

The Imperial Collection Installation Guide

Installation requirements

- Gypsum joints must be completed and dried.
- Concrete work must be completed at least 60–90 days prior to installation.
- The heating system must be functional and the building must be heated up to 21°C (70°F) for a minimum of 7 days prior to installation.
- The relative humidity of the building must be between 40% and 50%.
- Using a moisture meter, check plywood (sub floor). Moisture content must not exceed 11%.
- Sub floor thickness must be a minimum of 15mm (5/8”).
- Particleboards or chipboards must not be used as the sub floor.
- Hardwood flooring must be allowed to acclimate at room temperature 72 hours prior to installation.

Before Installing

- Make sure the plywood sub floor is even, dry, clean and solid.
- Remove any carpet staples or glue residue from the sub floor prior to installation.
- Screw down sub floor to prevent squeaking.
- Low spots or high spots in sub floor must not exceed 3/16” over an 8 foot span. Correct as necessary prior to installation.
- Remove baseboards.
- Cut 3/4” off bottom of door frames to allow hardwood flooring to slide underneath the door.
- Vacuum the sub floor regularly during installation to make sure it is always clean and dust free.
- This product is not suitable for floors with radiant heat sub floors.

Tools and Accessories required

- Measuring tape
- Square
- Chalk line
- Crowbar
- Drill and drill bits
- Nail set
- Backsaw/door jam cutter
- Wax paper
- Dust mask
- Mitre saw
- Sawhorse
- Handsaw
- Touch up kit
- Safety Glasses
- Vacuum cleaner
- Level
- Hardwood nailer and rubber hammer

Step by Step Installation

- Locate the longest straight wall in the room, check for squareness. This wall should run perpendicular to the floor joists and will be your starting wall. Lay the hardwood planks along this wall ensuring that your hardwood planks will lay across the floor joist. See figure A.
- Allow for 13mm to 19 mm (1/2" to 3/4") expansion space between wall and flooring strips. This space will be hidden underneath the baseboard and quarter round.
- Snap a guide line using your chalk line. Its distance from the wall should be the width of your expansion space plus the width of the plank including the tongue. The guide line must be parallel to the wall. See figure B.
- Choose very straight boards for the first two rows.

Practical Tips

- Frequent use of a vacuum cleaner during installation is highly recommended to eliminate saw dust and wood chips.
- Place your tools on a sheet of plywood or on a piece of cardboard rather than directly on the hardwood floor.
- Verify frequently that the hardwood nailer is working properly and that its base is not creating damage to the finish of the planks being installed. If the base of your hardwood nailer is damaged or rough, tape the underside to protect the floor's finish.
- If a strip of hardwood displays too much colour variation or minor defects, put it aside and use it in a less visible area of the room such as at the start or end of a row or in a closet.
- When using the hardwood floor nailer, make sure its base is sitting properly against the side of the strip to be nailed and that a firm grip is held before nailing.
- If a nail is not driven in completely, use a nail set and a conventional hammer to countersink the nail head.
- Save any remaining hardwood floor strips after installation and store them in a proper place for future repairs.