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Installation Guidelines for DuroDesign FSC Solid Oak Flooring

You must read and understand these instructions completely before installing DuroDesign Oak flooring. In the event these instructions leave unanswered questions or if you would like additional information, please contact DuroDesign Inc. toll free at 1-888-528-8518 prior to beginning installation. It is the responsibility of the installer to determine suitability of DuroDesign Oak for each application. Prior to installation, installer should inspect all material. Any defect must be reported directly to DuroDesign Inc. Should an individual piece of material be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use the piece in question. DuroDesign Cork Flooring will send a replacement in a timely manner.

NOTE: DuroDesign Inc. makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of work performed by a selected installer. DuroDesign Inc. disclaims all liability for imperfect installation of its product. This warranty does not cover material with visible defects once they are installed in error. DuroDesign Inc. declines responsibility for failure resulting from or connected with subfloor or job-site damage or deficiencies.

DuroDesign Oak flooring is best installed over a wood subfloor using a flooring nailer or glue. Gluing DuroDesign Oak flooring directly to a concrete subfloor is also possible on or above grade.

COLOR VARIATION

Oak is a natural material; therefore variations in color occur naturally. Each box should be inspected for differences in color and wood grain. Rack boards from different cartons while installing to maintain natural color and pattern variation and achieve an optimal visual blend.

ACCLIMATION

Ultimately, the installer must ensure that on-site environmental conditions are suitable for the installation of hardwood flooring. One week before installing, the space to receive the flooring must be maintained at a constant temperature of 72°F (22°C) in order to stabilize both temperature and relative humidity levels. A few days before the installation, relative humidity on the premises must be stable at 37% to 45%. DuroDesign Oak flooring must be allowed to acclimate on-site a minimum of 72 hours in advance of installation. Optimum conditions to be maintained during installation are 72°F (22°C) at 37% to 45% humidity. To confirm that the flooring has been acclimatized, use a moisture meter to measure the moisture content of the flooring. It should fall within the range of acceptable equilibrium moisture content for your geographical area, time of year and intended use.



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SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Underlayment-grade Plywood and Man-made Board Substrates must be clean, level, dry, and free of contaminations. Optimum results will be achieved through use of $\frac{3}{4}$ " CDX plywood substrate. Do not use particle board as a substrate. Fill any low spots with appropriate filler and sand any high spots. For buildings with a raised foundation, install ground cover of 6 mil polyethylene over the earth in crawl space. **The moisture content of the sub-floor, as measured by a moisture meter, must not exceed 12% or be more than 4% above or below the moisture content of the flooring.**

Concrete Substrate must be properly cured and tested for moisture content. Concrete is required to be sound, smooth, level and flat with a maximum variation of $\frac{1}{8}$ " in 10'. Fill any low spots with appropriate filler and scrape any high spots. Slab must be cured a minimum of 28 days. Flooring must not be installed if vapor pressure exceeds 3 lbs. per 1000 square feet in 24 hours as tested according to ASTM F 1869 (calcium chloride test method). Preferably the slab should be tested according to ASTM F 2170 (Standard Test Method for Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using In Situ Probes) Flooring must not be installed if the relative humidity inside of the concrete slab exceeds 75%.

INSTALLATION

For best appearance, DuroDesign Oak Flooring should be installed parallel to the longest wall of the space. Keeping this in mind, it is also best practice is also to install the flooring perpendicular to the floor joists. A $\frac{3}{4}$ " expansion space must be left between walls and the long side of the flooring boards. $\frac{1}{4}$ " is acceptable as room for expansion between the ends of boards and walls. It is important that the tongue & groove of each plank fit together tightly at all seams and butt joints. The starter row must be held firmly in place using either nails or wedging. Use of proper equipment will improve overall quality of installation.

Nail Down Method. Once starter rows are secure, additional rows should be blind nailed using a professional quality flooring nail gun. Splitting or cracking of the plank tongue can result from use of improper equipment or incorrect equipment settings. Beginning a minimum of 2" from end of first plank, space nails at 8" intervals. To prevent splitting, nails should not be placed closer than 2" to the end of plank. **Avoid the use staples as they have less holding power than flooring nails.**

Glue Down Method. Room, flooring material and containers of adhesive should be conditioned at normal room temperature for 72 hours before beginning installation. **DuroDesign recommends only using Bostick Best wood flooring adhesive. We will not warranty our flooring with another type of adhesive.** Follow manufacturer directions for either "wet-lay" or "walk-on-work" installation method. Apply adhesive to substrate with a $\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$ " square notch trowel.

NOTE: It is important not to allow glue onto plank surface. If glue does spill or leak onto surface of flooring, please consult adhesive manufacturer for appropriate corrective action.



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In-floor Radiant Heat. Regardless of season, radiant heat system should be turned on and remain on for five days in advance of installation. A radiant floor should not produce surface temperatures over 85°F. Continue to operate radiant heat system after installation. When choosing an installer for application over radiant heat, look for members of the Radiant Panel Association.

NOTE: Any wood flooring will expand and contract in response to changes in temperature and humidity. Maintain a consistent indoor environment between 60°F (16°C) - 80 °F (27°C) at 30% - 50% relative humidity throughout the year for best performance and visual appearance of your wood floor. Small visible gaps between boards will vary seasonally and are normal. By controlling the indoor environment, you will minimize the effects of contraction and expansion of your floor and thus seasonal gapping in your floor.

MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

Buying a quality floor covering and proper maintenance, is the key to lasting beauty. Your floor is a long-term investment and in most cases, when the house is sold and/or redecorated, the floor will remain.

To ensure the lasting beauty of your floor and additional coating of urethane should be applied every year for high-traffic commercial (i.e. retail stores, restaurants, etc.), 2 to 3 years for medium traffic (i.e. offices, museums, etc.) and 5 to 7 years for light commercial or residential. This is a simple and fast operation: sand with an orbital flooring sander (SquarBuff, Alto) with 180 grit sandpaper, vacuum and apply two coats of our MP765 water-base varnish. Allow to dry overnight before subjecting the floor to normal traffic. A well maintained floor will last for decades.



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CLEANING TIPS

- To eliminate fine particles of dirt and grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Clean regularly with a damp mop. Occasionally, (after cleaning the bulk of the dirt with water only) you can use wood floor cleaners (i.e. Basic Coatings, Bona Chemi, Finnitec, etc.) diluted in water. **NEVER WAX YOUR FLOOR AS THIS IS A URETHANE FINISH!**
- Spills should be wiped up immediately.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs.
- In the kitchen, use a rug in front of the working areas such as in front of the stove and sink to prevent local premature damage.
- Install proper protectors under "feet" of furniture.
- Caster-wheeled chairs should have wide casters.
- Periodically check floor for signs of wear.
- Be careful of high heels! Due to the concentration of weight on such a small surface, an average size woman in high heels can exert 2000 pounds per square inch of pressure on the floor that could possibly indent any floor permanently.

These instructions were last updated in September 2008.

The most recent revision of this document is always available at <http://www.durodesign.com/>