

## HEMPWOOD® ENGINEERED FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

**IMPORTANT:** Please read the following instructions in their entirety before opening the packaging or starting the installation.

The installer/owner is responsible for determining if the job site's subfloor and environmental conditions are suitable for installing engineered flooring. The manufacturer cannot control and is not responsible for site conditions.

### DEFECTS

Check all boards before installation for visual or structural defects. This product is manufactured following industry standards which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. Imperfections may be either natural or from manufacturing. Where possible, defects should be addressed by cutting out and using the boards as cut-offs for the ends of runs.

If there are excessive defective boards, they should be set aside. Defects should be notified in writing to the point of purchase retailer of the flooring before installation and allow sufficient time for an inspection by the retailer before proceeding.

### TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Temperature and humidity control of the space the HempWood® is to be installed in must be maintained year around. The temperature range should be controlled from 10 to 27°C.

The relative humidity range at all space temperatures must be maintained at 35% to 70%. Use humidifiers and/or dehumidifiers to maintain the required humidity range. The job site must be fully enclosed and the exterior finishing complete. Gutters and downspouts must be in place, and sound and all exterior grading should divert water from the foundation before installation. All interior wet trades (i.e., paint, drywall, concrete, tiling, etc.) must be completed prior to installation. Deliver all material to the job site to acclimate for at least 72 hours or as long as it is necessary to meet the proper requirements prior to installation.

- Store material in the same environment that it is to be installed. Do not store material directly on a concrete floor, near windows or vents.
- Material must be checked with a moisture meter to ensure at moisture equilibrium with the job site.
- Record all moisture readings.

## COLOUR VARIATION

HempWood® is a natural material, and variations in colour and tone are to be expected. Mix different colours and tones to create a blended and natural-looking floor for the optimum finish.

## ACCLIMATION

Ensure that the temperature and humidity control system is operational and that the temperature and humidity of the installation area have been established for at least two weeks before installation. The product in the cartons has been conditioned at a temperature of 18-22°C and 45-55% RH. Allow the material to acclimate for at least 72 hours before installation. Use material from 2 or 3 cartons at a time to maintain a good blend of colour.

## WARNING:

Installation and/or location of the engineered flooring in temperature/humidity conditions outside of recommended ranges may result in the floor expanding/contracting, which may, in turn, cause warping/cupping in wet/hot conditions or splitting/cracking in dry/cold conditions.

Any sharp increases/decreases in temperature or RH can affect the stability of your product. To ensure a successful installation, please ensure that temperature and humidity levels are maintained within the optimum conditions at all times.

## HEATING SEASON-LOW HUMIDITY, DRY (Drying/shrinking of the floor)

All heating methods create dry, low-humidity conditions. Humidifiers are recommended to prevent shrinkage or gapping in floors due to seasonal periods of low humidity outside of recommended parameters. In this environment, the product may contract if humidification is not provided.

## NON-HEATING SEASON AND COASTAL OR WATERFRONT AREAS- HIGH HUMIDITY (Swelling of the floor)

During the non-heating season, proper humidity levels should be maintained by using an air conditioner or dehumidifier or by turning on your heating system periodically during the summer months. In this environment, the product may expand, and peaking may occur if excessive humidity is present for extended periods of time.

## Note:

Before installation, testing should be performed after the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system) has been in operation for a minimum of 14 days. Excess moisture on any flooring substrate not identified and corrected prior to installation will cause floor covering to fail. Warranties DO NOT cover products installed over improperly prepared subfloors, substrates, or environmental-related deficiencies.

## 1: SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

### Site Conditions

- Flooring should be the last item installed for all commercial or residential applications. All other trades must be completed before the flooring can be installed.
- Ensure the site is thoroughly clean, and all debris is removed.
- The subfloor must be flat (level to maximum variation of 4mm over a 3000mm radius and structurally sound).
- All installations require the use of:
  - A Suitable vapour barrier is to be installed directly on the concrete substrate.

### OR

- Rosen paper (over wood) overlaid & taped or 2mm cushion underlay with 2 in 1 underlay. This should be installed by butting the edges together (no overlap) and then taping again.

