

Southland Floors, Inc.

BRIGHTON PLANK INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Preparing the Sub-floor

- Brighton Plank can be installed using the Glue or Nail method. Instructions for both methods are detailed in this installation sheet. Determine which installation method is best for your situation.
- Sub-floor must be clean and dry.
- For wood sub-floor, it is recommended to repair any loose areas or squeaks.
- The sub-floor must be level to within 3/16" in 10 feet. Sand high areas or joints (wood); fill low areas (no more than 1/8") with a "cement type" filler no less than 3,000 p.s.i.
- Wood sub-floors should have moisture content below 10%, concrete should be below 3%.
- Concrete sub-floors should be tested in several areas, especially near exterior walls and walls containing plumbing.
- Radiant heated floors cannot exceed 85°F.

Testing Sub-floor for Moisture

Concrete: According to the National Wood Flooring Association, you can test for moisture in concrete by taping a 2' x 2' square of polyfilm to the slab in 3 to 4 locations. Let the polyfilm stand for 24 hours. The presence of moisture is certain if the slab is discolored, the polyfilm is cloudy, and especially if water droplets are on the underside. If test indicates too much moisture in the slab, do not install hardwood floors. For a moist slab, wait until it dries naturally, or accelerate drying with heat and ventilation then test again. This is only one way to test for moisture in the concrete slab. Contact a hardwood installation professional for other suggested ways of checking for moisture.

Tools & Accessories

Hand or Jamb saw	Measuring tape
Power circular saw	Pry Bar or Pull Bar
Safety glasses	Tapping Block
Hammer	¼" Wood Wedges (spacer Strips)

Nail or Staple Installation

Sub-floor requirements: Minimum of 5/8" T&G plywood, OSB decking or wood flooring.

Note: We do not recommend installing the new floor to the old wood floor in the same direction. Install at a right angle or on a diagonal. If the preferred direction is in the same direction, we recommend that you overlay the old floor with 3/8" to ½" plywood.

Preparing the Jobsite

- Before installing Brighton Plank, central heat or air conditioning should be operating for a minimum of 14 days.
- Brighton Plank should be stored in a flat position.
- Do not open packages until the day you are ready to begin installation. This prevents the

T&G system from potentially absorbing too much moisture and causing a tight fit.

- Remove existing moldings.
- Undercut door jams with hand or jamb saw to allow for ease of installation and ¼" expansion space in all directions.
- This flooring is designed to be installed working from right to left.

NOTE: Eliminate cutting short pieces at the end of each row. Accomplish this by measuring the length of the room and divide it by 48" (the length of the planks). If it appears you will be using a piece shorter than 6" at the end of a row, then cut the first board at the starting wall to allow for a longer piece at the end. You do not want to have a row narrower than half the width of the planks along the last wall. You may need to rip the first row to allow for the flooring to be moved so the last row will not be too narrow. Remember to allow for ¼" expansion along the walls.

Responsibility of the Installer and/or Owner

Brighton Plank believes that the grading of its products are the highest in the industry. However, the National Wood Flooring Association recommends to all of its member manufacturers that an installer should figure an additional 5% of material to allow for cutting waste and for minor natural or manufacturing defects.

- The floor installer must determine before installation that the condition of the sub-floors meets or exceeds the conditions outlined in this instruction sheet.
- Southland Floors, Inc. will decline any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with sub-floor or job site environment deficiencies.
- The floor installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality before installation. The installer should pull out and not install products with notable defects.
- Use of filler or putty stick for defect correction should be accepted as normal procedure.
- During installation, you should open a few cartons of product ahead of your progress and mix them to ensure even coloring and shade mixture.

Glue Down Method

- Make sure that you check the directions on the adhesive can. Use of the proper trowel as recommended on the adhesive carton, will ensure proper adhesive spread to allow for adequate "bridging" characteristics.
- Improper adhesive spread may result in either "puddling" of adhesive, or too little adhesive. Both conditions can lead to adhesive failure and a loose floor.

Mark the Starting Line

- Snap a line with the appropriate distance from the wall to give you some work area and allow a little for wall irregularity when you lay the last board. Check to make sure the line is parallel to the opposite wall.

