



**RENICK MILLWORKS**

*Antique Flooring, Beams & Millwork*

## **Installation Guide 2011**

### **Product Use**

#### **Warranty & Installation Guidelines**

Renick Millworks, LLC's engineered plank flooring can be installed Above-Grade, On-Grade or Below-Grade. They all may be glued down over a plywood or concrete sub-floor. They also may be simply nailed down or stapled down over a plywood floor using specially designed hardwood floor nailers.

#### **Pre-Installation Warranty (IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ!)**

It is the duty of the installer, whether professional or DIY (do it yourself), to inspect all flooring before installation. If the installer or buyer feels the flooring is the wrong color, improperly manufactured, has finish problems, is off-grade or is the wrong gloss level, DO NOT install the flooring.

Please contact the retailer or wholesaler from which the flooring was purchased. No claim will be accepted for flooring which is visibly wrong if such flooring is installed. Installed flooring is deemed to be visibly acceptable. Since wood is a product of nature, not plastic, standard industry practice allows for up to 5% of flooring shipped to have milling, handling, finish and/or grade defects. This warranty applies only to material deemed to be defective in excess of this 5%. Renick Millworks will replace the material deemed to be defective in excess of this 5%.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the duty of the installer/home owner to judge the suitability of any piece for placement in an obvious area of the room. If you feel a piece is not suitable, either do not install it or install it in an inconspicuous place.

#### **Jobsite Requirements**

All work involving water or moisture should be completed before installing hardwood flooring. For any new construction or remodeling project, hardwood flooring should be one of the last items installed. The jobsite should be monitored for consistent, normal room temperature of 60-70 F (16-22 C) and relative humidity of 35-55% for at least one week before installation. DO NOT remove from packaging and acclimate like solid hardwood floors! This can make the flooring very difficult to

install, as tolerances between the tongue and groove are so exact. Do not install in areas subject to moisture, such as bathrooms or laundry rooms.

Although Renick Millworks' engineered plank flooring can be glued directly to concrete, do not use a concrete sealer nor install over one. The concrete must be high compressive strength. All concrete sub-floors should be tested for moisture content. Visual checks are not reliable.

Acceptable test methods for sub-floor moisture content include:

- Calcium Chloride test. The maximum moisture transfer must not exceed 3 lbs/1000 square feet with this test.
- Tramex concrete moisture encounter meter. Moisture reading should not exceed 4.5 on the upper scale.

**A "DRY" SLAB, AS DEFINED BY THESE TESTS CAN BE WET AT OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR. THESE TESTS DO NOT GUARANTEE A DRY SLAB.**

## **Installation Instructions**

### **All sub-floors must be level and clean**

The maximum tolerance is 3/16" per 10'. If necessary, level down any irregularities using #20 grit paper and fill any uneven spots with leveling compound. Remove all paint, wax, oil, plaster, sheetrock mud, and previous or existing glues and adhesives. Grind concrete with #3 1/2 grit sandpaper if needed then sweep or vacuum thoroughly.

### **Wood sub-floor must be:**

- Dry and well secured with a moisture content under 12%.
- Nailed down or screwed down every 6" along the joist to avoid squeaking.
- Leave a 1/8" gap around perimeter.
- Leveled by sanding down high spots and filling in low spots with an underlayment patch as necessary.

### **Concrete sub-floor must be:**

- Fully cured for at least 60 days
- Installed properly with minimum 6-mil polyfilm between concrete and ground.
- Dry all year round. Do not install over concrete if you are not sure it will remain dry.
- Tested for moisture by using moisture meter.

### **Sheet vinyl must be:**

- Well bonded to the floor.

- In good condition.
- Clean and level, no debris.
- Do not install over vinyl tiles.

## **Preparing for Installation**

Undercut or notch-out door casings to fit flooring underneath by placing a piece of flooring on the sub-floor as a height guide for sawing. Remove door thresholds and base moldings and replace after flooring installation. Always leave at least 1/2" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects.

Use a hammer and tapping block and tap against the tongue to pull planks together. Never tap against the groove of the plank. When near a wall, use a crow or pull bar to close end joints. Be careful not to damage flooring edge. All of Renick Millworks' engineered plank flooring is milled to very exacting standards, so pieces that do not go together easily usually have debris in the groove, the tongue and/or groove has been damaged, or the board is a little bowed and you just need to flatten it out, rather than forcing the pieces together.