### For Wooden Subfloors

- Check the moisture content of the wood sub-floor using an invasive wood moisture meter ([Delmhorst RDM3](#) invasive moisture meter is recommended). If the moisture content is over 12%, the manufacturer recommends that the engineered flooring not be installed.
- Check subfloor is dry year-round, has no mould or contaminants and is well secured. Nail or screw every 150mm along the joists to avoid squeaking. Rectify if required.
- Check subfloor is level. If not level, sand down high spots and fill low areas with an underlayment patch and allow to dry.
- Rolled paper overlaid and taped or 2mm cushion underlay with 2 in 1 underlay. This should be installed by butting the edges together (no overlap) and then taping again.

DIY installers should confirm the suitability of the wood subfloor & crawl space with an industry professional.

### Concrete Subfloors

- Ensure the concrete slab is fully cured and has been thoroughly dried by the HVAC system. For new concrete, the HVAC system will need to operate for about 60 days to remove humidity in the concrete.
- All uneven areas in the subfloor must be filled with cementitious levelling compound (refer to manufacturer's instructions) and ground to conform to minimum requirements of 4mm deflection over a 3000mm radius. The compound must be left to dry completely before installation of the flooring.
- Use a roll-on moisture barrier (perm rating of 0.7 or less)
- Check the moisture content of the floor and wall concrete using a [Tramex concrete moisture encounter meter 2004](#), [Tramex CRH](#) or Tramex CRM Expert. If the reading is above 4.5, the manufacturer recommends that the engineered flooring should not be installed.
- The owner/installer is responsible for ensuring the concrete is under 4.5 moisture content before installation. Warranties DO NOT cover products installed over improperly prepared concrete subfloor where the moisture content is over 4.5.
- Important: Do not install on concrete unless you are sure it stays dry year-round.

### Hydronic Floor Heating (if applicable)

Engineered flooring **can only be installed over hydronic radiant heating systems**. Electrical heating elements usually embedded in concrete are unsuitable as hot spots can develop under the floor. The temperature of the floor must be controlled to a maximum of 24°C.

- The heating system must be in operation at the recommended temperature for at least 7 days prior to installation, shut off 4 hours prior to installation, and then returned to operation once the installation is complete.
- As heating systems create dry heat, the ambient relative humidity in the installation environment must be maintained between a range of 35-70% (a humidifier/dehumidifier may assist in maintaining humidity levels).
- Please follow the heating system manufacturer's instructions. The owner/installer is responsible for ensuring all the required environmental conditions are met before the installation of the Engineered Flooring.

## 2: INSTALLATION

### Nail Down Installation

- The manufacturer recommends the [Husky 3-in-1 floor nail gun combined with the 18 gauge, 31.25mm cleat](#). The correct pressure may vary but will work best at about 90 PSI. HempWood® is a natural material subject to various factors; installers should always conduct a pre-installation test to ensure the correct pressure and visual appearance before proceeding with the actual flooring work.
- Flooring should be square with the space and perpendicular to the joists. Leave a 12-15mm expansion space from the base plate or wall.
- Starter rows shall be held firmly in place by glueing or blind nailing. Once starter rows are secure, additional rows shall be cleated directly above the tongue at a 45-50 degree angle to the face.
- Ensure the cleat head rests cleanly in the "nail" pocket. Cleats shall be placed no closer than 75mm from the ends of each plank and placed at 150-200mm intervals.

### Floating Installation (glue assist- residential only)

- Flooring should be square with the space and run perpendicular to the room's length. Leave a 12 to 15mm expansion space from the base plate or wall and any other vertical obstruction to maintain 'floating' integrity.
- Good quality waterproof wood glue is recommended for bonding the planks together on all four sides.
- Starter rows shall be held firmly in place by a straight temporary guide board (When fixing this board, do not compromise your moisture barrier).
- Apply a bead of glue to the bottom of the tongue on the long and short side using a glue gun and a standard wood glue tube.
- Install flooring, making sure not to get glue on the board tops.
- Check each section regularly for gaps before moving on. Weigh down the floor if necessary.
- Allow the completed floor to rest undisturbed.
- Do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on the floor for a minimum of 24 hours before removing the wedges.

