

**Note: During installation allow for 1/4" expansion around all vertical surfaces.**

## **INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY**

Beautiful hardwood floors are a product of nature and therefore, not perfect. Our wood 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.

The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of all flooring should be done before installation. Carefully examine flooring for color, finish and quality before installing it. If material is not acceptable, do not install it and contact the seller immediately.

Prior to installation of any hardwood-flooring product, the 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 dry, stiff and flat. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure from or associated with sub-surface, sub-flooring or job-site environment deficiencies.

Prior to installation, the installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to the grade, manufacture and factory finish. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause.

Use of stain, filler or putty stick for touch-up during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.

When flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and grading allowance.

Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.

Use of appropriate products for correcting subfloor voids should be accepted as a normal industry practice.

## **TOOLS & ACCESSORIES NEEDED**

Plastic Tapping Block  
Tape Measure  
Saw  
Chalk line & chalk  
Pencil  
Dura Luster No-Wax Floor Cleaner  
Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both)  
Eye Protection

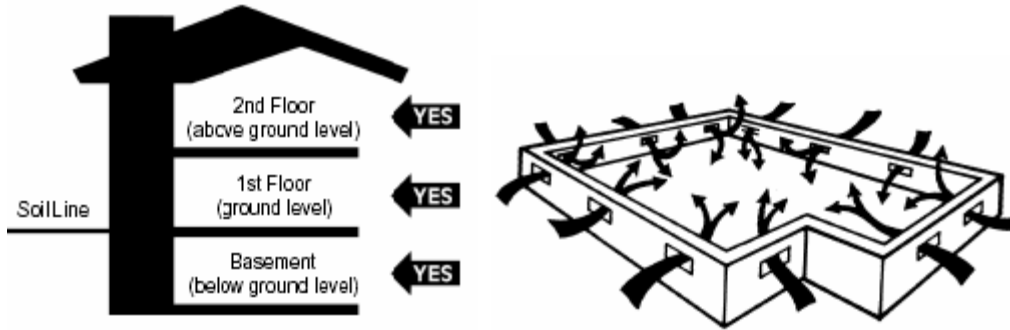
## **PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES**

### **Job Site Inspection**

The building should be closed in with all outside doors and windows in place. All concrete, masonry, framing members, drywall, paint and other "wet" work should be thoroughly dry. The wall coverings should be in place and the painting completed except for the final coat on the base molding. When possible, delay installation of base molding until flooring installation is complete. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated.

Exterior grading should be complete with surface drainage offering a minimum 3" in 10' to direct flow of water away from the structure. All gutters and downspouts should be in place.

Simply Natural Peel-And-Place flooring may be installed below, on or above grade level. Do not install in full bathrooms.



Crawl space must be a minimum of 24" (600 mm) from the ground to underside of joists. A ground cover of 6-8 mil black polyethylene film is essential as a vapor barrier with joints lapped six inches and taped. The crawl space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary, local regulations prevail. Subfloor must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate testing method. Permanent air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operational. The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 60-75 degrees F and humidity of 35-55% for 14 days prior, during and until occupied, to allow for proper acclimation.

## **STORAGE AND HANDLING**

Handle and unload with care. Store in a dry place being sure to provide at least a four-inch air space under cartons which are stored upon "on-grade" concrete floors. Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors in place and until cement work, plastering and all other "wet" work is completed and dry.

Concrete should be at least 60 days old. Engineered flooring should be stored in the environment in which it is expected to perform.

**NOTE: Do not open carton prior to installation of product.**

## **INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS**

### **SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS**

**CLEAN** - Scrape, broom clean, and smooth. Free of wax, paint, oil, sealers, adhesives, curing agents and other debris.

**LEVEL/FLAT** - Within 3/16" in 10' and/or 1/8" in 6'. Sand high areas or joints. If the floor is to be glued down, fill low areas (no more than 1/8" at a time) with cementitious leveling compound or milk additive latex patch of 3,000 - PSI minimum compressive strength. Follow the instructions of the leveling compound manufacturer. Ascertain that leveling compounds are completely cured and DRY before beginning installation.

**STRUCTURALLY SOUND** - Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or underlayments. Avoid subfloor with excessive vertical movement.

