

Potlatch EnStron Underlayment Installation Instructions



Storage and Handling

Always store Potlatch EnStron panels flat on a minimum of 5 bunks or skids in dimensions of 2"x4"x48", spaced evenly at least every 16", with spacers between panels in a dry, covered, and level area.

Jobsite Preparation and Conditions

- ▶ Subfloor must be of wood construction; code approved, 5/8" minimum thickness, tongue and groove, and dried to the moisture conditions that will be found in the structure during occupancy. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%.
- ▶ Immediately before installation acclimatize panels to the room's temperature and humidity expected during occupancy, which may take as long as 48 hours. Lay panels on a flat surface and separate individual panels with lath (stickers) for proper air circulation
- ▶ Subfloor surface must be properly secured, free of protruding fasteners, dry, and level. It is essential to repair uneven joints and variations in panel thickness. Sand any uneven joints if necessary.
- ▶ Subfloor surface must be free of surface debris and foreign matter. Sweep and vacuum the entire surface of the subfloor to accomplish this.

Crawl Spaces

Crawl spaces must have a minimum 18" clearance, between the ground and floor joists, with proper cross-ventilation. The ground within the crawl space must be covered with a minimum 6 mil polyethylene vapor barrier or equivalent. Do not apply Potlatch EnStron over concrete or below grade.

Layout

- ▶ EnStron panels must be installed in a direction perpendicular to the subfloor panels that are supported by joists spaced no more than 19.2" on-center.

- ▶ Begin by laying Potlatch EnStron panels in one corner of the room. Arrange panels so that four panel corners do not meet at one point.
- ▶ Dry-fit the room, without any fasteners applied. Avoid pieces less than 24" except where necessary for floor fixtures.
- ▶ Use full Potlatch EnStron panels when possible for best results; lightly butt factory edge to factory edge, with custom cut edges at the perimeter where possible.
- ▶ Allow for a 3/8" gap along the perimeter of the room and fixtures.
- ▶ EnStron joints should be offset at least 8" from subfloor joints, so EnStron edge is not directly above subfloor edge.

Materials

- ▶ Select galvanized or clear coated staples with a minimum of 18 gauge shank, 1/4" crown (maximum 3/8" crown.) The length of staple should be no longer than the combined thickness of the sub-floor and underlayment.
- ▶ Staples should not protrude through subfloor if possible and should be countersunk just below the panel's surface, but no more than 1/8" below the surface.
- ▶ Do not use divergent staples of any kind.

Fastening

- ▶ The correct fastening of Potlatch EnStron is critical.
- ▶ After dry-fitting the room, begin fastening the first panel you fitted, making sure to maintain 3/8" spacing from the wall and fixtures and ensure panel edges are lightly butted.
- ▶ Fasten panels starting from one side and working to the other so that panel is completely flat. It is critical to follow the nailing grid as a guide with fasteners spaced 2" on the perimeter and 4" in the field of the panel. Do not tack corners. Failure to follow these guidelines will void any implied warranty.

- ▶ Always hold the Potlatch EnStron panels down securely, in firm contact with the subfloor while fastening.
- ▶ Fasten one panel at a time, individually and completely, before installing the next Potlatch EnStron panel.

Finishing

- ▶ After installing Potlatch EnStron panels lightly sand all joints for a smooth and level floor. For best results use a belt sander and medium grit sandpaper running at a 45-degree angle to the joints to prevent cupping.
- ▶ If minor irregularities exist (e.g. gouges, chips, voids, or openings between panels) fill with a non-shrinking cementitious patching compound intended for the purpose. Do not fill normal edge joints. Follow the patching compound manufacturer's application instructions. Smooth and level the filler once it is completely dry. After the sanding is complete the entire surface must be swept and vacuumed.
- ▶ Pure vinyl products will necessitate a perfect installation. To achieve maximum smoothness sand off the nailing grid marks on the panels' edge with a fine grit sandpaper.

Installing New Floorcovering

- ▶ Floorcovering should be installed immediately after the installation of Potlatch EnStron panels to avoid damage or environmental influences. Prolonged exposure to foot traffic will impact the performance of the Potlatch EnStron panels.
- ▶ Follow the floorcovering manufacturer's instructions carefully before installing the floorcovering.
- ▶ Use only adhesives recommended by the floorcovering manufacturer for use over wood underlayment.
- ▶ It is essential to follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommended spread rate and trowel size.

Optimum performance of Potlatch EnStron and any implied warranty is dependent on correct handling and installation procedures.