

ROBBINS®

Fine Hardwood Flooring

Engineered Hardwood

ELEGANT BEAUTY FOR ANY ROOM

Installation, Care and Maintenance



WR-1069-108

Resilient • Laminate • Linoleum
Hardwood • Ceilings • Ceramic

Why Engineered Hardwood?

- Use on any level
- Installs over wood, concrete or vinyl subfloors
- Installs with glue on concrete or wood, or can be floated
- More dimensionally stable than solid flooring

Installation Materials

Tools:

- Broom
- 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape
- Tape measure
- Hammer
- Eye protection
- NIOSH designated dust mask
- Hand saw
- Table saw, jig saw or circular saw
- Chalk and chalk line
- Moisture meter
- Floor protectors
- Armstrong™ Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner
- Coordinated trims and moldings

Glue-down Installation

- Robbins® FashionLock™ Adhesive, Armstrong ProConnect™ Professional Hardwood Flooring Adhesive, Hartco® 57 Urethane Adhesive or Armstrong EverLAST™ Premium Urethane Adhesive
- V-notch trowel – 3/16" x 1/4" x 1/2" x 5/16"
- Hartco Adhesive Cleaner

Floating Installation

- Robbins Sound Seal™ Hardwood Flooring Adhesive or Armstrong 99™ Hardwood & Laminate Flooring Adhesive
- PolyFoam Underlayment or Armstrong Two-in-One® Advanced Underlayment with tape

Estimating

- Measure the length by the width of your room to determine the total square footage.

$$\frac{\text{LENGTH}}{\text{LENGTH}} \times \frac{\text{WIDTH}}{\text{WIDTH}} = \frac{\text{TOTAL SQUARE FEET}}{\text{TOTAL SQUARE FEET}}$$

- Increase the total square feet of the room by 5% when purchasing cartons of materials to allow for installation error and variation in floor design. Add 10% for diagonal or custom installations.
- Divide the total square feet by 15 to determine how many cartons of product you will need.

Floor Care Recommendations

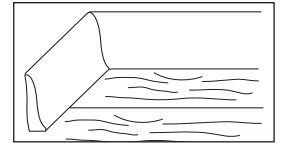
Floor Protectors

- Floor protectors evenly distribute furniture weight and help prevent indentations from forming on your hardwood floor.



Finishing Tip:

- Complete your flooring project with coordinated transitions that have been designed to match your hardwood floor. When possible, preselect and set aside boards that blend best with all horizontally mounted moldings (reducer/stair nose, etc.) This will ensure a uniform final appearance. Install these boards adjoining the moldings.



Maintenance:

- Vacuum, sweep or dust mop regularly.
- Clean routinely with Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner.



Armstrong Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner

- Use this no-rinse hardwood floor cleaner for your Robbins hardwood floors.



Installer/Owner Responsibility

Beautiful hardwood floors are a product of nature and therefore, not perfect. Our hardwood floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit grading deficiencies not to exceed 5%. These grading deficiencies may be of a manufacturing or natural type. When flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and grading allowance (10% for diagonal installations).

- The owner/installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. Inspection of all flooring should be done prior to installation. Carefully examine flooring for color, finish and quality before installing it. If material is not acceptable, do not install it. Contact the seller immediately.
- Prior to installation of any hardwood flooring product, the owner/installer must determine that the job-site environment and the sub-surfaces involved meet or exceed all applicable standards. Recommendations of the construction and materials industries as well as local codes, must be followed. These instructions recommend that the construction and subfloor be clean, dry, stiff, structurally sound and flat. The manufacturer

declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from, or associated with, subfloor and substrates or job-site environmental deficiencies.

- Prior to installation, the owner/installer has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. The owner/installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.
- Use of stain, filler or putty stick for touch-up and appropriate products for correcting subfloor voids is accepted as part of normal installation procedures.
- Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece during the installation. If such separation occurs, it is not considered a product defect and is not covered by this warranty. Robbins® warranties are not transferable.

General Installation Information

- Inspect and prepare subfloor: Subfloor must be clean, dry, structurally sound and level/flat. A subfloor is the surface over which your new Robbins engineered hardwood flooring is installed.
- **Concrete Moisture Tests**
All concrete subfloors should be tested, and results documented, for moisture content. Visual checks may not be reliable. Test several areas, especially near exterior walls and walls containing plumbing. (See instruction sheet for details.)
- Remove any existing base and shoe mold or doorway thresholds. These items can be replaced after installation.
- Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good color and shade mixture.