**DRY** - Check moisture content of subfloor with the appropriate moisture meter.

### **RECOMMENDED SUBFLOOR SURFACES**

**PREFERRED:** 3/4" (19mm) CDX grade plywood or 3/4" (23/32") OSB PS2 rated Subfloor

**MINIMUM:** 5/8" CDX grade plywood

3/4" chip, wafer board

Minimum 3/4" particleboard with a Minimum 40 lb density

Existing solid wood flooring

Vinyl, resilient tile, cork flooring

Concrete slabs

Acoustic concrete

Ceramic, terrazzo, slate and marble

Aluminum, Stainless Steel

## **CONCRETE SLABS**

Engineered flooring can be glued directly to high compressive strength concrete. Do not install over concrete sealer. All concrete subfloors should be tested for moisture content. Visual checks may not be reliable. Test several areas, especially near exterior and plumbing walls. Acceptable test methods for subfloor moisture content include:

A 3% Phenolphthalein in Anhydrous alcohol solution. Chip the concrete at least 1/4" deep (do not apply directly to the concrete surface) and apply several drops of the solution to the chipped area. If any color change occurs, further testing is required.

Calcium Chloride test. The maximum moisture transfer must not exceed 3 lbs/1000 square feet in 24 hours with this test. This test is required in commercial applications.

Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter meter. Moisture readings should not exceed 4.5 on the upper scale.

A "DRY" SLAB, AS DEFINED BY THESE TESTS CAN BE WET AT OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR. THESE TESTS DO NOT GUARANTEE A DRY SLAB. ALL CONCRETE SLABS SHOULD HAVE A MINIMUM OF 6 MIL POLYFILM MOISTURE BARRIER BETWEEN THE GROUND AND THE CONCRETE.

Moisture Barrier System: If moisture is present, inexpensive sheet vinyl or "slip-sheet" (PVC) may be installed. Use a premium grade, alkaline resistant adhesive and a full spread application system to properly bond the vinyl to the subfloor. Follow the sheet vinyl manufacturer instructions for installation procedures. A patch test may be required as an adhesion test. Install several small areas (3'x3') and allow the vinyl to set for 72 hours. Remove the vinyl; if the backing remains attached to the concrete, the subfloor should be acceptable for sheet vinyl installation.

### **Subfloor Options**

#### **Bonded subfloor over concrete:**

Install a suitable moisture retardant followed by a plywood subfloor with a minimum thickness of 3/4". Allow 1/2" expansion space around all vertical objects and 1/8" between all flooring panels. The panel must be properly attached to the subfloor using a minimum of one fastener per square foot and more if necessary. Use pneumatic or power actuated fasteners. Do not hand nail the subfloor with concrete nails.

#### **Floating subfloor over concrete:**

Install a suitable moisture retardant followed by a plywood subfloor with a minimum of 3/8". Allow 1/2" expansion space around all vertical objects and 1/8" between all flooring panels. Install a second layer of 3/8" plywood at a right angle to the previous panels, offsetting the joints 2'. Staple together with staples that will not penetrate the first layer of subfloor with a crown width of 3/8" or more.

## **ACOUSTIC CONCRETE**

Acoustic concrete normally contains large quantities of gypsum that may inhibit the adhesive's capability to properly bond. Acoustic concrete must be primed with the concrete manufacturers recommended primers/surface hardener. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

## **WOOD SUBFLOORS & WOOD STRUCTURAL PANEL SUBFLOORS**

Plywood: Must be grade rated sheathing of CDX minimum.

Oriented Strand Board (OSB): Must be PS2 rated installed sealed side down.

Particleboard: Must be a minimum 40 lb density, stamped underlayment grade and 3/4" thick.

Make sure existing floor or subfloor is dry and well nailed or screwed down every 6" along each joist to avoid squeaking or popping before the floor is installed. The wood subfloor must not exceed 13% moisture content. Measure moisture content of both subfloor and wood flooring to determine proper moisture content with a reliable wood moisture meter. The difference between the moisture content of the wood subfloor and the wood flooring must not exceed 4%.

Optimum performance of hardwood floor covering products occurs when there is little horizontal or no vertical movement of the subfloor. The MINIMUM subfloor recommendations described above are for 19.2" O/C joist spacing with minimum recommended spans. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete. Deflection may cause the floor to become loose creating a noisy floor or cause premature finish wear. Avoid installations over subfloors that do not meet this minimum criterion. As flooring manufacturers we are unable to evaluate each engineered system. Other spacing and spans as well as their engineering methods are the responsibility of the builder, engineer, architect or consumer who is better able to evaluate the expected result based on site related performance.

