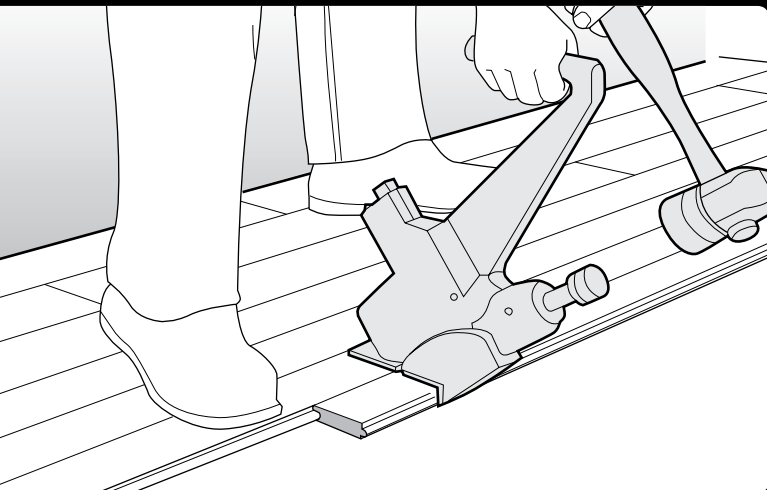


3/4" Solid



Installation guide

for your Mercier wood flooring



MERCIER

wood flooring

To get better results, Mercier Wood Flooring recommends a Mercier authorized dealer or a certified expert for the installation of your Mercier wood floor.

It is very important to read carefully all the instructions before the installation. If the installation recommendations are not followed, your warranty may not be valid.

For any questions concerning the installation, please contact your authorized Mercier dealer or our technical service at **1-866-448-1785**.

The complete installation guide is available online at :

[http://www.mercier-wood-flooring.com/
installation-maintenance-faq/installation.html](http://www.mercier-wood-flooring.com/installation-maintenance-faq/installation.html)

Duties and responsibilities of installers and homeowners

Mercier floorboards are made of solid wood, a natural material that may have some imperfections. Mercier products meet rigorous quality standards and comply with current wood industry standards, which stipulate that the imperfection rate cannot exceed 5% of the floorboards purchased. This also includes natural imperfections in the wood as well as manufacturing and grade selection defects.

Depending on the location and installation type, order 3% to 5% more flooring than needed to compensate for cutting losses. Mercier will only replace products with a defect rate above the acceptable 5% loss (excluding the 3% to 5% margin for cutting losses). Mercier will not be held liable for the careless installation of its products or the poor judgment of installers. Mercier will not cover labor or installation costs.

Mercier floor experts conduct meticulous quality tests to ensure floorboards comply with the established criteria. Installers must use discretion when choosing boards and omit, place in a less visible area, or cut those with serious defects as needed, regardless of their origin. If installers have doubts about the grade and finish or manufacturing quality and can neither place boards in a less visible place or eliminate the imperfection, they should not install them. Once boards are nailed down, they are considered to have been accepted by the installer and homeowner.

Before installing the floor, installers and homeowners must ensure that the installation site and subfloor meet the conditions in this document. **Mercier Wood Flooring warranty is valid only for the original buyer and when the installation occurs under normal environmental conditions.**

Normal environmental conditions mean that the heating, the ventilation system, and/or the air conditioning is working properly and that the conditions inside your home have been kept at an approximate temperature of 20 °C (70 °F) and a relative humidity between 40% **(MINIMUM)** to 55% **(MAXIMUM)**.

Stable environmental conditions inside your home is the key to a successful installation.

3/4" SOLID wood flooring

Nailed installation ONLY

Product description

Our solid wood boards are completely sanded and finished in our plant under ideal conditions. Since they are prefinished, they are ready to enjoy as soon as they are installed. Each board is composed entirely of solid, 3/4" wood, so no gluing or laminating is necessary.

