



Solid Installation Guidelines – Elegance Plyquet

Structure and Finish Warranty:

Elegance Plyquet makes exceptionally high quality prefinished exotic and domestic solid hardwood floors. We are proud to warranty to its original purchaser against defects in materials and workmanship. This warranty warrants all of our products from warping, cupping, or buckling when properly installed and maintained according to manufacturer's specifications.

Elegance Plyquet also warrants to the original purchaser that the finish of this series will not wear through or separate from the wood for **25 years** under the normal residential usage.

INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Before You Begin Your Project:

Elegance Plyquet is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit manufacturing, grading and natural deficiencies not exceed 5%. Elegance Plyquet will replace or refund the purchase price of any material deemed to be defective in excess of 5%.

Installer/Owner assumes all responsibility to inspect all flooring before installation. If the installer/owner feels flooring material is off-grade, wrong color, improperly manufactured, wrong sheen level and finish problems, **DO NOT INSTALL** the flooring. Immediately contact the seller from which the flooring was purchased. **NO CLAIM** will be accepted if flooring has been installed. **“Installation warrants acceptance”**. The installer/owner should select boards appropriately and relocate marginal boards to inconspicuous areas or cut out pieces with defects.

- Prior to installation of the flooring, installer/owner must determine that the jobsite environment and subfloor meets or exceeds all applicable standards.
- Elegance Plyquet declines any responsibility for flooring failure resulting from substrate and or jobsite environmental deficiencies.
- Use appropriate floor leveling products for correcting subfloor deficiencies.
- Use of stain and finish touch-up kit and putty during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- Upon ordering of wood floor material consider adding additional 8% to allow for cutting waste (5%) and grading allowance (3%).
- The selection of mechanical fasteners such as floor nailers varies by manufacturer, offering the choice of manual or air-assisted. Therefore, it is the installer's responsibility

to ensure that the fastener is properly set as dimpling of the wood face or edge is not considered a manufacturing defect.

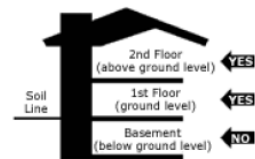
- Occasional noise in mechanically fastened floors is due to abnormal structural movement and in many cases related to changes in environmental conditions. Elegance Plyquet does NOT warrant against mechanical fastened related noise issues.

Tools Required:

- Compound miter or chop saw
- Table saw
- Tapping block
- Jamb saw or undercut saw
- Moisture meter
- Hardwood flooring nailer designed for 3/4" wood flooring (with rubber mallet; manual or air-assisted; must have "finish and edge protection" on the nailer)
- Pencil
- Chisel
- Drill and 1/16" bit
- Hammer and nail set
- Tape Measure
- Chalk line and Chalk
- 6 to 8d Finishing nails
- Wood Putty
- Earplugs and safety glasses

Pre-installation Procedures for Jobsite Inspection:

- All "wet trades" concrete, plastering, masonry, drywall, spray texturing and painting should be thoroughly dry.
- Elegance Plyquet suggests installing your new flooring on main floors and upper floors only. Below grade installations can be acceptable but only with an experienced installer who is aware of the potential complications associated liabilities. Elegance Plyquet does not recommend installing solid flooring below grade.
- Crawl spaces must have a minimum of 18" from the underside of the floor joists and the ground.
- Crawl space earth must be covered 100% with a 6 mil black polyethylene vapor retarder.
- Subfloor moisture must be checked using appropriate method.
- Jobsite must have permanent HVAC systems in place and operating. Room temperatures must be maintained between 60-75° F and relative humidity of 35-55% for 14 days prior, during and until occupancy.



Handling and Storage:

- Wood flooring should be stored in the controlled environment (35 to 55% Rh) in which it is to be installed. Materials should be delivered and allowed to acclimate for a minimum of 72 hours before installation.

Subfloor Requirements:

Preferred Sub-floor:

3/4" CDX Grade Plywood, 4' x 8' sheets.

