



AMBIANCE CLIC FLOOR - Installation CLIC ENGINEERED ENGLISH.doc

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

"CLIC" Engineered floors

IMPORTANT: PROCEED WITH A VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE STRIPS BEFORE INSTALLATION. ONCE INSTALLED, THE STRIPS ARE CONSIDERED ACCEPTED BY THE

INSTALLER AND THE OWNER.

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE INSTALLATION

OWNER / INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

Hardwood flooring is a beautiful and unique product of nature, which is characterized by distinctive variations in grain and color. These natural variations in color and grain are not flaws, but are a part of the natural beauty and uniqueness of hardwood flooring. These inherent variations should be expected and serve to enhance the natural beauty and enduring charm. Epico Forest Products floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type.

- The installer assumes all responsibility for **final inspection** of product quality. This inspection of the whole flooring should be done before installation. Carefully examine the flooring for color, finish and quality before installing it. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects whatever the cause. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact your dealer immediately.
- Before beginning installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site and the condition and type of the subfloor involved are acceptable, ensuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements which are stipulated in the Epico Forest Products installation instructions which follow. Epico Forest Products declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloor or job site environment deficiencies.
- Prior to installation, the installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies.

- The use of stain, filler or putty stick for the correction of defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.
- When Epico Forest Products hardwood flooring is ordered, a 5 % allowance factor, depending on layout, must be added to the actual square footage amount needed. (Diagonal installations and/or board width of 5" and over may require up to a 10 % allowance factor.)
- Please note that Masters Choice engineered floors must be installed in environments of 40% to 55% relative humidity to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. Installation of a humidifier or dehumidifier may be necessary. The floor is designed to perform in an environmentally controlled structure. Warranty exclusions are, but not limited to, surface checking resulting from low humidity, mildew or discoloration resulting from extreme sub-floor moisture.

JOB SITE INSPECTION & ACCLIMATION

- This type of flooring can be installed below, equal or above ground level. Do not install in a bathroom.
- In a new construction, hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustical ceilings, dry wall taping, etc.) should be completed prior to wood flooring being installed. Heating and air systems should be fully operating maintaining a consistent room temperature at 16°C to 27°C (60-80° F) and a constant relative humidity of 40% to 55%.
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 days old. Check basements and underfloor crawl space to be sure that they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.
- Handle with care. Do not stand on ends. Store Epico Forest Products flooring in a dry place being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under and around cartons.
- Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the installation area.
- The humidity level of the house must be maintained between 40 % and 55 % all year long. Wood is a living product which reacts to humidity level variations. During summer, where the humidity level is at its highest point, the wood has a natural expansion and absorbs the humidity, these variations must be dealt with adequate dehumidification. As for winter, when the heating system is working, the humidity level is lower. It is then recommended to use a humidifier to minimise the extreme effects of shrinkage.

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Radiant Subfloor heating

NOTE: Always make sure that the selected product is recommended for this type of installation. Some species are not compatible and can not be installed on this type of subfloor; Jatoba, American Maple, Kempas, Ironwood, Ipé, Asian Mahogany, etc are some species that are not suitable for Radiant heating. Please ensure that the species you have chosen is suitable.

- The heating system must be functional and working for at least 7 days prior to the floor installation.
- Stop the heating and let the floor cool down to ambient temperature for 3 or 4 hours before starting the floor installation.
- Immediately start the radiant heating system after the installation. The temperature of the finished surface cannot go over 27 °C (80 °F) at all times for the duration of the flooring's life span.
- Radiant heating systems usually procure a dry heat which can lower the ambient humidity level. It could be necessary to use a humidifier to maintain a recommended level of 40 % to 55 % and prevent any damage to the floor.
- Flooring installed on a radiant heating system must be glued at each end, in order to reduce the shrinkage in length. Apply a layer of recommended wood glue on the grooved side before inserting the strip.