Recommended use

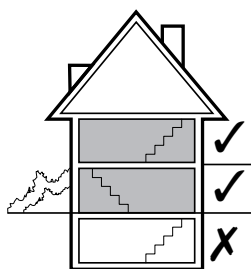
- Above grade yes
- On grade yes
- Below grade no

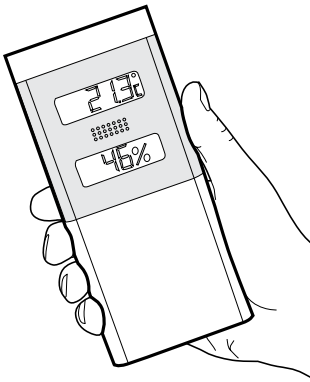
Preparing the environment

Laying the floor should be the last step of your project. Even before the flooring is delivered, make sure that:

- Your house is closed, with all doors and windows installed.
- The foundation is dry (minimum of 60 days) and the basement is heated and well ventilated.
- The pipes, water tank heaters, dishwashers, and other plumbing accessories are inspected.
- Concrete, plaster, paint, and the subfloor are completely dry.
- The heating and ventilation system is working properly.
- Normal conditions inside your home have been kept at an approximate temperature of 20°C (70°F) and a relative humidity between 40% to 55% for at least one week.
- The floor of the crawl space (if there is one) is completely covered by 6–8 mil black polyethylene film.

The installer or homeowner must verify the moisture level of the subfloor (plywood or OSB) in various locations using a wood moisture meter. The subfloor moisture level must not exceed 12%, and the difference between the subfloor and floorboards must not be greater than 4% of the floorboards' internal moisture level,





which is 6% to 9%. If the subfloor moisture level or floor/subfloor difference is too high, provide the site with more heat and ventilation and delay floor installation (for hardwood boards 4" or wider the difference between the sub-floor and hardwood floorboards must not be greater than 2% of the hardwood floorboards' internal moisture level).

Once conditions are right...

Bring the boxed floorboards to the installation site. Open a box to check product species, grade, color, size, and quality. If everything is fine, open the boxes, set them aside, and leave the wood to acclimatize for 72 hours. To avoid any variation in internal wood moisture levels before installation, avoid exposing the boxes to rain or snow. Never store boards in unsuitable locations such as a shed, unheated garage, or basement.

Floor structure

Generally, there are two types of floor structures:

- Conventional wood frames (beams and joists)
- Concrete slabs

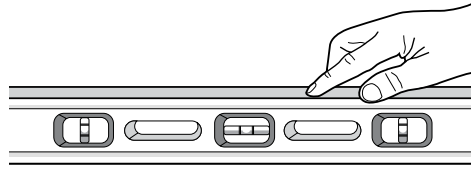
Installation on wood beams and joists

Mercier recommends using 3/4" plywood* or oriented strandboard (OSB) panels as a subfloor on joists spaced up to 19.2" apart.

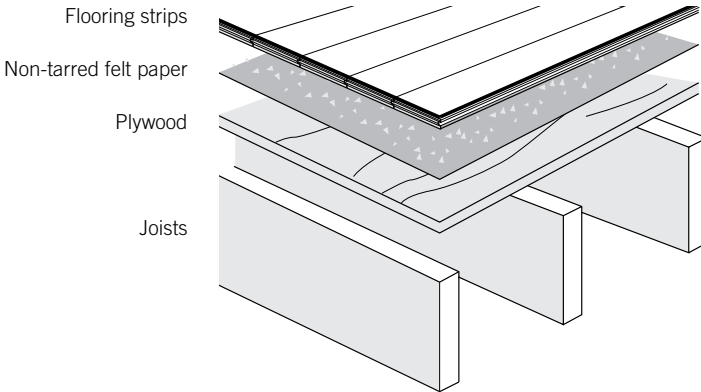
Preparing and leveling the subfloor:

- The subfloor must be firmly fixed to the joists to avoid any panel movement that could cause creaking.
- Use flooring screws if necessary to prevent creaking.
- The surface must be level. Eliminate small surface irregularities with a sander or floor leveler. (The surface must be dry before the installation)

* Plywood offers superior retention of fasteners and restricts the movement of the flooring boards which will reduce the potential for squeaking that can be created when pressure is applied to the surface of the flooring.

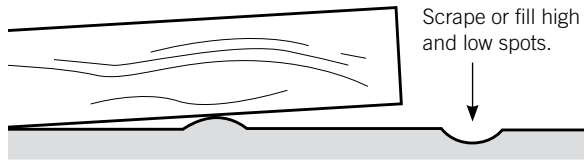


- **The difference in level must not be more than 3/16" over a distance of 6' distance or more than 1/4" over 10'.**
- The surface must be clean. Remove glue residue and staples, and drive in protruding nails.
- Remove debris and dust with a broom or vacuum.
- It is recommended that you use non-tarred felt paper on the subfloor surface.