OSB PS2 Rated Underlayment with a minimum 40 lbs. density.

Minimum Sub-floor:

5/8" CDX Plywood, 4' x 8' sheets.

Do not nail or staple over particleboard or similar product.

- Flat-Within 3/16" in 10' radius and/or 1/8" in 6'. Level low spots with appropriate leveling material.
- Wood subfloors flatten low spots with 15 or 30# tar felt or shims, concrete grind high spots and fill low spots using appropriate leveling compounds.
- Nail or screw any loose areas of wood subfloor prior to installation to minimizing subfloor squeaking. Any subfloor with excessive vertical movement will cause squeaking.
- Check for appropriate moisture levels as per NWFA requirements.
- **Sub-floors must not exceed 12% moisture content and the difference between sub-floor and hardwood flooring should not exceed 4%.** If sub-floor reading exceeds this amount, installer should locate and eliminate the source of excessive moisture.

Direct Glue Installation Over Concrete or Gypsum (3,000 PSI) Surfaces:

All Elegance Plyquet products are warranted for applications over concrete/gypsum surfaces as long as manufactures procedures for installation and maintenance are followed. Glue or bond failure is not covered under Elegance Plyquet. However, it is covered under most adhesive manufacture warranties.

GlueDown:

- Elegance Plyquet recommends the following flooring adhesives: Taylor MS Plus, Sikabond T-55, Franklin 811 Advantage, Bostik's Urethane Adhesives.
- Flooring can be glued directly to concrete/gypsum with a minimum compressive strength of 3000 psi.

- **DO NOT** install over steel toweled, slick, burnished, painted or sealed concrete. Abrade, grind, or roughen surface as necessary. Use an appropriate NIOSH-designed dust mask and dust containment system.
- Elegance Plyquet recommends to complete a bond test to ensure maximum bond performance.

Concrete Test:

- **Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter:** Moisture readings should not exceed 4.5% on the upper scale.
- **Polyfilm Tests:** Apply a 3' x 3' piece of polyethylene film to the concrete and sealed with moisture resistance tape and leave for 24 hours. If darkening of concrete or condensation under poly film indicates moisture and requires ASTM F 1869 Calcium Chloride or ASTM F 2170 In-situ method.
- **Calcium Chloride Test (ASTM F 1869):** The maximum vapor emissions cannot exceed 3lbs/1000SF in 24 hours.
- **In-Situ Probe Method (ASTM F 2170):** The Rh levels should not exceed 75%.
- If excessive moisture levels are present or anticipated, use appropriate moisture retardant system per recommendation of adhesive manufacture.

NOTE: TEST RESULTS ARE ONLY APPLIABLE THE DAY OF TESTING. THIS DOES NOT STATE MOISTURE WILL NOT FLUCTUATE WITH SEASONAL CHANGES. IT MAY REQUIRE A MOISTUR RETADANT SYSTEM. FOLLOW ADHESIVE MANUFACTURES GUIDELINES. ELEGANCE PLYQUET DOES NOT WARRANT AGAINST MOISTURE AND/OR ADHESIVE RELATED PROBLEMS.

Installation:

Elegance Plyquet **recommends following NWFA Installation Guidelines**

Hardwood Floor Nailers:

Use approved hardwood flooring fastening machines which may vary from manufacture to manufacture. Avoid striking the edge of finished flooring with mallet or hammer to prevent edge crushing or splintering, use tapping block. Fastening machines faceplates should be protected to prevent face scratching of floor material. Nailer protection shoes maybe provided with nailer. Improper air pressure settings or incorrect face plates may cause improper fastener setting into nail pocket. High air pressure may cause tongue damage due to over penetration and resulting in cracked or broken tongues. Low air pressure may leave fastener too high causing the adjoining board to experience edge damage or edge blistering. Proper air pressure will leave fastener set flush with top of tongue as illustrated.



