

Tecsun Building Products (TBP)

Installation Instructions and Maintenance Guide

Of Engineered Single Strip Flooring

Important Notes:

1. Engineered Single Strip Flooring, being a natural product, will continue to expand or contract during seasons changing. Some minor separation between boards might occur during the years.
2. The Installer and Homeowner should check the products before installation for comparing the samples with the products you bought to determine continuing installation.
3. TBP declines any responsibilities for materials with visible defects once they are installed. Prior to installation, the installer and the homeowner should inspect all materials and determine if it matches the work order. Any defects should be reported to TBP or its distributor/dealer immediately.
4. It is the responsibility of the installer and the homeowner to determine if the job site sub-floor and job site conditions are environmentally acceptable for the installation of TBP's Flooring. TBP declines any responsibilities for failure resulting from or connected with sub-floor, or job site damage, or deficiencies after flooring has been installed.
5. TBP makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of the chosen installer's work or of a particular installation performed by them. TBP disclaims all liabilities for any errors or improprieties in the installation of its products by an installer.
- 6. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. This can result in plank discoloration and or fading. During peak sunlight hours, the use of drapes or blinds is recommended especially on patio doors, etc that receive direct sunlight.**

Engineered Single Strip Flooring can be stapled on wood sub-floor or glue-down on concrete.

A. Before Installation

Engineered Single Strip Flooring should be delivered to the job site, and open the boxes at least 72 hours for acclimation before installation according to the job site conditions. The boxes and the plastic wrap should be opened and the heating or air conditioning turned on so the floor can acclimate to its environment. Do not unload flooring during wet conditions such as rain, snow, sleet, etc. Moisture absorbed by the flooring boards will cause them to swell. If installed before acclimation, they will subsequently shrink back to their in-service moisture content. This shrinkage may produce gaps, which will cause problems with the finished floor system. Wood flooring must be installed in a climate controlled environment.

Engineered Single Strip Flooring can be installed on wood sub-floor or concrete. The moisture content of the wood sub-floor or the concrete at the time of installation should be under 4%. Vapor barrier needs to be installed on the sub-floor prior to the flooring installation if the moisture content reading is over 4% on the wood sub-floor. Concrete needs to be sealed prior to the flooring installation if the moisture reading is over 4% on the concrete. During building construction, before the building is enclosed, the sub-floor may absorb moisture from direct exposure to rain and weather. The building must be enclosed and dried out before the installation of the Engineered Single Strip Flooring. Sub-floors, which are built with "performance-rated" 3/4-inch thick oriented strand board (OSB) or plywood will produce the best performing floors. Also, 5/8-inch thick plywood may also be used. But 1/2-inch sub-floor products may lack stiffness and nail-holding properties for good performance with Engineered Single Strip Flooring.

Buildings with crawl space foundations should include a vapor barrier installed between the ground and the sub-floor. This barrier will minimize the effect of moisture evaporating into the crawl space environment that can migrate through the sub-floor and into the Engineered Single Strip Flooring. The vapor barrier can be 4 to 6 mil polyethylene sheets laid on the crawl space floor. Proper air circulation is important to prevent moisture from building up. At least two vents should be left open year round. The plywood sub-floor moisture content should be under 4%. If high moisture is present, determine its source and correct problems. Furthermore, the building should be completely enclosed with windows and doors installed prior to flooring installation. Freshly poured concrete slabs emit many gallons of moisture as water vapor into the atmosphere of the building. Therefore, no concrete should be poured after the flooring is installed, and an adequate curing time (minimum 72 days) should be provided before installation of the flooring.