Installation on concrete slabs

Solid wood floors 3/4" thick may be installed on concrete slabs on the ground floor or a second floor, but are not recommended in the basement. **As these boards must be nailed, the installer must first install a subfloor over the concrete slab.**



Preparing and leveling the concrete slab

- Concrete slabs must be allowed to dry minimum 60 days (90 days and more may be required) for a reliable moisture test.
- Concrete slabs should be free of any surface defect. If they are not, fill gaps with leveling cement or sand uneven areas.
- Concrete slabs must not slope more than $3/16$ " over 10' or $1/8$ " over 6'.

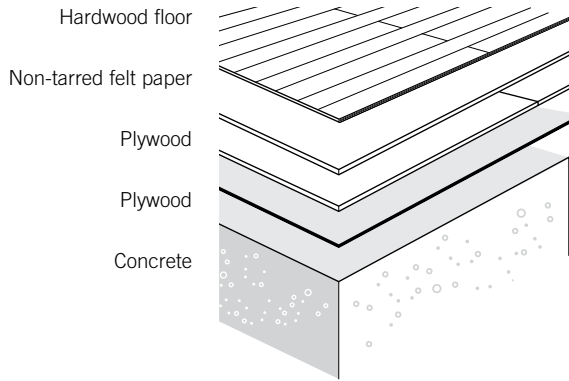
Recommended subfloor installation on concrete slabs

There are two methods for installing a subfloor on a concrete slab. Use an appropriate vapor barrier between the slab and subfloor for each of these methods.

- Double plywood system
- Subfloor on screed system

Double plywood system

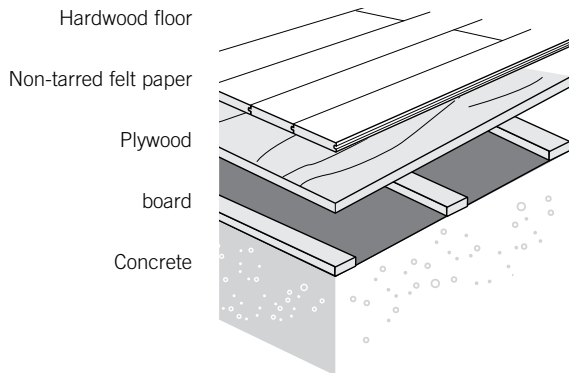
Double plywood subfloors require two layers of $1/2$ " exterior plywood installed one on top of the other. Position the first plywood layer, placing the longest sides parallel to the longest wall and fasten firmly to the concrete. Keep $3/4$ " free at wall edges and $1/8$ " between panel edges, doorjambes, and other obstacles where there will be no trim.



The second plywood layer must be placed at a 45° or perpendicular to the first layer, proceeding the same way as for the first layer. Fasten the two layers together every 12" with nails or screws that are shorter than the combined thickness of both layers.

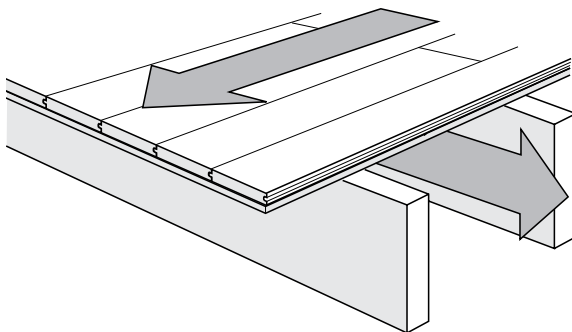
Subfloor on screed system

Using concrete fasteners, attach screeds every 12" perpendicular to the floorboards. Leave 3/4" between the strips and wall edges or other vertical obstructions. Lay plywood panels at least 3/4" thick on top of the screeds and attach with flooring screws every 12" (the length of the screws must be less than the total thickness of the plywood and screeds).



Installation techniques for laying floorboards

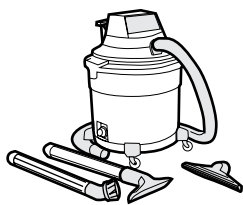
- Choose floorboards from 3 different boxes. This lets you balance boards and makes a uniform installation.
- Never use a hammer directly on floorboards, use a tapping block.
- Place tools and the flooring hammer on a protective mat during installation.
- Vacuum frequently to eliminate sawdust and abrasives.
- Choose the floorboard direction. It is strongly recommended you install boards at a 45° or 90° angle to the joist direction.



