

Roma Collection

Engineered Hardwood Installation Instructions

METHODS Glue Nail/Staple Float	TEMPERATURE 60-75°F	HUMIDITY 30-50%
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Before You Begin

Carefully inspect all materials before installation. Installed flooring is considered accepted by the owner and installer. No claims will be accepted for visible defects, fit, finish, color selection, or style after installation.

Important Information

Roma engineered hardwood is a natural Tropical Acacia wood product. Natural variation in color, tone, grain, and character is expected. Final quality checks and approval of the product are the responsibility of the owner and installer before installation begins.

- Confirm the correct color, style, and quantity before installation.
- Keep like-colored putty, filler, or touch-up markers on hand for minor chips, nicks, and allowable gaps.
- Use National Wood Flooring Association installation practices and qualified professional installers whenever possible.
- Use proper protective equipment when cutting, sanding, or machining wood products.

Recommended Installation Methods

Roma may be installed by direct glue-down, floating installation, or proper mechanical fasteners. Direct glue-down is recommended by the manufacturer for best installation performance because approved adhesives can provide vapor emission protection, sound benefits, and reduced movement-related noise.

- Direct glue-down installation
- Floating installation
- Nail or staple-down installation over approved wood subfloors

Handling, Storage, and Jobsite Conditions

- Do not transport, unload, or store wood flooring in rain, snow, or humid exterior conditions.
- Store flooring in an enclosed, well-ventilated building. Garages, exterior patios, and uncontrolled spaces are not suitable storage areas.
- Wood flooring should be one of the last jobs completed in a construction project.
- The building must be structurally complete and enclosed, including exterior windows and doors.
- Concrete, masonry, drywall, paint, and other wet work must be complete and allowed to dry before installation.
- HVAC must be fully operational at least 7 days before installation.
- Maintain a consistent room temperature between 60°F and 75°F and relative humidity between 30% and 50%.
- Hardwood flooring must acclimate as long as necessary to meet moisture content requirements.

Acclimation and Layout

Use a moisture meter to monitor flooring and jobsite conditions during acclimation. Flooring is ready when it is no longer gaining or losing moisture and meets required moisture content conditions for the installation environment.

- Open and work from several cartons at a time for balanced color and shade blending.
- Distribute board lengths throughout the installation.
- Avoid H-patterns and other obvious repeat patterns.

- Stagger end joints by at least 6" for strip flooring, 8" to 10" for 3" to 5" planks, and 10" for planks wider than 5" when material permits.
- Plan the direction of installation before starting. Starting parallel to the longest unbroken wall is recommended.

Subfloor Requirements

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound. Subfloor deficiencies, moisture issues, or jobsite environmental problems can result in installation failure and are not covered by warranty.

- Clean: free of dirt, wax, paint, oil, drywall compound, sealers, adhesives, and debris.
- Flat: 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'. Floating installations require 1/8" in a 10-foot radius.
- Dry: moisture testing must be completed before installation.
- Structurally sound: loose or squeaking areas must be secured with nails or screws.

Moisture Testing

- Wood subfloors should not exceed 12% moisture content.
- The moisture difference between wood subfloor and hardwood flooring should not exceed 4%.
- Concrete moisture should not exceed 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. in 24 hours using calcium chloride testing.
- In-situ relative humidity readings should not exceed 75%.
- Do not install if moisture test results exceed recommended limits.

Approved Subfloor Types

- Wood subfloors: 3/4" CDX plywood or 3/4" OSB PS-rated subfloor/underlayment are preferred.
- Concrete subfloors: must be dry, smooth, clean, and at least 3,000 psi compressive strength.
- Ceramic, terrazzo, resilient tile, sheet vinyl, and other hard surfaces may be suitable when level, permanently bonded, clean, and properly abraded for adhesive bond.
- Do not install over more than one layer of existing flooring that exceeds 1/8" thickness.
- Do not nail or staple over particleboard or similar products.

Expansion Space

Expansion space must be left around the perimeter and all fixed vertical objects. For floating installation, maintain a minimum 1/2" expansion space regardless of flooring thickness. Trim and moldings should not restrict natural floor movement.

Glue-Down Installation Guidelines

Use urethane adhesive recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Do not use water-based adhesive with Roma engineered hardwood flooring.

1. Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, leaving appropriate expansion space.
2. Secure a straight edge on the working line before spreading adhesive.
3. Apply adhesive using the trowel recommended by the adhesive manufacturer.
4. Spread adhesive only over an area that can be covered within the adhesive working time.
5. Install the starter board along the working line with the tongue facing the starting wall.
6. Continue installing boards, pressing each board firmly into adhesive.
7. Clean adhesive from the flooring surface immediately as you work.
8. Remove all adhesive residue before leaving the jobsite.
9. The new floor can typically be used after 12 to 24 hours, following adhesive manufacturer guidance.

Nail or Staple-Down Installation Guidelines

Nail or staple-down installation is approved over suitable wood subfloors only. Roma should be installed using fasteners designed for engineered hardwood flooring and appropriate for the flooring thickness.

1. Install an asphalt-saturated paper vapor retarder over the subfloor before installing hardwood flooring.
2. Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, allowing required expansion space.
3. Lay the first row with the tongue facing away from the wall.
4. Top-nail and blind-nail the first row using appropriate fasteners.
5. Blind nail through the tongue 1" to 3" from end joints and every 4" to 6" along starter boards.
6. Continue installation, staggering end joints and distributing lengths throughout the floor.
7. Clean, sweep, and inspect the installed floor after installation.

Floating Installation Guidelines

Subfloor flatness is critical for floating installations. A flatness tolerance of 1/8" in a 10-foot radius is required.

1. Install a leading brand 2-in-1 or 3-in-1 pad according to the pad manufacturer instructions.
2. On concrete subfloors, install 6 mil polyethylene film.
3. Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, allowing required expansion space.
4. Install boards left to right with the tongue facing away from the wall.
5. Apply a thin bead of tongue-and-groove adhesive in the side and end grooves of each board.
6. Install the first three rows straight and square, allowing glue to set before continuing.
7. Clean excess glue from between boards with a clean cotton cloth.
8. Use tape only as directed and do not allow tape to remain on the floor for an extended period or overnight.
9. Maximum span without a transition is recommended to be 40 feet in any direction. Transitions are recommended at doorways or openings less than 72 inches.

Radiant Heat

Radiant heat installations require special evaluation. It is the responsibility of the owner and installer to determine the correct installation method over radiant heat and to follow NWFA guidance. The floor surface temperature should not exceed 82°F. Radiant heat is dry heat, and humidification may be necessary to maintain appropriate conditions.

After Installation

- Thoroughly clean, sweep, and vacuum the installed floor.
- Inspect for scratches, gaps, chips, nicks, adhesive residue, and other imperfections.
- Fill acceptable gaps with like-colored putty.
- Do not tape floor protection directly to the finished flooring.
- Use trim and moldings that allow the floor to move naturally.
- Protect the floor from rolling appliances, heavy furniture, grit, moisture, and direct construction traffic.