B. Installation Area

Engineered Single Strip Flooring can be installed on or above grade. For below grade installation, **Glue Down Only.**

C. Installation

1. Staple down installation

Before installation, the installer must be sure that the sub-floor is solid, level, clean, and dry. Fifteen-pound building paper (tar paper) should be laid directly onto the sub-floor. This building paper minimizes squeaks caused by small movements of the Engineered Single Strip Flooring after installation, and helps to reduce some moisture problems. The difference between the moisture level of the sub-floor and the Engineered Single Strip Flooring should be no more than 4%; Engineered Single Strip Flooring can then be installed. Engineered Single Strip Flooring is product of nature. Because of the natural color variation in Engineered Single Strip Flooring from piece to piece, it is important to work out four to five boxes at a time to assure a beautiful blend of shading. Prepare a plywood sub-floor for a nail down installation. Re-nail any loose areas or areas with squeaks. Sand and/or plane any high spots; fill any low areas. Sweep or vacuum the sub-floor thoroughly. Then we suggest you cover the sub-floor with 15 Lbs. or higher asphalt felt or rosin paper to retard moisture and to help alleviate variations in the sub-floor.

Location and straight alignment of the first course is important. Place a mark 1/2" plus the width of flooring (5 5/8" for 5 1/8" flooring) on the end wall near a corner of starting wall. Place similar mark at opposite corner and insert nails into each mark. Pull string line between nails. Nail the first strip with its leading edge on this line. The gap between that strip and the wall is needed for expansion space and will be hidden by the shoe mold. Remove line after you get the starter board in place.

Top-nail and blind –nail the first row (hand nail if necessary), each succeeding row should be blind-nailed wherever possible. Use 6d or 8d size finish nail for top nailing first row, last row and any area where blind nailer will not fit. (Pre-drilling nail holes will prevent splits.)

Use 1/2" crowned 1"-1 1/2" staples for the engineered single strip flooring, use every 3-4" with staples and within 1-2" of end joints. Test the pressure of the gun and the angle of the stapler to make sure the tongue is not breaking. Be sure to look at the face of the installed flooring at a low angle from a distance to see if dimpling is occurring. As it is hard to see when directly above the floor. If you see dimpling, STOP. Adjust the angle/ placement of stapler entry or air pressure until test planks confirm dimpling is no longer occurring. Tecsun Building Products is not responsible for replacing material that has been installed with dimples.

Lay out seven or eight rows of flooring end to end in a staggered pattern with end joints at least 6" apart. Find or cut pieces to fit within 1/2" of the end wall. Watch your pattern for even distribution of long and short pieces and to avoid clusters of short boards.

2. Glue Down Installation

Engineered Single Strip Flooring can also be installed over a concrete slab with glue (a moisture barrier is recommended even when a wood sub-floor is used). Once again, it is very important that the installer is working on a flat, clean and dry base floor. . The difference between the moisture level of the sub-floor and the wood flooring should be no more than 4%. The moisture content of the wood sub-floor or the concrete at the time of installation should be under 4%. Vapor barrier needs to be installed on the sub-floor prior to the flooring installation if the moisture content reading is over 4% on the concrete sub-floor. Concrete must be sealed prior to the flooring installation.

When the subfloor is ready to use, glue the floor over the existing concrete slab or a plywood sub-floor, using the glues that are recommended. Tecsun Wood Flooring Adhesive is recommended, and when moisture problems are a concern, use Tecsun Moisture Guard Sealer.

D. Maintenance

Important: DO NOT WAX! Please make sure that the **room humidity levels should remain between 40% and 60% and the room temperature should be between 18°C(64F) to 24°C(75F) year round inside the house.**

Daily Cleaning:

Remove loose dirt and grit, dust mop, broom sweep, electric broom or vacuum. Footprints and dirt can easily be wiped away with a moist cloth. Wipe up liquid or food spills promptly with dry cloth or paper towels. Remove sticky residue (like jelly) with a slightly dampened cloth. For general cleaning, add 1/4 cup of white vinegar to 1 quart of warm water. Dip a clean cloth or sponge mop and wring nearly dry. **Do not use any cleaning products that will leave a film on the wood floor.** Clean floor and wipe dry with a towel as you go. Use mats in areas subject to regular dirt wear such as hallways and entryways. Fit furniture legs with felt tips. Rolling furniture should be fixed with soft rubber chair casters.