- Use the longest, straightest boards for the first two rows.
- Install hardwood floor perpendicular to the flooring joists when possible; see carton instruction for parallel installations.
- Add 3/8" to the widest width of the product being installed to allow for 1/4" expansion and the width of the tongue.
- When possible, always begin the layout from an outside wall, as these are normally the straightest.
- In at least two places 18" from the corner, measure out equal distance from the starting wall and snap a chalk line.

Installing the Floor

(Floating Installation)

1. Install the underlayment in the same direction that the hardwood flooring is to be installed.
2. Extend the underlayment a few inches up the wall. Trim the excess prior to installing trim or moldings.
3. Apply glue bead 1/8" on inside bottom of the groove on the end of the board.
4. Products with end tongue on left should be installed right to left.
5. The first row can be installed using one of two methods after layout has been completed. Allow 1/2" (13 mm) expansion.
6. *Sacrificial board:* If the wall is not straight, scribe the first board, as necessary, to maintain alignment with the chalk line. Install a sacrificial board (with a straight edge) using the appropriate fasteners for the subfloor. If a board is used for the starter row make certain the groove faces the wall.
7. *Wedges:* Align the first row with the wall using wedges to maintain a 1/2" (13 mm) expansion in place and to stabilize the product. If the wall is not straight, scribe the first board, as necessary, to maintain alignment with the chalk line.
8. Select the first board. All installations should begin with the groove side against the wall using the longest boards available. Apply a continuous 1/8" (3 mm) glue bead to the inside bottom of the groove on the end of the board. Do not apply glue to the groove side at this time. Products with the end tongue on the left should be installed right to left, opposite tongues should be left to right. If a sacrificial board was used DO NOT glue the first row to it.
9. Complete the first row. Cut the last board allowing for 1/2" (13 mm) clearance between the wall and the floor: (Use the remaining end of the cut board as a starter board for any row following row three). Install a wedge on the end of the board between the hardwood flooring and the wall allowing 1/2" (13 mm) expansion space. Avoid installation of any boards shorter than 16" (41 cm) in the first four rows.
10. Use a pull bar to pull the last board into place from the opposite end. Install wedges into the gap and tighten.
11. If any glue gets on the surface of the flooring, wipe off immediately with a clean, damp cloth.
12. Cut or use a shorter board for the first board of the second row. Start the second row by applying a 1/8" (3 mm) bead along the inside, bottom of the end and side groove of the new board. Install the first board of row two. Apply a bead of glue to the inside bottom of the end and side groove of the next board and install. When installing boards together, use a tapping block against the tongue, not the groove. Tap the boards into place by tapping with a hammer on the tapping block. DO NOT tap on the edge directly with the hammer. Complete the second through fourth rows using this technique. Insert wedges on the ends, as necessary, to restrain the movement of the floor.
13. In the remaining rows, stagger joints 4"-6" (10-15 cm) apart. Install the rest of the floor. Be sure all joints are tight. Use spacers on the long and butt walls. Use a pull bar to tighten the joints from the ends.

(Glue Down Installation -- See Installation Instructions for details)

Spread sufficient amounts of the recommended adhesive with the recommended trowel in an area that can be covered in 30-60 minutes (see adhesive information). If necessary, nail a sacrificial row with 1" (2.5 cm) nails on the dry side of your chalk line to help hold the first row in place.

NOTE: Avoid installing on the surface of the flooring. If necessary, distribute weight using a kneeler board.

1. The first row of planks should be installed with the edge of the groove lined up on the chalk line. The tongue should be facing the starting wall. The first row must be aligned and seated in the adhesive, as all additional rows will be pushed back to this original row. Remove the tongue to allow for expansion space, if necessary, on the row adjoining the wall.
NOTE: Clean adhesive from the surface of the floor frequently, using the recommended adhesive cleaner. Urethane adhesives become extremely difficult to remove when cured. Do not use 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape before adhesive is removed from the surface. Use clean towels, changed frequently, to prevent haze and adhesive residue.
2. Use the longest, straightest boards available for the first two rows. The first row of planks should be installed with the edge of the groove lined up on the chalk line. The tongue should be facing the starting wall. The first row must be aligned and seated in the adhesive, as all additional rows will be pushed back to this original row. Remove the tongue to allow for expansion space, if necessary, on the row adjoining the wall.
3. When installing pieces, engage the end-joint first, as close to the side (long) tongue and groove as possible and then slide together tightly to engage side (long) joint tongue and groove. To avoid adhesive bleed-through and memory pull-back, avoid sliding pieces through the adhesive as much as possible when placing them in position.
4. During the installation occasionally remove a piece of flooring from the subfloor and inspect the back for proper adhesive transfer. Adequate adhesive transfer is necessary to ensure sufficient holding strength.
5. If the adhesive skins over and fails to transfer, remove and spread new adhesive to achieve proper bonding.