## **Starting Installation**

For aesthetical purposes, wood flooring is often laid to the longest wall. However, the owner, upon the advice of the professional installer should make the final decision which direction the planks will run. Most professional installers will begin installation next to an outside wall, which is usually the straightest wall, as a reference point in establishing a straight working line. A good way to establish a working line is to measure an equal distance from the wall at both ends and snap a chalk line. Measure distance from the wall at the width of the plank plus another 1/2" for expansion space for establishing your working line. It is advisable to dry lay a few rows before actually using glue to confirm your directional layout decision and working line. Adjustments of the working line may be necessary if the outside wall or other working line reference is out of square. This can be done by scribe cutting the first row of planks to match the wall, creating a straight working line.

## **Glue-Down Installation**

For glue-down installations, we recommend:

- Bostik's Best or BST adhesives
- Franklin 811
- Capitol Woody 600
- Stauf Ultra-Mastic PUM-950

Use the trowel recommended by the adhesive manufacturer, since tooth size is important for the best adherence to the sub-floor. Usually this is 1/4" x 1/8".

Always allow for adequate cross ventilation when working with flooring adhesive. Follow adhesive instructions regarding proper set time before affixing wood floor planks. With a trowel at a 45-degree angle, spread as much adhesive as can be covered by flooring in one hour or as recommended by the adhesive manufacturer's instructions.

Start at the outside wall. Once adhesive has set per instructions, lay the first of the flooring with the groove facing the wall. Continue laying the flooring until adhesive is covered with flooring. Remember to always check the alignment with the working line, being careful not to move the installed floor on the wet adhesive. Use a tapping block to fit the planks together. When the first section is complete, continue by repeating the process section by section until installation is complete. Immediately remove any adhesive that gets on the flooring's face by using a damp cloth or adhesive manufacturer's adhesive remover. Do not forget to stagger the joints. When required, use weights to hold the flooring planks on the perimeter until adhesive is cured.

### **Finishing the Job**

Remove expansion spacers. Reinstall base and/or quarter round moldings to cover expansion space. Install transition pieces, such as reducer strips and T-moldings, as needed. Do not allow any foot traffic or heavy furniture placement for at least 24 hours.

Clean and remove all dirt and debris on floor by dust mopping or vacuuming. Follow the Maintenance Guide to ensure the longevity and lasting beauty of your new Renick Millworks Engineered Plank Flooring.

### **Staple or Nail Down Installation**

Tools and Materials: power saw, hammer, chalk line and items listed below:

- Staple gun: Stanley Mark 3
- Staples: 1 1/4"

Acceptable sub-floors are the following:

- a. 3/4" or thicker exterior plywood, 5/8" minimum, installed with the long edge forming a right angle to the floor joists.
- b. 1" x 4" to 6" wide, square edged, kiln dried coniferous lumber, laid diagonally over 16" on center on wooden joists. The ends of all boards are to be cut parallel to the center of the joists for solid bearing.
- c. 3/4" minimum O.S.B. on 19.2" center floor joists system properly nailed.

New wood type sub-floors should be checked for moisture using a moisture meter. In general, wood or plywood sub-floors should not exceed 14% moisture content, or 4% moisture content difference between hardwood flooring and sub-floor. Adequate and proper nailing as well as

soundness of the sub-floor should be ascertained. Foreign material should be removed from the sub-floor. The clean sub-floor should be covered, wall to wall, with 15 lb. asphalt saturated felt. When positioning felt, lap edges at least 4". Double the felt around any heat ducts in the floor. Basement and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated. Crawl spaces must have a 6 or 8 mil. Poly vapor barrier below the sub-floor on the ground.

### **General Installation Instructions (see NWFA for more details)**

- Flooring should be laid at right angles to the floor joists and, if possible, in the direction of the longest dimension of the room.
- Make sure that the nail gun's faceplate does not damage the UV-cured factory finish. 3M Blue tape can be placed on the faceplate to prevent damage.
- Begin laying plank flooring in a room corner with the long groove of the plank facing the wall. Provide expansion space of 1/2" between the floor planks and the adjacent wall.
- End joints of the plank should be staggered (minimum of 6") to achieve the best appearance in the finished floor.
- Nailing schedule: The first run should be face nailed the counter sunk. All other runs should be nailed at a 50 degree angle on 8" centers at the tongue and within 2" of each end joint.

### **Important Notes**

- Baseboards should be installed so that their lower edge is slightly above the level of the finished floor. Do not nail to the floor.
- Professional advice should be sought before installing over radiant heat.
- Do not install any product with visible defects.
- To avoid movement in floor, a relative humidity rate of 33-55% should be maintained.
- The use of color coordinated wood floor putty to cover small cracks and gaps is considered normal in flooring installations.
- See Maintenance Guide for information regarding helpful tips on keeping your floor looking new for years to come.
- Molding tip: Before installation, match the closest board in color and grain to the adjoining molding profile color and grain. Save the board(s) and use next to the molding piece.