

## Hard wood flooring - Hardwood Construction

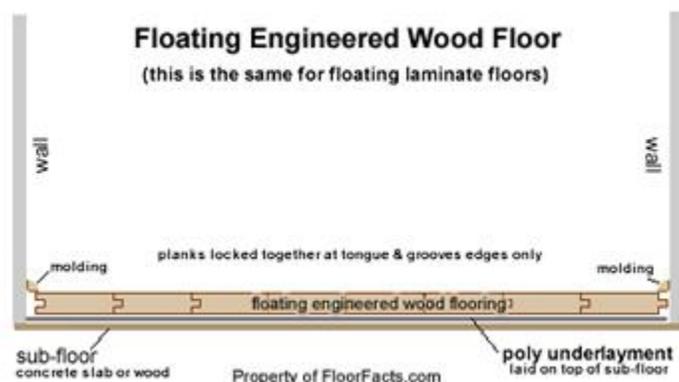
Hardwood Floors are available in two constructions... Solid and Engineered. Usually solid hardwood flooring comes in  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thickness but there is some in  $\frac{9}{16}$ ",  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and  $\frac{3}{8}$ ". The standard width is  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ". which is called strip. Boards 3" to 7" wide are called plank. Because of its thickness, solid hardwood also adds some structural strength. Solid has its limitations. It must be installed above grade level. It must be installed perpendicular to the floor joists so direction is not a choice.

Engineered Hardwood consists of 3 or more layers of hardwood that are glued together. Each layer runs the opposite direction of the layers above and below it. The top layer is the species of the product. The other layers may be oak or poplar. The advantages of Engineered Hardwood are many. The layering gives great dimensional stability meaning less movement from expansion and contraction. It can be installed on all grade levels, even in basements. It can be installed as a floating floor, stapled, or glued. It can be installed in the direction most pleasing to the homeowner.

## What is a "floating floor"?

In the beginning, the term "floating floor" referred to laminate floors that were imported from Europe in the early 1990's. Today, many types of flooring can be floated... laminate, hardwood, bamboo, cork, linoleum. What it means is that the flooring product is not attached by nails, staples, or glue to the subfloor. Instead, the flooring product floats on a layer of cushion about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " off the subfloor. The flooring product boards, planks, or panels are connected to one another either by a snap and lock fit or glue, creating a monolithic floor.

Since the floor is monolithic, it expands and contracts as a unit. It does not possess the space between the boards, planks, or panels to absorb the expansion so it is critical that adequate space is left around the perimeter of the floor to allow for this expansion. This space is hidden by the use of shoe molding. It is important that no nails are driven through a floating floor and that nothing restricts its ability to move.



Properly installed, a floating floor will give years and years of trouble free service. Its only disadvantage is that it can be noisier to walk on than floors that are secured to the subfloor. This noise can be greatly minimized by the use of a good quality sound reducing cushion.

## Protecting your investment

With a little care, your hardwood floor can give you years of enjoyment. Following this list of "Do's" and "Don't's" will go a long way to insuring that.

### DO:



- Vacuum or Sweep daily to remove surface soil that can cause scratching when you walk on it.
- Remove spills quickly using a soft cloth
- Use Floor Protectors with felt pads on your chairs and tables. Change pads frequently because they collect grit and act like sandpaper to your hardwood floor.
- Use plywood or masonite sheets to move appliances and heavy items over a hardwood floor.
- Remove spiked or stiletto high heels before walking on hardwood floors. The pressure per square inch is so great from these, they can indent steel.
- Protect your floor from direct sunlight. UV ray accelerate oxidation and aging of hardwood floors.
- Use walk off mats at outside doors to collect soil and grit
- Clean and protect your hardwood floors regularly with the appropriate Resista Floor Care Products



## **DON'T:**

- Use water on a hardwood floor
- Use a Swiffer Wet Jet, steamers, or sponge mops on your hardwood floor.
- Lean back on a chair. It greatly increases the pressure and may result in an indentation
- Use any of the following items on your hardwood floor...
  - Oil Soap
  - Paste Wax
  - Cleaners that contain:
    - Lemon Oil
    - Tung Oil
    - Ammonia
    - Detergents
    - Bleach
    - Abrasives
    - Acids such as vinegar

These can dull the finish and permanently damage your floor.