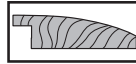
Completing the Job

1. Remove all 3M Scotch-Blue™ 2080 Tape if used.
2. Remove any adhesive residue with recommended adhesive cleaner.
3. Clean the floor with Armstrong™ Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner.
4. Re-install any transition pieces and moldings that may be needed.
5. Fill all gaps, corners, nail holes etc. using the appropriate color of Armstrong Filler.
6. To prevent surface damage, avoid rolling heavy furniture and appliances on the floor. Use plywood, hardboard or appliance lifts if necessary.
7. Before replacing furniture, make certain that all furniture legs have felt protectors or caster cups.

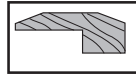
SEE COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS IN PRODUCT CARTON.

Coordinated Moldings

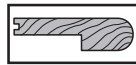
Reducer Strip: a teardrop shaped molding. Used around fireplaces, doorways, as a room divider or as a transition between hardwood flooring and adjacent floor coverings that are thinner. Fasten down with adhesive or double-faced tape.



Threshold: a molding undercut for use against sliding door tracks, fireplaces, carpet, ceramic tile or existing thresholds to allow for expansion space and to provide a transition to a thicker material. Fasten to subfloor with adhesive and/or nails through the heel. Pre-drill nail holes to prevent splitting.



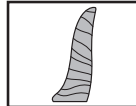
Stair Nosing: a molding undercut for use as stair landings trim, elevated floor perimeters, and stair steps. Fasten down firmly with adhesive and nails or screws. Pre-drill nail holes to prevent splitting.



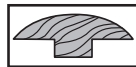
Quarter Round: a molding used to cover expansion space next to baseboards, case goods and stair steps. Pre-drill and nail to the vertical surface, not into the floor.



Combination Base and Shoe: a molding used when a base is desired. Used to cover expansion space between the floor and the wall. Pre-drill and nail into the wall, not the floor.



T-Molding: a molding used as a transition piece from one flooring to another of the same thickness, or to gain expansion spaces. Fasten at the heel in the center of the molding.



Warranty*

FULL 50-YEAR FINISH WARRANTY FOR BEST-RATED, PERMION® URETHANE FINISH PRODUCT.

We warrant to you (the original purchaser) that for the period indicated, the finish on the covered product will not wear through, and that the finish will not separate from the hardwood flooring under normal household use when maintained in accordance with our recommended maintenance guidelines.

FULL LIFETIME STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY WARRANTY

We warrant our products, in their original manufactured condition, to be free from defects in lamination, assembly, milling, dimension and grading for as long as the original purchaser owns the floor. We additionally warrant that all its engineered hardwood flooring products, even when applied on a radiant heated concrete subfloor, with subfloor surface temperature not exceeding 85° F, will not buckle, cup or warp for as long as the original purchaser owns the floor when properly installed according to Robbins® installation instruction procedures, and when properly maintained in accordance with such instructions and the Robbins Floor Care and Product Warranty Guide. Hardwood flooring, being a natural product, will continue to expand and contract through heating and non-heating seasons. Properly installed hardwood floors may consequently experience some separation between the boards at different times during the year. If such separation occurs, it is not considered a product defect and is not covered by this warranty.

Warranty disclaimers and exclusions

- Color variations in flooring are a natural occurrence due to species, age, character of flooring and exposure to UV light or sunlight. For these reasons, new and/or replacement flooring may not match display samples and/or existing flooring.
- Due to color variations of product and/or samples, we are not responsible for the consumer matching flooring to other wood products, such as cabinets, stair railings, trim and moldings.
- Gloss reduction is not considered surface wear.
- Natural occurring hardwood characteristics such as variations in grain, color, mineral streaks and knots are not considered defects.
- Normal exposure to sunlight will bring about changes in the shading of any hardwood floor as the floor ages. Area rugs should be moved occasionally as they block sunlight and may give the appearance of discoloring under the rug. This is not a product defect.
- Installations must be performed in accordance with all our installation instructions.
- It is the responsibility of the installer and/or the homeowner to inspect boards prior to installation. We accept no responsibility for costs of product or labor when boards with visible defects have been installed.
- Damage due to water and/or moisture, including but not limited to damage resulting from broken or leaking pipes, wet mopping or weather conditions or natural disasters, is excluded from our warranties.