All underlayment panels should be spaced 1/8" apart to insure adequate expansion space or have the space cut around the perimeter using a circular saw. T&G panels normally have built in expansion; DO NOT cut around their perimeter. When installing over existing wood floors parallel with the flooring or solid wood decking, it may be necessary to install an additional layer of plywood to stabilize the flooring or install the wood floor at right angles. Applicable standards and recommendations of construction and materials industries must be met or exceeded.

### **RESILIENT TILE, RESILIENT SHEET VINYL & CORK FLOORING**

If the tiles or sheet goods are well bonded, clean the surface thoroughly. To degloss and/or remove waxes, polishes and other finishes use a commercially available stripper and a brown or black pad. For existing Linoleum, the stripper should not exceed a pH of 10. Allow ample drying time. (NOTE: Do not sand any resilient products for they may contain asbestos fibers, which may be harmful.) Do not install over floors that exceed two layers. Cork floors must have all sealers and surface treatments removed before installation begins. Always check for adequate adhesive bond. If vinyl or tiles are loose, crumbled, or in poor condition, install an underlayment directly over the sheet vinyl (linoleum) or vinyl tiles.

NOTE: Some older type tiles become brittle with age.

### **CERAMIC, TERRAZZO, SLATE & MARBLE**

All grout joints and broken corners that exceed 3/16" must be filled with a cementitious leveling compound mixed with Latex additive. The surface should be cleaned and abraded to create a good bonding surface for the adhesive. Loose tiles must be re-adhered to the subfloor or filled as above. Remove all sealers and surface treatments. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

### **ACOUSTIC CORK UNDERLAYMENT**

Engineered flooring can be glued directly over full-spread, permanently bonded acoustic cork. The cork should have a density of no less than 11.4lb./cubic foot and no more than 13 lb/cubic foot. The cork, in general, should be pure cork combined with a polyurethane binder. Install cork in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

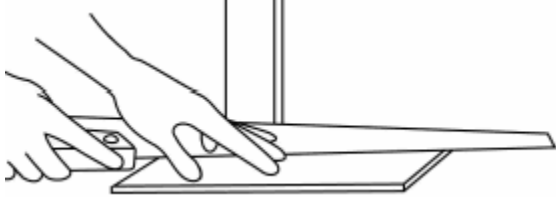
## **GENERAL INSTALLATION TIPS**

Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good color and shade mixture.

Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards in adjacent rows at least 6" when possible. This will help ensure a more favorable overall appearance of the floor.

### **STEP 1: DOORWAY AND WALL PREPARATION**

Undercut door casings and jambs. Remove any existing base, shoe mold or doorway thresholds. These items can be replaced after installation. All door casings and jambs should be undercut to avoid difficult scribe cuts.



### **STEP 2: ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT**

Installing parallel to the longest wall is recommended for best visual effects, however, the floor should be installed perpendicular to the flooring joists unless the subfloor has been reinforced to reduce subfloor sagging. Find appropriate subfloor from "Subfloor Type" section above.

Add 3/8" to the widest width of the product being installed to allow for 1/4" expansion and the width of the tongue. For random and alternate width products, use the widest plank for the first row.

When possible, always begin layout or installation from an outside wall, as these are normally the straightest.

In at least two places 12"-16" from the corner, measure out equal distance from the starting wall multiple widths of the product plus 3/8" and snap a chalk line.

### **STEP 3: INSTALLING THE FLOOR**

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. Remove tongue to allow for expansion space if necessary.

Peel release backing and install the first row of planks.

Use a tapping block to install remaining rows.

Check for a tight fit between all edges and ends of each plank. End-joints of adjacent rows should be staggered 6" when possible to ensure a more favorable overall appearance.

If necessary, nail a sacrificial row with 1" nails on the dry side of your chalk line to help hold the first row in place.

It may be necessary to align product with a cut-off piece of scrap. Keep scrap angle low to avoid edge damage.

Complete the installation using this same technique for the remainder of the floor.

### **STEP 4: COMPLETE THE JOB**

Clean floor with the recommended wood flooring cleaner. (Dura-Luster No-Wax Cleaner)

Re-install any transition pieces that may be needed, such as Reducer Strips, T-moldings, or Thresholds. The products are available pre-finished to blend with your flooring.

Re-install all base and/or quarter round moldings. Nail moldings into the wall, not the floor. Inspect the floor, filling all minor gaps with the appropriate blended filler.

For warranty information regarding the installed product see "Warranty" in the main menu.

To prevent surface damage avoid rolling heavy appliances and furniture on the floor, use plywood, hardboard or appliance lifts if necessary.