Acclimation:

- **For the best results, we recommend that Elegance Plyquet solid wood flooring be acclimated in a controlled environment before installation for 7 days.**
- Acclimation depends on geographical location, interior climate control, and time of year. The reason for acclimating the wood flooring before installation is to allow the moisture content of the wood to adjust to the installations jobsite “expected normal living conditions”- that is temperature and relative humidity that will be typically be experienced once the structure is occupied. Typically RH fluctuates no more than 20% per geographical location.
- The recommended RH level should be between 35-55%. When RH drops to 35% or below, wood floor will loose moisture and has the potential to gap, check, crack, or split. When RH rises to 55% or above the wood floor will gain moisture and has the potential to cup.

Installation Steps:

Doorway and Wall Preparation

- Undercut door casings and jambs using jamb saw or handsaw.
- Remove any existing baseshoe or baseboard and save to re-install upon completion.
- Roll out and staple down acceptable vapor retarder with a perm rating of .7 and less than 10 and overlap seams a minimum of 4 inches or more.
- Starting from the longest wall will provide the best visual effect.
- Stagger the ends of each board at least 6”, and 3” in second row.
- Hardwood flooring should be installed perpendicular to flooring joists.
- Work from 3 or more cartons to ensure maximum color and shade mixture.
- Select and use the straightest and longest planks should be used for the first and second rows. Lay the remainder out on the floor in the general pattern in which they will be installed. Those with concerns must be removed and cut and used as starter or closing boards or in closets, under cabinets or discarded as waste.
- Lay the groove edge of the flooring facing the wall, leaving a 1/2” to 3/4” (minimum) space between the groove edge and the starting wall. This expansion space will allow for the wood to expand if necessary due to environmental changes.
- Lay the first row using 6d or 8d flooring nails to top nail surface 10 to 12” apart on face of flooring, and countersink. Fill holes with approved wood putty
- Each additional row of flooring with floor-nailing machine until the last row and any area that nailer will not fit. Fasten flooring through the tongue on a 45 degree angle (blind nailing) using the appropriate power nails or cleats that machine manufacturers recommend.
- Spacing between the nails should be 8-10 inches along the length of the board with a minimum of 2 fasteners per board 2-3 inches from each end.
- For flooring of 5 inch or wider, properly space nails every 4-6 inches along the length of the board.
- Stagger all board end joints at least 6” apart in adjacent rows.

- The last 1-2 rows will need to be face nailed when wall clearance does not permit blind nailing. Pre-drill holes on the surface of the planks 1” (2.5cm) in from the front edge (tongue side), and 3” in from the ends. Space the holes 10”-12” apart. Secure nails using a hammer and nail set.
- When you have reached the final row, you will need to measure the width of the final boards. You may need to rip the planks to match the width of the space remaining.
- Always fill nail holes with approved putty to prevent moisture penetration.
- Baseboards, quarter round, and shoe mould should be nailed to the wall only, not the wood floor.
- Clean your floor with Elegance Plyquet approved (Bona) cleaning products. Carefully move your furniture back in and placing felt pads on all furniture legs
- Refer to care and maintenance guide provided by your retailer.

Claims Policy:

Customer service is important to us at Elegance Plyquet. We want you to be satisfied with the products you receive from us as we pride ourselves in carrying only high quality wood flooring. If it has come to our attention that you are not satisfied with the end result of a wood-flooring product that was purchased at our warehouse, there may be a variety of reasons why this is the case.

All claims are subject to an un-biased, third-party certified wood flooring inspection. You may retain the services of certified wood flooring inspector with the National Wood Flooring Association. Upon the results of the inspection, Elegance Plyquet will reimburse you for the cost of the inspection if the product you received from us is found to be inferior or defective and not in accordance to the standards of the manufacturer or NWFA/NOFMA rulings. We are not responsible for improper storage/handling after release from our warehouse, installation, sanding or finishing deficiencies found in the inspection.