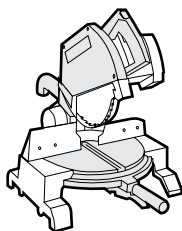
Materials and recommended tools

1. Vacuum or broom
2. Hardwood nailer
Primatech (800) 363-1962 www.primatech.ca
 - P250 – Pneumatic nailer (cleats) 2”
 - P240 – Pneumatic nailer with Trackedge and nails (cleats) 2”
3. Levelling Products or sander
4. Level
5. Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both)
6. Felt paper, non-tarred (or equivalent)
7. Stapler
8. Measuring tape
9. Chalk line reel
10. Square and bevel square
11. Miter saw
12. Table saw
13. Tapping Block
14. Crowbar
15. 4” or 5” wide putty knife
16. Handsaw
17. Drill and 3/32” bit
18. Hammer, finishing spiral nails, and nail set
19. Mercier touchup kit
20. Mercier maintenance kit

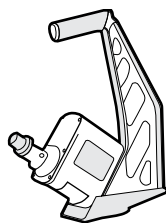
Note: Mercier Wood Flooring is not liable for damages caused by unsuitable tools or the improper use of materials. Depending on the type of installation, you may also need other tools.



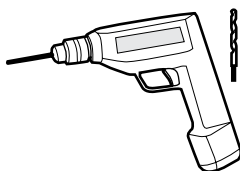
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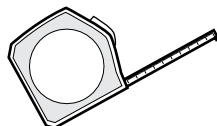
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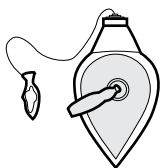
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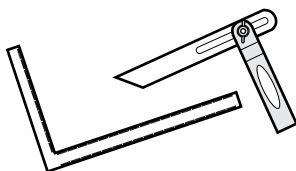
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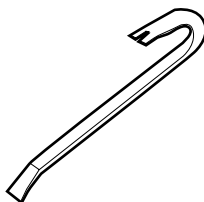
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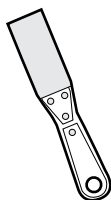
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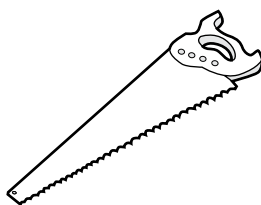
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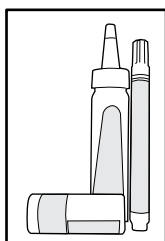
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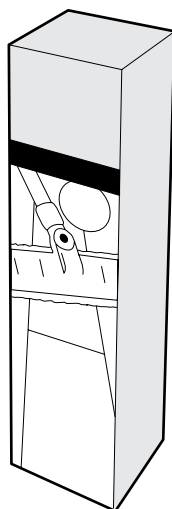
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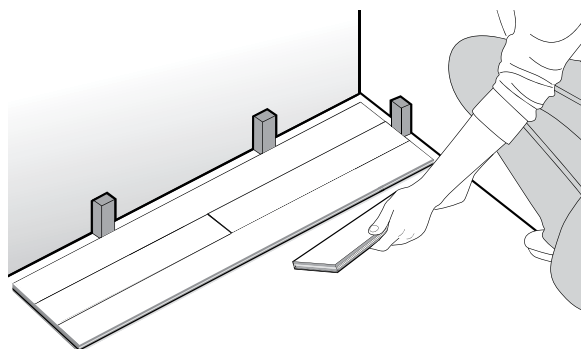
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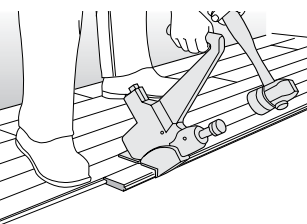
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Installation

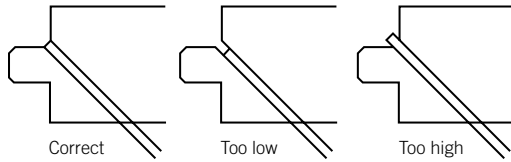
Starting line:

- Use a chalk line to trace a guideline parallel to the starting wall at a distance from it equal to the floor board width plus the expansion joint ($3/4$ " width). For example, $3/4$ " (83 mm) flooring will have a chalk-line at 4" (102 mm) from the wall.
- Use a spacer between the boards and the wall to create the expansion joints.
- The expansion joint is necessary to allow the wood to react to changes in ambient humidity. The expansion joints will be hidden by baseboards and quarter rounds, which will be nailed to the walls and not the floor. If baseboards are very thin or there are no quarter rounds, you may hide the expansion joints by removing a strip of drywall the thickness of a board at the base of the wall.