## Glue Down Installation

- The manufacturer requires a premium moisture-cured urethane adhesive such as Bona, Divergent Timberflex, or Bostik Green Force (or an approved equivalent) to adhere the material to the substrate.
- Flooring should be square with the space and run perpendicular to the joists.
- Leave a 12 to 15mm expansion space from the base plate or wall. Starter rows shall be held firmly in place by wedging.
- Once starter rows are secure, install HempWood® flooring per the adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- Weigh down the floor if necessary.
- Allow the completed floor to rest undisturbed. Do not allow foot traffic or heavy furniture on the floor for a minimum of 24 hours before removing the wedges.

### 3: STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION

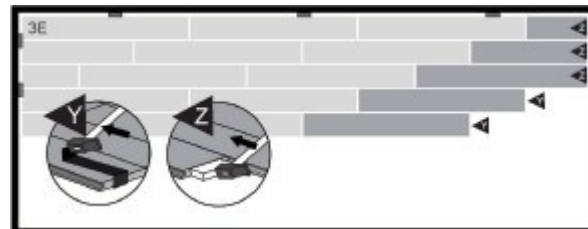
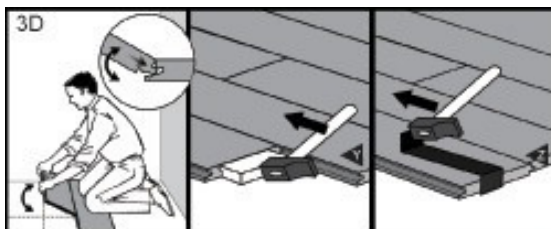
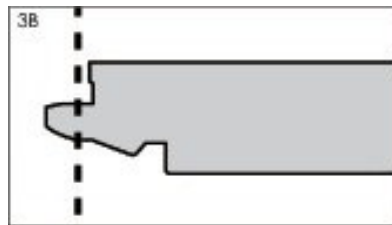
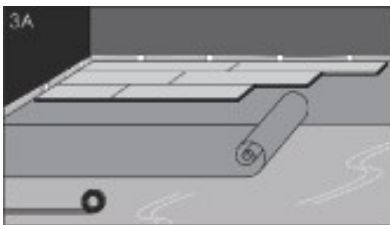
1. Install a concrete moisture barrier or 2 in 1 underlayment pad or [rosen paper](#) (over wood subfloor), following the manufacturer's instructions over the pre-installed vapour barrier/retarder ([see section on subfloor preparation](#)). Tape all seams. See diagram 3A.
2. Begin the first row with a whole plank. For glue down or floating installation, saw off the tongue on both the long and short sides. You will continue to remove the tongue for any machined edge that directly lies against a wall or obstruction. See diagram 3B. For nail down, put the groove side against the wall on the starter row.
3. Put the plank with sawn off-sides against the walls. Put spacers between the planks and the wall. Spacers will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: 12-15mm. See diagram 3C.
4. Install the boards one plank at a time, making sure to angle the boards correctly and ensure the tongue and groove system is fully secured and all joints are tight. Glue down, nail, or glue float.
5. Use a tapping block to tap the tongue and groove system firmly on the side and end of the boards. Use a pull-bar to tap into the position where the tongue has been sawn off for the boards next to the wall. See diagram 3D.
6. Place the planks in a random position and always ensure that the end joints are staggered at least 250mm. This is to provide strength to the combined floor.
7. You can use the left-over pieces (cut-offs) from the first row to start the following row – there must be a minimum of 250mm. See diagram 3E.

