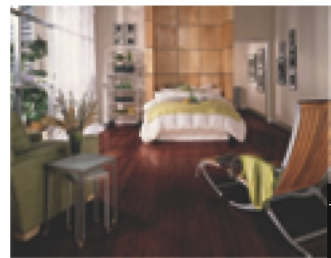




**BRAMPTON  
HARDWOOD FLOORS**

# Installing Solid Hardwood Flooring How To Series Brochures



# Installing Solid Hardwood Flooring

## ✓ Buy enough material

Be sure to add enough extra hardwood for waste and cutting. Buy 5% more for a regular install and 10% more for installation of boards set at 45 degrees.



### Tips & Techniques

*On purchases of rustic grade flooring, double up on your waste factor!*

## ✓ Acclimate material

All hardwood should be put in the house where it is to be installed 3 to 5 days prior to installation.



### Tips & Techniques

*In new home construction, wait 60–90 days after move in date before installing hardwood!*

## ✓ Prepare Sub Floor

Check for sub floor levelness and for squeaks. Shim between subfloor and joist to get rid of low spots and belt sand any high spots. Remove baseboards. Screw down sub floor.

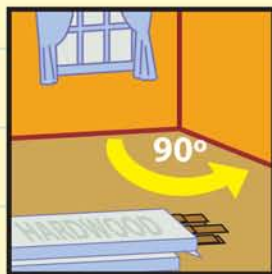


### Tips & Techniques

*For homes with chipboard sub floors, add a minimum of 3/8" plywood underlayment on top of the chipboard!*

## ✓ Determine layout and starting point

Check room for squareness and establish starting row next to square wall. Install hardwood across floor joist.



### Tips & Techniques

*Use the outside wall of the room as a reference, it's usually the straightest wall in the house!*

## ✓ Get necessary tools

Chalk line & nail set, tape measure, floor nailer, power drill, nails & underlay paper, miter saw, table saw, back saw/door jam cutter, safety glasses & dust masks



### Tips & Techniques

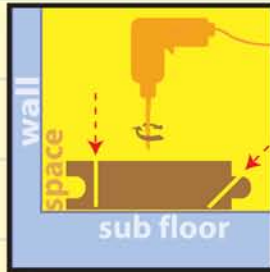
*Using an old worn out nail set is an exercise in frustration. Buy a new nail set for the job!*

# Installing Solid Hardwood Flooring

## ✓ The first row

Leave 1/2" space from starting wall or baseboard for expansion purposes. Place chalk line to stay true while laying first row.

Pre-drill and top-nail boards by hand 1/2" in from groove side every 8" intervals. Use nail set. Then pre-drill at 45 angle on top of tongue and nail by hand every 8" interval. Nail-set these nails.

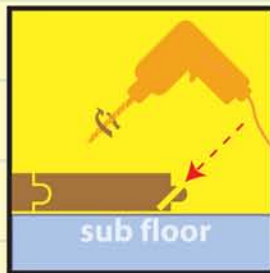


### Tips & Techniques

Select your longest and straightest boards for your first row! Remember to leave expansion space around room!

## ✓ The second row

First roll out a sheet of underlay paper next to first row, staple down if necessary. Lay out your second row next to the first row and pre-drill at 45 angle on tongue and nail by hand every 8" interval. Nail-set these nails.

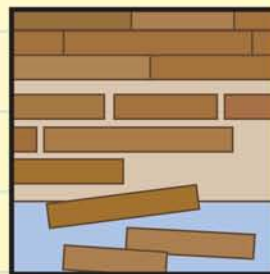


### Tips & Techniques

To minimize waste use the cut-off piece from the last board from your first row to start your second row!

## ✓ Laying the floor

Use the floor nailer for the following rows. Lay out three rows of flooring at a time before nailing (called "Racking") to ensure that boards are random in grain and colour. Make sure butt ends of boards are offset at least 6 inches from previous row. Nail at every 6-8 inch intervals.



### Tips & Techniques

Work from 3 open boxes when selecting boards to be nailed to ensure a random look!

# Installing Solid Hardwood Flooring

## ✓ The final rows

When there is no space to use the floor nailer, predrill last few rows on tongue at 45 angle and nail by hand. (See nailing 2nd row.)

Rip last boards to fit leaving 1/2" gap from wall. Pre-drill, top-nail and nail set last row. Fill nail holes with putty. Cut any door jams and fit floor underneath. Install any required reducers at door thresholds.



### © Tips & Techniques

Cover puttied holes with a coat of polyurethane using a small fine tip touch up brush!

## ✓ Finishing trim

Re-install baseboards and quarter-round and fill any nail holes with appropriate colour of putty filler.



### © Tips & Techniques

If you are installing quarter round, nail them to the baseboards not to the floor!

## ✓ Maintenance

Sweep or vacuum any dust and pick up any stray nails that can scratch your new floor. Place felt pads underneath furniture and carefully move back furniture by lifting it into place. Clean your floor on a regular basis.



### © Tips & Techniques

When buying a cleaner for your floor, make sure it says it is safe for hardwood floors on the front label!