APPROVED SUBFLOORS

Type of subfloor Floating Stapled Glued

Plywood 5/8" –OSB 23/32" (truss/joist of 16" c/c or less)

Plywood 3/4" T&G –OSB 23/32" (truss/joist of 19,2" c/c or less)

Concrete YES

Ceramic tiled floor, terrazzo, slate and marble YES

(Concrete) Radiant Subfloor heating YES

Radiant heating (plywood) YES

Subfloor conditions

- CLEAN - Scraped or sanded, swept, free of wax, grease, paint, oil and other debris.
- HORIZONTAL / FLAT – Maximum tolerance of 5mm over 3 m (3/16 " over 10') or 3mm over 2 m (1/8" over 6').
- Sand high areas or joints. If the floor is glued, fill the low areas with a latex additive cement surfacing product with a minimum resistance to compression of 20 000 kPa.
- Concrete Slabs (regardless of existing floor covering): Use an approved calibrated concrete Moisture Meter as a preliminary measurement for

moisture. Concrete subfloors must be finished at least 30 days before performing a test. Acceptable verification methods: Perform a polyfilm test. Tape down 2' x 2' polyfilm squares (a clear garbage bag or plastic drop cloth will do) in several places on the floor. Wait 24-48 hours, and then check for the appearance of condensation on the inside of the bag or plastic for a darkening on the concrete subfloor. Either occurrence signals the likely presence of excess moisture, which needs other measures with the concrete moisture meter Tramex. The measure must not climb over 4,5 on the superior graduation.

- Wood Substrates: Test the moisture of the wood substrate using a calibrated moisture meter approved for testing wood moisture according to the meter manufacturer. The reading should not exceed 12%, or read more than a 4% difference than moisture content of products being installed.

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REQUIRED TOOLS FOR PROPER INSTALLATION

Power Tools

- Table Saw, Electric Miter Saw, Band Saw, Chop Saw, Power Jamb Saw, or Jig Saw

Hand Tools

- Broom and dust pan or Vacuum
- Tape Measure
- Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both)
- Chalk line & chalk
- 3M Blue Tape
- Hand saw
- Hammer
- Rubber mallet
- Tapping block
- Pry bar
- Filler stick and Touch-up marker
- Hardwood Floor Cleaner

Additional Tools

- 6 mil Polyethylene Vapor Barrier
- Foam Underlayment

STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Important notice regarding expansion space: It is important to include an expansion space of 5/8" (1.5 cm) between rooms (ex: hallway adjacent to a bedroom). You will need to fill this space with a molding. Same rule applies for rooms exceeding 29'6" (9 m), you will also need an expansion space and a molding.

STEP #1 – Install underlayments

Install 6 mil Polyethylene vapor barrier over entire flooring surface. Overlap sheets of Polyethylene 16 inches and tape together creating airtight seal. Run

the vapor barrier 1 to 1.5 inches up the walls and secure in place with tape. Using underlayment, roll out one roll at a time over the vapor barrier. There are many types of underlayments available today. The use of acoustical underlayment will improve the feel and sound transmission of your flooring.

STEP #2 – Preparing the starter rows

It is very important that enough expansion gaps are kept between the flooring and all the walls. This is done by placing ¼ inch (6 mm) spacers every 8 inches apart around all vertical walls.

Measure the width of the room – perpendicular to the direction you intend to install the flooring. The last row of flooring should be no less than 1 ½ inch wide. If it is less, you should rip-saw the starter row narrower. Leave 1/4-inch (6 mm) between the wall and the end of each strip in each row.

Start the second row with a strip of at least 6-inches (15 cm) shorter or longer than the strip used in the first row. This will avoid aligning or clustering the end joints.

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STEP #3 – CLIC SYSTEM

Clic system, for installing floors without using glue.

Your floor can very easy be disassembled, which enables replacement during installation and also during use.

Fold the panel down in a single action movement with a slight press to the left to the short end of the previous panel.

During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other.

Press or knock slightly along the short end of the installed panel

Place the panel **gently and tight** to the short end of the previous panel.

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Disassembling with Välinge Release Tool

STEP #4 – COMPLETE THE INSTALLATION

At the end wall use a pry bar, if needed, to pull the ends of the boards tight. Continue laying the floor on top of the underlayment, working left to right, tapping the strips tight together. Make sure to continue using ¼ inch spacers along the wall throughout the installation.

The last row will most likely require cutting to width but it should be no less than 1 ½ inch wide. To do this, place a full row of strips on top of the last row installed. Insert a ¼ inch spacer against the wall, and using a full width strip, trace distance from wall onto final row. Cut strips for final row to designated width. Apply glue and pull into place with a pry bar.