8. When an entire row is complete, review the row to ensure there is no gapping and that all tongue and groove mechanisms are fully engaged (all planks are perfectly flat). Note: Never hammer planks without using a tapping block, or damage to the boards may result.
9. Place a weight (e.g. a carton of planks) on the completed boards to stabilize them or use a weighted roller. Continue to use this method to install the whole floor.
10. UNFINISHED FLOORING (next day)- COLOUR OPTION Bona tinted sealer. Using a buffer = more uniform colour.
11. UNFINISHED FLOORING- Bona hardwood flooring sealer- residential 1-2 coats & commercial 2 coats or as colour requires. [See www.bona.com](http://www.bona.com) for details or the back of the sealer bottle. Screen before coating results in a smoother finish.
12. UNFINISHED FLOORING- Bona HD Traffic or Mega coating requires a minimum of 2 coats. [See www.bona.com](http://www.bona.com) for details or the back of the coating jug. Using a buffer results in a more uniform finish.
13. Adding a coat of Bona Traffic HD prefinished floors increases water resistance.
  - Rough surface with 220 grit sandpaper or screen (Example: hand, sander, or machine will work).
  - Vacuum the surface to remove debris and dust
  - Apply Bona Traffic HD with a sled, squeegee or trowel
  - Let dry for 24 hours before light traffic use and 72 hours before heavy traffic use.



## 4: INSTALLATION TIPS

- Allow for clearance underneath doors. Check that doors will open later by ensuring that the clearance over the substrate is at least 8mm.
- Pull from at least 3 boxes and blend different shades for a natural finish.
- Ensure starting line is straight and fixed, and stagger end joints of boards from row to row at a minimum of 250mm to strengthen the entire floor and create a random pattern finish.
- Only install cabinets or walls on top of glue or nail-down floorings. Never install cabinets or walls on top of floating floors. Instead, install these first and cut expansion gaps in the floor around the fixture.
- Because the humidity of a room can vary due to differences between seasons, floating floors must be able to expand and contract in all directions. To facilitate expansion, an expansion and contraction allowance of 12mm to 16mm should be provided at all walls of fixed vertical obstructions. i.e., Kitchen islands etc. It may be necessary to add a quarter round to conceal possible gapping.
- Never fix base trim/baseboards to the floor. Allow the floor to expand/contract underneath the baseboard.



**For commercial and higher traffic applications, using a natural colour, installing a non-coated & finish onsite, or adding an extra coat of Bona HD Traffic to improve coating wear is recommended.**

**FLOORS WIDER THAN 7000mm**

On floating floors wider than 7000mm in width, intermediate expansion joints may be needed. For more information, contact your local flooring agent or representative.

**5: POST-INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS**

- Never steam mop or wet mop floor surface area, EVER.
- Protect the floor from scratches from furniture & chair feet using felt or plastic protector pads.
- Avoid bringing dirt, water and sand from outside using a walk-off doormat.
- Ensure humidity is always controlled between 35-70%. If necessary, use a humidifier/dehumidifier.
- Keep nails trimmed on animals.
- Periodically rearrange rugs and furniture to allow even ageing of the floor coating colour.
- Use area rugs in high-traffic areas.
- Never use wax, oil, soap or other household cleaners on your floor.
- Do not use plastic films or other non-breathing type coverings as this can cause the floor to become damaged from humidity build-ups.
- Due to the unforeseen happening, it is recommended that the owner keeps some spare cartons of flooring sealed and dry in a storage area for possible future board replacement.

**6: MAINTENANCE**

- Vacuum or sweep to remove dust and dirt before cleaning.
- Use hardwood floor cleaners and maintenance products to keep the flooring clean.
- Any mirror scratches or damage can be repaired using a natural almond stick or orange oil.

**7: PRODUCT WARRANTY**

1. The manufacturer offers a 25-year Limited Structural Warranty on residential and 5 years on commercial applications from the date of purchase.
2. The manufacturer offers a 5-year Residential Limited Wear Warranty and a 5-year Commercial Limited Wear Warranty from the date of purchase.
3. The manufacturer will replace defective products only. This warranty excludes all other costs associated with the installation of the product.
4. Flooring Warranties DO NOT cover materials with visible defects once they are installed.
5. Flooring Warranties DO NOT cover water, humidity, or weather-related damages.
6. This warranty only applies if the flooring has been installed according to the specific manufacturer's installation guidelines. Any deviations from the guidelines will result in a claim being rejected.
7. Warranty applicable for original end-consumer and non-transferable.

**FOR FULL WARRANTY DETAILS, INCLUDING EXCLUSIONS AND CLAIMS PROCEDURES,  
PLEASE REFER TO YOUR RESELLER**