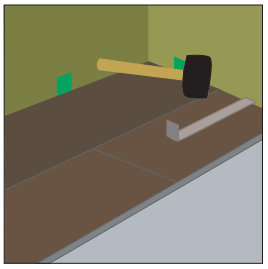
Step 5:
Use hammer and tapping block to engage plank and ensure tight fit.



Step 6:
Attach a scrap piece to align planks and bridge gaps between planks.

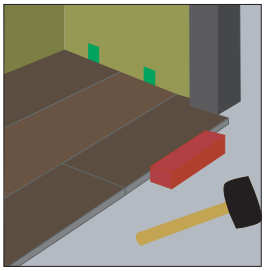


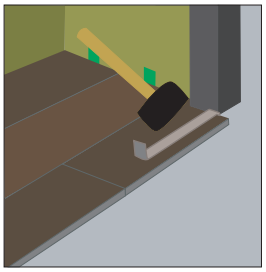
Step 7:
Tap end of planks with hammer and tapping block to engage ends.



Step 8:
Use hammer and pull bar to engage final piece, insert spacers and continue to next row.

Step 9:
Use hammer and pull bar to lock planks on final row.





Installation under door jambs

- Wooden jams should be undercut
- Metal jams require an expansion gap - use a coloured flexible caulk to fill the expansion gap.
- If fitting under the jamb, tap the long edge with tapping block and hammer to lock the long edge.

Finishing the job:

- Sweep or vacuum floor.
- Clean the floor with proper hardwood floor cleaner.
- Install transition pieces-e-thresholds, t-moldings, baseboards and quarter round Nail moldings to wall, not the floor.
- Inspect final floor for nicks and or minor gaps-fill with appropriate colour wood putty.
- Unused material should be stored in a dry place in case future repairs are needed. Use plywood or hardboard when moving heavy appliances or furniture across the floor.

Maintenance:

Remember, like any floor covering, our factory finished wood floors will show signs of wear over time, depending on the size and lifestyle of your family. By observing a few precautions and setting up a regular cleaning routine and maintenance program, you can expect years of beauty from your floor. The following are examples of the reasonable and necessary maintenance you are expected to perform. They are not intended to be an exclusive list.

- Always protect floors from direct exposure of sunlight that can cause the wood or stain to change colours. Warranties do not cover damage from UV exposure. Recommended humidity levels are between 35 % R.H.-55 % R.H.
- Walk-off mats should be used at all entrances to absorb soil and moisture. The use of appropriate mats will help avoid scratches and damages to the floor. If mats are placed directly on top of the hardwood floors, use proper indoor mats. Mats that can trap moisture underneath have potential to cause possible discolouration. Latex and rubber backings should not be used.
- Sweep or vacuum regularly since built-up grit can damage the surface of the wood. The vacuum head must be a brush or felt type. Be certain the wheels of the vacuum are clean and do not damage the finish. Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar head.
- Remove spills promptly using a soft cloth and cleaning products recommended by the manufacturer.
- Mist a Neutral PH hardwood floor cleaner to damp-mop your floor. Do not use hardwood floor cleaning machines or steam cleaners as this can severely damage the flooring and will void the warranties.
- Use the manufacturer's recommended Hardwood floor cleaners with a clean terry cloth mop. Always sweep or vacuum the floors prior to using wood floor cleaners. Do not allow excess cleaner to remain on the floors surface as this may permanently damage the wood fibre.
- **Important:** Do not use oil soaps, Quid or paste wax products or other household cleaners that contain citrus oils, lemon oil, tung oil, silicon, or ammonia since these warranties do not cover damage caused by non-recommended products. Use of these and other such products will harm the long-term performance of your floor and may also affect its re-coat ability.
- Do not use 2 in 1 cleaners with polish that may contain acrylics or urethane polish to restore gloss-the use of these products will void the finish warranty and may produce unsatisfactory results when not applied properly.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed, and paws clean and free of dirt, gravel, grease, oil, and stains.
- Place protective felt pads beneath furniture legs and feet to reduce scratches and dents. Replace pads as needed.
- Make certain furniture casters are clean and operate properly (a minimum 1" wide vinyl surface where it comes in contact with wood is recommended). Clean wheels periodically to remove dirt and debris.
- Exposure to the sun and its UV rays accelerates the oxidation and aging of wood. This can cause the stain and/or wood to fade and/or to change colour. We recommend that you rearrange rugs and furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. Exotic species such as Brazilian Cherry are more susceptible to colour change during the aging process. These warranties do not cover damage from the sun and its UV rays.
- Use area rugs in high traffic areas and pivot points (e.g., stair landings, room entries, etc.), especially if you have a large family or indoor pets.