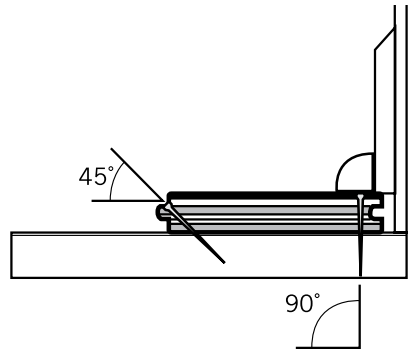


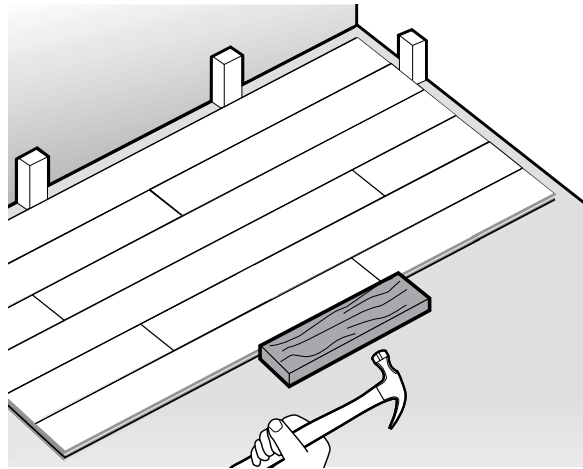
Installation of the boards

- Install the first board along the starting line with the tongue facing you and the groove facing the starting wall.
- Be sure to start straight and square.
- Always keep a $1/4$ " (6 mm) expansion joint at row ends.



- Depending on the nailer, two or more rows may have to be handnailed.
- Use the pneumatic nailer for the next rows. The boards should be nailed at every 6" to 8". Fasten each board with at least 2 nails. Never nail less than 2" from board ends, to prevent the tongue from splitting.
- Before the installation, adjust the compressor air pressure to ensure the boards won't be damaged.
- Clean the nailer base plate regularly to ensure it does not damage the finish.
- A tapping bloc may be needed to fasten the boards together. Never use a hammer directly on the boards.
- The last board in the row will probably have to be cut. The remainder (leave at least 6" in length) will serve to start the next row.
- The final boards should be installed the same as the first boards.





- You may have to rip the last row lengthwise to leave a 3/4" expansion joint.

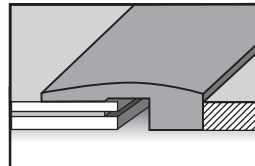
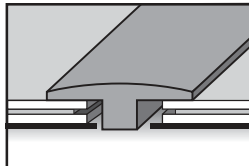
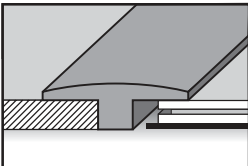
BE CAREFUL!

Broken boards or boards with imperfections may lead to bigger problems such as cracking.

Adjust the compressor air pressure for the hardness of the species (be especially vigilant with Exotic wood).

Transition molding

During installation, you may have to use nosing, T molding, quarter round, and or reducer moldings. These moldings are offered in the same colors and species as your Mercier wood floor; they are available from your Mercier authorized dealer. Molding should be ordered at the same time as you wood floor.



Before installing the floor, it is recommended that you select boards that are a good match with the moldings to ensure an appealing visual transition.

You can use a slip tongue (thin strip of wood inserted into the groove and glued with wood glue) to join moldings to floorboards.

BE CAREFUL!

Moldings should have pre-drilled holes to avoid any cracks when nailed. The baseboards and the quarter rounds should not be nailed to the floor but to the walls. The expansion joint is necessary to allow the wood to react to changes.

Inspection, Finishing and upkeep

- Once the installation finished, vacuum your floor and then clean it using Mercier maintenance products. Never use large amounts of liquid or water to clean wood floors.

You can hide the small holes left by finishing nails with Mercier wood putty.

1. Fill the hole with the wood putty.
2. Wipe excess wood putty immediately with a clean cloth and Mercier cleaner.
3. Apply a thin coat of urethane to the surface.
4. Let dry for about an hour.



mercierwoodflooring.com 1.866.448.1785