Spreading the Adhesive

- Hold trowel at approximately a 45° angle and spread the adhesive while holding the trowel firmly to the floor.
- Once the adhesive is spread over an area you can comfortably work in, allow the adhesive to “skin over” or come to the point where you can touch it and none comes off on your hand (depending on temperature and humidity). The skinning over is commonly referred to as flash time or set up time. Check the adhesive can for suggested times.

Laying the Flooring

We recommend raking out two or three rows in advance to ensure proper mix and even blend of pieces. Additionally, ensure all end joints in adjacent rows are at least 6” apart and the last piece in each row is no shorter than 6”. Stagger joints to present a random presentation rather than developing a pattern in the floor.

- The first row should be set in the adhesive with the edge of the tongue along the chalk line.
Note: Some installers will tack-nail a starter strip on the dry side of the line to prevent the starter row from “traveling” in the adhesive as you pull the next row in to the adjoining one.
- Do not work off of the newly installed flooring unless a piece of cardboard is used as a “kneeler board” to work off of (to keep you from pushing out the board with your feet).
- When you reach the far wall, make any lineal cuts in width so as to leave ¼” area for expansion.
- Continue installing the rows in this manner. Use a short piece of flooring to tap the boards together. Place the short piece upside down with the tongue in the groove of the board being installed. Tap with hammer and then lightly tap the side of the piece to dislodge from board.
- Remove your starter strip; spread adhesive in this area and install plank.
- Avoid foot traffic and moving furniture into room for 24 hours.

Nail or Staple Method

- To ensure tightness of joints (side and end) during seasonal temperature changes and fluctuating humidity levels, we suggest using T&G glue in the side and end grooves.
- It is critical that the nailer used fits correctly into the boards’ nailing joints so as not to damage the board. The nail must be driven so it recedes into the nailing channel.
- The important items to remember are the correct nail and staple length, the recommended PSI and the proper adapter plate/shoe to protect the face of the board.

Marking the Starting Line

- Align the first row of boards to be sure you have a good straight line from one side of the room to

the other, snap a chalk line at the desired distance from the wall to help align the planks.

- The outside tongue will align on the chalk line. Make sure the chalk line is parallel to the opposite wall.

First and Second Row Installation

- Beginning at the chalk line, place the first boards with the groove side toward the wall. The first few rows must be nailed by hand to avoid damaging the wall.
- To hold strip in position while hand nailing in place, use a small ¼” block of wood behind the strip and against the wall. To hold the first board in place, face nail along the groove side next to the wall and blind nail along the tongue.

Installing the Field

- When clearance allows, a power nailer or stapler as outlined above can be used to simplify and speed up the nailing/stapling process.
- Nailing/stapling schedule should be every 4”-5”, staying 2”-3” from the end of the board.
- Upon reaching the last row to be installed, the strips should be ripped to allow a ¼” expansion space. The last row must be fastened by face nailing approximately ½” from the back edge of the board.

Completing the Job

- A full line of trims and moldings are available to add the finishing touch. All trims and moldings are pre-finished to blend with your newly installed floor.
- Either pre-drill molding pieces for ease of installation or use pneumatic face nailer.
- Moldings should be nailed to the wall and not to your newly installed floor.
- Minor damage can be repaired with our Touch-up Kit.

Replacing Damaged Planks or Strips

For major damage, we recommend contacting a professional floor installer to replace planks or strips. Below is a brief description on how a board replacement can be handled.

Tools: Circular saw, chisel, hammer, pry bar, table or band saw, adhesive, printer grade masking tape.

1. Mask off board to be replaced.
2. Set circular saw blade to depth of product. Cut 2 or more parallel cuts the length of the board, as close to the ends as possible.
3. Using a sharp wood chisel, chisel out the center, which leaves two sides. Grooved side of plank will slide out. Chisel other side. Clean up sub-floor area.
4. Replacement piece must be prepared to fit open area by cutting the tongue off the end and the bottom of the grooves.
5. Apply adhesive to the sub-floor and carefully place the new plank into place.
6. Place a heavy object on the new board to hold in place while adhesive dries.