

ARTISAN MILLS HOME

# Riviera Collection

## Engineered Hardwood Installation Instructions

**Installation Methods:** Glue-down | Nail or staple-down | Floating

**Important:** Read all instructions before installation. Installation of flooring confirms acceptance of the product and jobsite conditions.

ACCLIMATION	HUMIDITY	EXPANSION SPACE
Minimum 72 hours	35% to 55% RH	1/2" at fixed vertical surfaces

## Before Installation

Carefully inspect all cartons and boards before installation. Do not install flooring with visible defects. Flooring that has been installed is considered accepted by the installer and/or owner.

Riviera engineered hardwood is a natural wood product. Color, grain, tone, mineral streaks, knots, and other natural character markings may vary from plank to plank. These natural variations are expected and are not considered product defects.

For the best overall appearance, work from multiple cartons during installation and blend boards throughout the floor.

## Approved Installation Methods

Artisan Mills Home Riviera engineered hardwood flooring may be installed using one of the following methods:

- Glue-down installation
- Nail or staple-down installation
- Floating installation

Always follow the installation method appropriate for the jobsite, subfloor, and project conditions.

## Jobsite Conditions

Before installation, the jobsite must be fully enclosed, dry, and maintained at normal living conditions.

Temperature and humidity should be brought to expected use levels at least 72 hours before installation and maintained before, during, and after installation.

- Relative humidity: 35% to 55%
- Temperature: Normal expected living conditions
- Acclimation: Minimum 72 hours before installation

Permanent HVAC should be operating before installation whenever possible. If permanent HVAC is not available, the jobsite must still be maintained as close as possible to normal living conditions.

All wet work, including paint, drywall, concrete, masonry, and plumbing, should be complete and dry before flooring is delivered or installed.

## Acclimation

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Allow Riviera engineered hardwood flooring to acclimate on site for at least 72 hours before installation.

Flooring should be stored in the rooms where it will be installed, under normal living conditions. Do not store flooring in garages, exterior spaces, uncontrolled buildings, or areas exposed to moisture or extreme temperature changes.

In very dry climates, additional acclimation time may be needed. Maintain indoor humidity between 35% and 55% before, during, and after installation.

## Subfloor Requirements

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All subfloors must be:

- Clean
- Flat
- Dry
- Smooth
- Structurally sound
- Free of dirt, wax, oil, paint, sealers, drywall compound, curing agents, grease, adhesive residue, or other contaminants

The subfloor must be properly prepared before installation. High spots should be sanded or ground down, and low spots should be filled with an appropriate leveling compound.

Subfloor flatness should meet industry standards before installation begins.

## Moisture Testing

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Moisture testing must be completed before installation.

### Wood Subfloors

- Test the subfloor and flooring with a pin-type moisture meter.
- Wood subfloor moisture content should not exceed 13%.
- Flooring moisture content should be within 4% of the wood subfloor.

### Concrete Subfloors

- Concrete must be fully cured before installation.
- Moisture testing must be completed before flooring is installed.
- Moisture levels should not exceed 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet in 24 hours when using a calcium chloride test.

#### **Do not install**

Do not install Riviera engineered hardwood if moisture levels exceed recommended limits.

## Approved Subfloor Surfaces

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Riviera engineered hardwood may be installed over approved subfloor surfaces when all jobsite and subfloor requirements are met.

- Concrete subfloors
- Wood subfloors
- Existing ceramic tile or terrazzo
- Existing resilient flooring that is fully bonded and properly prepared

Do not install over:

- Carpet
- Perimeter-glued vinyl
- Existing glue-down hardwood flooring
- Subfloors that are wet, uneven, unstable, contaminated, or structurally unsound

## Concrete Subfloors

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Concrete subfloors must be clean, dry, flat, and structurally sound. Cracks, holes, and low areas should be filled with an appropriate cementitious patching or leveling compound.

Concrete must be tested for moisture before installation. If moisture levels exceed recommended limits, do not install the flooring until the condition has been corrected.

Lightweight concrete or questionable concrete surfaces should be evaluated before installation. If the concrete crumbles, powders, or is not structurally sound, it is not suitable for direct glue-down installation.

## Wood Subfloors

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Wood subfloors must be structurally sound, dry, and securely fastened. Loose panels, squeaks, movement, or damaged areas should be corrected before installation.

Preferred wood subfloor materials include:

- 3/4" CDX plywood
- 3/4" OSB subfloor panels rated for flooring use

Minimum wood subfloor requirements should follow industry standards and the subfloor manufacturer's recommendations.

When possible, install flooring perpendicular to floor joists for added stability.

## Existing Flooring

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Existing ceramic tile, terrazzo, or resilient flooring may be suitable if it is fully bonded, clean, dry, flat, and structurally sound.

Existing tile or terrazzo should be abraded as needed to allow proper adhesive bond. Loose tiles must be repaired before installation. Grout lines should be filled with an appropriate leveling compound.

Existing resilient flooring must be full spread and securely bonded to the subfloor. Do not install over perimeter-glued resilient flooring.