### **SEASONS: HEATING AND NON-HEATING**

Recognizing that wood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity within your building, care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35-55% range. To protect your investment and to assure that your floors provide lasting satisfaction, we have provided our recommendations below.

Heating Season (Dry) - A humidifier is recommended to prevent excessive shrinkage in wood floors due to low humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.

Non-Heating Season (Humid, Wet) - Proper humidity levels can be maintained by use of an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically during the summer months. Avoid excessive exposure to water from tracking during periods of inclement weather. Do not obstruct in any way the expansion joint around the perimeter of your floor.

## MOLDINGS

**REDUCER STRIP:** a teardrop shaped molding used around fireplaces, doorways, as a room divider, or as a transition between wood flooring and adjacent floor coverings that are less thick. Fasten down with adhesive, small nails 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 smooth transition in height difference. 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 a 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 equal height or to gain expansion spaces. Fasten at the heel in the center of the molding. Additional support may need to be added to the heel of the molding dependent upon the thickness of the goods covered.

**Note:** During installation allow for 1/4" expansion around all vertical surfaces.

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Use of appropriate products for correcting subfloor voids should be accepted as a normal industry practice.

## TOOLS & ACCESSORIES NEEDED

- Plastic Tapping Block
- Tape Measure
- Saw
- Chalk line & chalk
- Pencil
- Dura Luster No-Wax Floor Cleaner
- Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both)
- Eye Protection

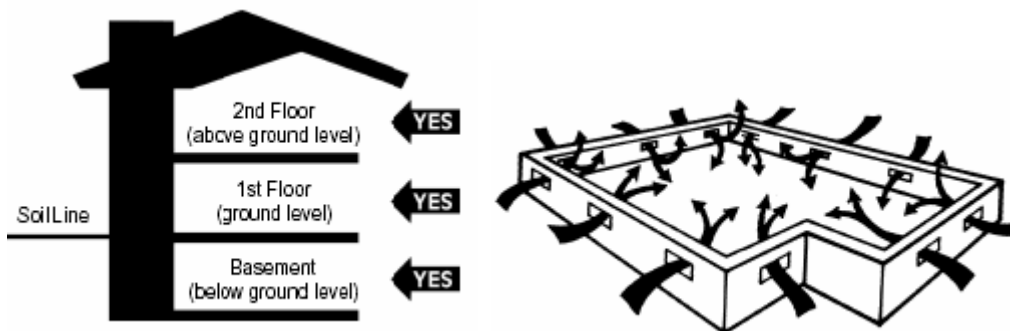
## PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

### Job Site Inspection

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Subfloor must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate testing method.

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## STORAGE AND HANDLING

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Concrete should be at least 60 days old. Engineered flooring should be stored in the environment in which it is expected to perform.

**NOTE: Do not open carton prior to installation of product.**

## **INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS**

### **SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS**

**CLEAN** - Scrape, broom clean, and smooth. Free of wax, paint, oil, sealers, adhesives, curing agents and other debris.

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**STRUCTURALLY SOUND** - Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or underlayments. Avoid subfloor with excessive vertical movement.

**DRY** - Check moisture content of subfloor with the appropriate moisture meter.

### **RECOMMENDED SUBFLOOR SURFACES**

**PREFERRED:** 3/4" (19mm) CDX grade plywood or 3/4" (23/32") OSB PS2 rated Subfloor

**MINIMUM:** 5/8" CDX grade plywood

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### **Subfloor Options**

#### **Bonded subfloor over concrete:**

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Particleboard: Must be a minimum 40 lb density, stamped underlayment grade and 3/4" thick.

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plywood to stabilize the flooring or install the wood floor at right angles. Applicable standards and recommendations of construction and materials industries must be met or exceeded.

### **RESILIENT TILE, RESILIENT SHEET VINYL & CORK FLOORING**

If the tiles or sheet goods are well bonded, clean the surface thoroughly. To degloss and/or remove waxes, polishes and other finishes use a commercially available stripper and a brown or black pad. For existing Linoleum, the stripper should not exceed a pH of 10. Allow ample drying time. (NOTE: Do not sand any resilient products for they may contain asbestos fibers, which may be harmful.) Do not install over floors that exceed two layers. Cork floors must have all sealers and surface treatments removed before installation begins. Always check for adequate adhesive bond. If vinyl or tiles are loose, crumbled, or in poor condition, install an underlayment directly over the sheet vinyl (linoleum) or vinyl tiles.

NOTE: Some older type tiles become brittle with age.