Finally, install the transition pieces, baseboards and/or, quarter round mouldings.

COMPLETING THE JOB – ALL INSTALLATION

Clean the floor with Hardwood Floor Cleaner. Please ensure that any adhesive on the finish is cleaned before leaving. Dried or cured adhesive cannot be removed.

Install transition pieces.

Inspect final floor for nicks or minor gaps and fill with appropriate color wood putty.

Use plywood or hardboard when moving heavy appliances or furniture across floor.

CARE GUIDE

Your Epico Forest Products Floor will add warmth and beauty to your home for many years to come. Following a few simple maintenance steps, will help protect your investment and keep your Epico Forest Products floor like new.

CLEANING

- Use a damp cloth to blot up spills and spots as soon as they happen. For tough spots such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, tar or cigarette marks, use acetone/nail polish remover then wipe with a damp cloth. Always avoid allowing liquids to stand on your floor.
- Regularly vacuum, (using the hard floor attachment not the beater bar), dust mop or sweep the floor to prevent sand or abrasive dust from accumulating and scratching the finish.
- Periodically clean the floor with Epico Forest Products or approved hardwood floor cleaner, which are specially formulated for the finish.
- Do not use oil based, wax, polish, or strong ammoniated or abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring powder to clean the floor.
- Do not wash or wet-mop the floor with soap, water, oil soap detergent or any other liquid cleaning material. This could cause swelling warping, delaminating and joint-line separation, and void the warranty.
- DO NOT use any type of polisher.

Separate the whole row by carefully lifting up and slightly knocking just above the joint. Fold up and release the whole long side.

Disassemble the panels by sliding horizontally.

(Do **not** fold up!)

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PROTECTING

- Use quality area rugs and doormats by outdoor entrance areas to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substances such as oil, asphalt or driveway sealer from being tracked onto your floor.
- Sweep, dust or vacuum the floor regularly to prevent accumulation of dirt or grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- Use floor protectors and wide bearing leg bases/rollers to minimize indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule of thumb, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector should be.

- Do not use rubber or foam backed plastic mats as they may discolour the floor. To prevent slippage use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
- Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 40% and 55% throughout the year, to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of wood. Failure to provide adequate relative humidity in the home by the use of a humidifier or a dehumidifier will void the warranty.
- Avoid gouges or cuts in your floor from sharp objects. While your Epico Forest Products floor is one of the most wear resistant floors on the market, sharp or pointed objects can nevertheless damage it.
- Don't walk on your floor with stiletto-style heels, spiked golf shoes or cleats; they may cause indentations in your floor.
- Rearrange area rugs and furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. UV sunlight will soften or darken the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees
- Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances. But first, put down a sheet of quarter inch plywood or Masonite to protect the floor. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.
- **Keep pet's nails trimmed, or consider "booties" available at pet stores.**

EPICO FOREST PRODUCTS

LIMITED WARRANTY

This Epico Forest Products Hardwood Floor comes with a:

- Lifetime Structural Integrity Warranty
- 30 Year Finish and Wear Warranty

These warranties, which begin from the date of purchase, apply to products used in dry residential applications. Lifetime warranties apply for as long as the original purchaser owns and resides in the home where the product was installed.

What the Epico Forest Products Hardwood Flooring Limited Warranty covers:

Finish and Wear Warranty - Epico Forest Products warrants to the original purchaser that its finish surface will not peel off or wear through for the indicated period of time, from the date of purchase.

Lifetime Structural Integrity Warranty - Epico Forest Products warrants these engineered hardwood products in their original manufactured conditions to be free from defect in material and workmanship including assembly dimension and grading.

Note: Hardwood flooring is a natural product that will continue to expand and contract during seasonal and temperature changes. Products may experience separation between boards when properly acclimated and installed. If separations do occur, they are not covered by this warranty.

What you should do if any of the above listed problems occur and you need warranty service:

You (the original retail customer) should notify the authorized Epico Forest Products Hardwood Flooring dealer from which the original purchase was made of any

defect no later than 30 days after discovering the defect but within the time period of the applicable limited warranty.