* See warranty brochure or visit www.armstrong.com for details, limitations and exclusions.

WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS

OUR WARRANTIES DO NOT COVER INDENTATIONS, SCRATCHES, STAINS OR DAMAGE CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE, FIRE, WATER, MOISTURE, EXCESSIVE HEAT OR EXCESSIVE DRYNESS, EROSION, PEBBLES, SAND, OR OTHER ABRASIVES, PETS, INSECTS, SPIKED HEEL SHOES, WEATHER CONDITIONS OR NATURAL DISASTERS, COLOR VARIATIONS, NATURALLY OCCURRING HARDWOOD CHARACTERISTICS, FAILURE TO FOLLOW ALL THE MANUFACTURER'S WRITTEN INSTALLATION AND/OR MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS, IMPROPER MAINTENANCE, WET MOPPING, INSUFFICIENT PROTECTION, MISUSE, OR IMPROPER ALTERATIONS OF THE ORIGINAL MANUFACTURED PRODUCT. OUR WARRANTIES DO NOT COVER NATURAL EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION RESULTING IN SEPARATION BETWEEN BOARDS OR DAMAGE CAUSED BY LOW OR EXCESSIVE HUMIDITY. NO WARRANTIES APPLY TO ANY PRODUCT OR PRODUCTS DESIGNATED AS THRIFT, ANTIQUE, TAVERN, BARGAIN OR CABIN GRADES, SECONDS, ECONOMY GRADE, OR NON-STANDARD ITEMS. ANY PRODUCT OR PRODUCTS SO DESIGNATED ARE SOLD "AS IS". THIS WRITING IS THE COMPLETE AND EXCLUSIVE STATEMENT OF THE EXPRESS WARRANTIES PROVIDED HEREIN AND IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER EXPRESS AND/OR STATUTORY WARRANTIES BY THE MANUFACTURER, TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED BY LAW. THERE ARE NO IMPLIED WARRANTIES EXTENDING BEYOND THE TERMS OF THIS WARRANTY. WE ASSUME NO LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. HOWEVER, SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THIS EXCLUSION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY ALSO HAVE OTHER RIGHTS THAT VARY FROM STATE TO STATE. THE SOLE REMEDY PROVIDED HEREIN IS THE REPAIR, REFINISH OR REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS, OR REFUND FOR DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS.

Precautions

- Subfloor must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate testing method.
- Engineered hardwood flooring may be installed below-, on, or above-grade level.
- Do not install in full bathrooms.
- Concrete should be at least 60 days old. Engineered hardwood flooring should be stored in the environment in which it is expected to perform.
- Check adhesive label for storage limitations.

Quick Fix Tips:

Tips on repairing blemishes

Most problems can be prevented or minimized by wiping up any spills immediately. When removing a spot, always begin at the outer edge and work towards the center to prevent the spot from spreading. Use Armstrong™ Hardwood & Laminate Floor on a clean cloth to remove the stain or spot. More stubborn spots may require additional scrubbing with Armstrong Wipe Clean.

Expansion cracks and squeaks

Hardwood floors are affected by two distinct humidity seasons—heating and non-heating. Recognizing that hardwood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity, care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35–55% range. If humid or damp weather causes a slight expansion in your hardwood floor, the edges of boards may rub together, producing a squeak. Avoid excessive exposure to water from foot traffic during periods of inclement weather. Do not obstruct the expansion joints around the perimeter of your floors.

Refurbishing scratched areas

Most scratches can be repaired with the Robbins® or Armstrong Touch-Up Kit. Since Robbins floors are factory finished, individual planks or strips that are heavily gouged or damaged can be replaced. If needed, the entire floor can be refurbished by lightly abrading/screening and recoating with numerous finishes available from most reputable floor finish manufacturers. Areas of light wear, gloss loss or when a general appearance improvement is required can be polished using Armstrong Restore or Armstrong Low Gloss Restore.

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