### **CERAMIC, TERRAZZO, SLATE & MARBLE**

All grout joints and broken corners that exceed 3/16" must be filled with a cementitious leveling compound mixed with Latex additive. The surface should be cleaned and abraded to create a good bonding surface for the adhesive. Loose tiles must be re-adhered to the subfloor or filled as above. Remove all sealers and surface treatments. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

### **ACOUSTIC CORK UNDERLAYMENT**

Engineered flooring can be glued directly over full-spread, permanently bonded acoustic cork. The cork should have a density of no less than 11.4lb./cubic foot and no more than 13 lb/cubic foot. The cork, in general, should be pure cork combined with a polyurethane binder. Install cork in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Always check for adequate adhesive bond.

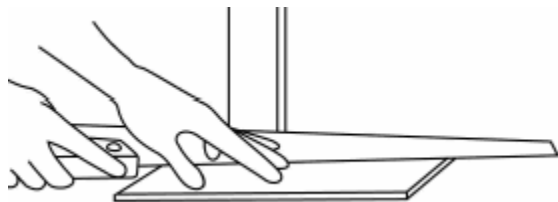
## **GENERAL INSTALLATION TIPS**

Floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good color and shade mixture.

Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards in adjacent rows at least 6" when possible. This will help ensure a more favorable overall appearance of the floor.

### **STEP 1: DOORWAY AND WALL PREPARATION**

Undercut door casings and jambs. Remove any existing base, shoe mold or doorway thresholds. These items can be replaced after installation. All door casings and jambs should be undercut to avoid difficult scribe cuts.



### **STEP 2: ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT**

Installing parallel to the longest wall is recommended for best visual effects, however, the floor should be installed perpendicular to the flooring joists unless the subfloor has been reinforced to reduce subfloor sagging. Find appropriate subfloor from "Subfloor Type" section above.

Add 3/8" to the widest width of the product being installed to allow for 1/4" expansion and the width of the tongue. For random and alternate width products, use the widest plank for the first row.

When possible, always begin layout or installation from an outside wall, as these are normally the straightest.

In at least two places 12"-16" from the corner, measure out equal distance from the starting wall multiple widths of the product plus 3/8" and snap a chalk line.

### **STEP 3: INSTALLING THE FLOOR**

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. Remove tongue to allow for expansion space if necessary.

Peel release backing and install the first row of planks.

Use a tapping block to install remaining rows.

Check for a tight fit between all edges and ends of each plank. End-joints of adjacent rows should be staggered 6" when possible to ensure a more favorable overall appearance.

If necessary, nail a sacrificial row with 1" nails on the dry side of your chalk line to help hold the first row in place.

It may be necessary to align product with a cut-off piece of scrap. Keep scrap angle low to avoid edge damage.

Complete the installation using this same technique for the remainder of the floor.

### **STEP 4: COMPLETE THE JOB**

Clean floor with the recommended wood flooring cleaner. (Dura-Luster No-Wax Cleaner)

Re-install any transition pieces that may be needed, such as Reducer Strips, T-moldings, or Thresholds. The products are available pre-finished to blend with your flooring.

Re-install all base and/or quarter round moldings. Nail moldings into the wall, not the floor. Inspect the floor, filling all minor gaps with the appropriate blended filler.

For warranty information regarding the installed product see "Warranty" in the main menu.

To prevent surface damage avoid rolling heavy appliances and furniture on the floor, use plywood, hardboard or appliance lifts if necessary.

### **SEASONS: HEATING AND NON-HEATING**

Recognizing that wood floor dimensions will be slightly affected by varying levels of humidity within your building, care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35-55% range. To protect your investment and to assure that your floors provide lasting satisfaction, we have provided our recommendations below.

Heating Season (Dry) - A humidifier is recommended to prevent excessive shrinkage in wood floors due to low humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.

Non-Heating Season (Humid, Wet) - Proper humidity levels can be maintained by use of an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically during the summer months. Avoid excessive exposure to water from tracking during periods of inclement weather. Do not obstruct in any way the expansion joint around the perimeter of your floor.

### **MOLDINGS**

**REDUCER STRIP:** a teardrop shaped molding used around fireplaces, doorways, as a room divider, or as a transition between wood flooring and adjacent floor coverings that are less thick. Fasten down with adhesive, small nails 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 smooth transition in height difference. 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 a 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 equal height or to gain expansion spaces. Fasten at the heel in the center of the molding. Additional support may need to be added to the heel of the molding dependent upon the thickness of the goods covered.