You (the original retail customer) must present to that authorized Epico Forest Products Hardwood Flooring dealer the following items for a warranty claim to be considered:

- A valid proof of purchase in the form of a sales receipt or other documents which establish proof of purchase
- A description of the problem and/or a photograph/sample that clearly shows the warranty problem

What Epico Forest Products will do should you need warranty service:

If Epico Forest Products accepts a claim under this limited warranty, Epico Forest Products will authorize your dealer to replace, free of charge, the amount of strips presenting a manufacturing defect or pay compensation equal to cost of the defective strips. Epico Forest Products will not reimburse any installation fees or labour costs.

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If the claim is related to the finishing of the floor, Epico Forest Products will assume the cost necessary to refinish the flooring of a room or rooms for which the claim was approved, subject to a standard industry rate approved by Epico Forest Products. All other miscellaneous fees that could be related to that job will be assumed by the owner. This procedure constitutes the one and only way to make a claim in regards to this limited warranty.

Each Epico Forest Products Hardwood Flooring Limited Warranty is subject to the following conditions:

- This limited warranty is valid only in North America and United Kingdom. The warranty is not transferable. It extends only to the original retail consumer. This limited warranty applies only where the affected area of the Epico Forest Products Flooring is visible and covers an area greater than 10% of the room. The flooring must be installed in accordance with Epico Forest Products flooring recommended installation instructions using Epico Forest Products installation materials.
- Natural wood characteristics such as mineral streaks, small knots, grain variations etc. are normal characteristics and are not considered as defects. No two pieces of wood are the same and color or other variations will occur. We do not guarantee against natural variations, or the normal difference between color samples or photographs and colors of installed floors.
- Indentation, scratches or damage caused by negligence, water moisture, insects, animals, and high heeled or spiked shoes, or failure to use pads under rolling chairs or other furniture.
- Any product deformity that is not measurable or that is visible only in a certain angle is not considered a defect. Defects are evaluated by their visibility from a reasonable vertical distance (standing height) from the floor.

- Failure to follow manufacturers written installation instructions including protecting the floor from subfloor moisture.
- Excessive or inadequate humidity in the area of use. Relative humidity in the area of use must be within a normal range of 40%-55%.
- Improper or insufficient protection, care and maintenance.
- Accidents abuse or misuse. Warranty will be made void if man-made or natural disasters including leaking or broken plumbing, fire, flood, earthquake, or standing water occur during or after installation.
- Improper alteration of original manufactured product. Alterations or repairs to the manufacturer's original product will void any and all warranties
- Changes in color due to full or partial exposure to sunlight and weather.
- Maple, Merbau, Kempas, Tamarindo, Pine, Brazilian Cherry and other species may darken due to light exposure. This is a natural occurrence and is not covered by this warranty.
- Failure due to structural changes in the subfloor, settling of the building or uneven subfloor that has not been adequately leveled.
- This warranty does not cover removal or replacement of cabinets, appliances, furniture or other fixtures.
- Gloss reduction is not considered wear.
- Faces checking, cracking, are not covered by this warranty.
- Please note that Masters Choice engineered floors must be installed in environments of 40% to 55% relative humidity to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. Installation of a humidifier or dehumidifier may be necessary. The floor is designed to perform in an environmentally controlled structure. Warranty exclusions are, but not limited to, surface checking resulting from low humidity, mildew or discoloration resulting from extreme sub-floor moisture.

Please Note:

Epico Forest Products does not grant to any person or entity the authority to create for it any obligation or liability in connection with Epico Forest Products Flooring.

Epico Forest Products shall not be liable to the consumer or any other person for any incidental, special or consequential damages, arising out of breach of this limited warranty or any implied limited warranty (excluding merchantability). Some states or provinces do not allow the excluding of limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to the purchaser. This warranty gives the customer specific legal rights, such rights may vary from state to state.

For more information, please visit.

"INSTALLATION IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE."NO WARRANTY WILL BE OFFERED FOR APPEARANCE RELATED CLAIMS ONCE THE PRODUCTS ARE INSTALLED.

8032 Torbram Rd. Brampton ,ON L6T 3T2 Ph: 905-497-3326 Fax: 905-790-2520