## Blending Cartons

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Riviera engineered hardwood is made from natural wood and will have color and grain variation. Open and work from multiple cartons at the same time to create a balanced, natural appearance across the floor.

Avoid installing boards from one carton at a time, as this may create noticeable shade grouping.

## Nail or Staple-Down Installation

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Nail or staple-down installation may be used over approved wood subfloors only.

Before installation:

- Confirm the subfloor is clean, dry, flat, and structurally sound.
- Verify that the flooring nailer or stapler is appropriate for the flooring profile.
- Test the tool on a scrap piece before beginning.
- Maintain proper expansion space at all walls and vertical surfaces.

### Steps

1. Clean and prepare the subfloor.
2. Install 15 lb. asphalt felt paper over the wood subfloor.
3. Select a straight starter wall.
4. Snap a chalk line parallel to the starter wall.
5. Install the first row with the tongue facing away from the wall.
6. Face-nail or blind-nail starter rows as needed.
7. Continue installing planks, fastening near the ends and at regular intervals along each board.
8. Stagger end joints to avoid a patterned appearance.
9. Use a tapping block as needed to close joints.
10. Do not strike flooring directly with a hammer or mallet.
11. Cut the final rows as needed while maintaining expansion space.
12. Hand-fasten final rows where the flooring nailer or stapler cannot be used.

Minor squeaking, popping, or crackling may occur with nail or staple-down installations and can change with seasonal humidity conditions.

## Glue-Down Installation

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Glue-down installation may be used over approved concrete or wood subfloors.

Use an adhesive approved for engineered hardwood flooring and follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for trowel size, spread rate, open time, working time, cleanup, and rolling requirements.

### Steps

1. Confirm the subfloor is clean, dry, flat, and structurally sound.
2. Select a straight starter wall.
3. Snap a chalk line parallel to the starter wall.
4. Secure a straight edge along the chalk line to keep starter rows from shifting.
5. Spread adhesive using the proper trowel.
6. Do not spread more adhesive than can be covered within the adhesive working time.
7. Install starter rows carefully and confirm they are straight.

8. Continue installing planks into the adhesive.
9. Maintain a minimum 6" stagger between end joints where possible.
10. Remove adhesive from the flooring surface as you work.
11. Do not strike flooring directly with a hammer or mallet.
12. Roll the floor after installation if required by the adhesive manufacturer.
13. Restrict foot traffic for at least 6 to 8 hours.
14. Wait at least 24 hours before moving furniture onto the floor, unless the adhesive manufacturer requires longer.

## Floating Installation

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Floating installation may be used over approved subfloors with an appropriate underlayment and adhesive method.

### Steps

1. Install approved moisture barrier or underlayment as required for the subfloor type.
2. Over concrete on or below grade, use 6 mil polyethylene sheeting or an approved 2-in-1 underlayment.
3. Overlap seams and tape them securely.
4. Maintain expansion space at all walls and vertical surfaces.
5. Apply a continuous bead of approved PVA wood flooring adhesive along the groove, including side and end joints.
6. Install the first row with the groove facing the starter wall or straight edge.
7. Use a tapping block as needed to close joints.
8. Tape installed rows together as needed while adhesive cures.
9. Do not allow traffic on the floor or remove spacers for up to 24 hours, or as directed by the adhesive manufacturer.

## Expansion Space

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Maintain proper expansion space at all walls and vertical surfaces.

A 1/2" expansion space is required around walls, door jambs, columns, cabinets, pipes, stair bases, and other fixed objects.

Trim and moldings should be installed in a way that does not pinch or restrict natural floor movement.

## Radiant Heat

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Do not install Riviera engineered hardwood over radiant heat unless the product and installation method are approved for radiant heat applications.

Where radiant heat is approved:

- Floating installation is required.
- Direct glue-down installation over radiant heat is not recommended.
- The radiant heat system must be installed and operated according to the system manufacturer's instructions.
- Moisture testing must be completed and documented before installation.
- Indoor humidity must be maintained between 35% and 55%.
- Surface temperature must not exceed recommended limits.

After installation, gradually raise the radiant heat system to the preferred operating level over several days. Sudden temperature changes may affect flooring performance.

## After Installation

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After installation is complete:

- Inspect the floor for gaps, scratches, adhesive residue, or damaged boards.
- Clean the floor according to approved hardwood flooring care instructions.
- Remove spacers only after the required curing period.
- Install trim and moldings without restricting floor movement.
- Maintain indoor humidity between 35% and 55%.
- Protect the floor from excessive moisture, standing water, abrasive debris, furniture damage, and direct impact.

Seasonal expansion and contraction may occur with natural hardwood flooring.

## Installer and Owner Responsibility

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It is the responsibility of the installer and owner to confirm that the flooring, jobsite, and subfloor conditions are acceptable before installation begins.

Installation of the flooring confirms acceptance of the product and jobsite conditions.

Failure to follow installation instructions, moisture requirements, acclimation requirements, subfloor preparation requirements, or environmental control guidelines may void warranty coverage.