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## **Installation Guidelines for DuroDesign Wide-Plank Solid Maple Flooring**

You must read and understand these instructions completely before installing DuroDesign Wide-Plank Maple 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 Maple 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 Wide-Plank Maple flooring is best installed over a wood subfloor using a flooring nailer above grade.

### **COLOR VARIATION**

Maple 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 Wide-Plank Maple 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. 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% and not be more than 4% above or below the moisture content of the flooring.**

## INSTALLATION

For best appearance, DuroDesign Wide-Plank Maple 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. 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.

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.** Stagger end joints by at least 6" – preferably 12" for best appearance.

**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

Your floor is a long-term investment, so buying a quality floor and proper maintenance is the key to lasting beauty.

To ensure the lasting beauty of your floor and additional coating of finish 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: Clean the floor. Apply a thin coat of HR-1000, let penetrate for 2 minutes and wipe the excess with a dry cloth. Repeat, if needed. Allow to dry overnight drying 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 !**
- 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 October 2008.

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