

INSTALLATION  
MANUAL



Share a passion for wood...

Flooring

Planchers  Bellefeuille

# INSTALLATION MANUEL

## FLOORING



**Before you start installing your Planchers Bellefeuille floor, you should carefully read the following instructions to ensure thorough understanding of the requirements and steps to follow to ensure proper installation.**

### WARNINGS

If you have any doubt as to the quality of this product, you should not install it. The warranty will cover the replacement of defective materials only if such materials have not been installed or otherwise altered.

Prior to installing, please inspect the products to make sure that they match what you ordered in terms of species, grade, dimensions, color and quantity.

Before storing your floor in your home, make sure that all plastering and painting works have been completed and are dry, and that the humidity level is comprised between 40% and 50%. Heating, ventilation and/or air conditioning systems must be functional and operating. Let the floor boards acclimatize in the room where they will be installed at least 48 hours prior to installation. Planchers Bellefeuille floors should not be stored in a garage, a basement or a shed as the wood might be exposed to excessive humidity levels. Damages caused by improper storage will systematically void the warranties.

**Failure to comply with any of these requirements will result in void warranty.**

## SPECIFICATIONS

Planchers Bellefeuille floors are manufactured from genuine, 3/4" thick (actual) wood. They are designed to be installed on upper level or ground floors. Solid hardwood floors are not designed for installation in a basement, directly on concrete or on a radiant heating system equipped floor. Hardwood floors are meant to be installed with nails or staples. Never install these floors in a floating manner or just glue them to the subfloor.

## YOUR AND THE INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Before installing this floor, the installer and the owner must make sure that the installation site and the subfloor comply with the standards established in this guide, as well as with the National Building Code standards.

Hardwood floors are made from a natural resource: the forest. Therefore, each piece has its own grain, texture, color and irregularity characteristics. The floor is manufactured in compliance with the industry standards, which allow for a certain amount of natural or manufacturing flaws that should not exceed 5%. Planchers Bellefeuille floors meet or exceed these requirements, but it is the installer's responsibility to inspect each board before installing it. If he has any doubt as to grade, color, manufacturing quality or finish, he should try to eliminate the imperfection or to install those boards with minor defects in less visible places, such as in closets. If a less visible location is not available, the defective boards should not be installed.

**Boards that have been installed are considered as being consistent with the order and accepted by the installer and the owner.**

Under no circumstances will Planchers Bellefeuille bear responsibility for improper installation or poor judgment on the part of the installer. Planchers Bellefeuille will not cover any labour or installation cost.

## WARRANTY

Limited, lifetime structural warranty.

25-year wear-through warranty on aluminium oxide finishes, for residential use only. Wear must be obvious and represent at least 10% of the floor total surface.

These warranties apply to the original floor purchaser.

For more information, refer to our warranty guide or contact Planchers Bellefeuille directly.

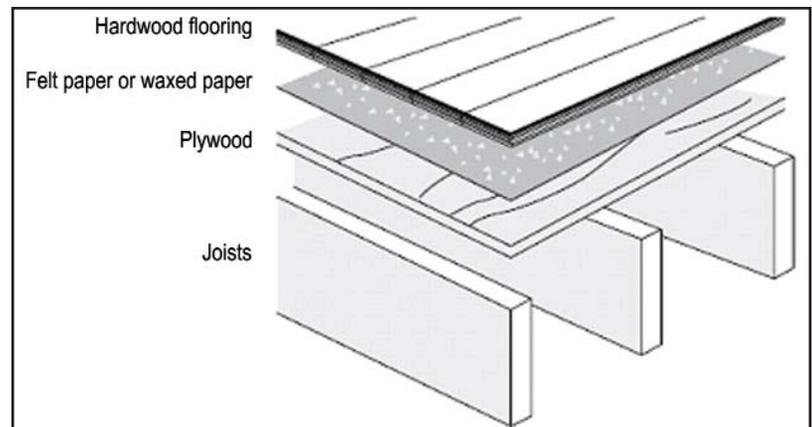
## PREPARATION PRIOR TO FLOOR INSTALLATION

### Installation site:

- Floorings should always be the last stage in the construction process. Plastering and painting works must be finished and dry.
- The heating system should be operating to maintain a  $\pm 22^{\circ}$  C temperature during a period of one week.
- Subfloor should be dry and basement should be adequately ventilated to eliminate sources of humidity.
- Relative humidity should be maintained at a level comprised between 40% and 50%.

### Subfloor:

- The subfloor should consist either of floor-designed minimum 5/8'' (16 mm) thick plywood, or of minimum 3/4'' (19 mm) thick OSB particle boards, for a 16'' (406 mm) inter-axial structure.
- The surface must be level. Surface irregularities can be corrected with a sander or a floor leveller. Drop-off tolerance is 3 /16'' (5 mm) on a distance of 10' (3 m).
- The subfloor must be clean and free of any debris, dust, nail, staple, adhesive or any other dried product.
- Install an appropriate vapor barrier on the whole surface of the subfloor: 15 lb felt paper or waxed paper.

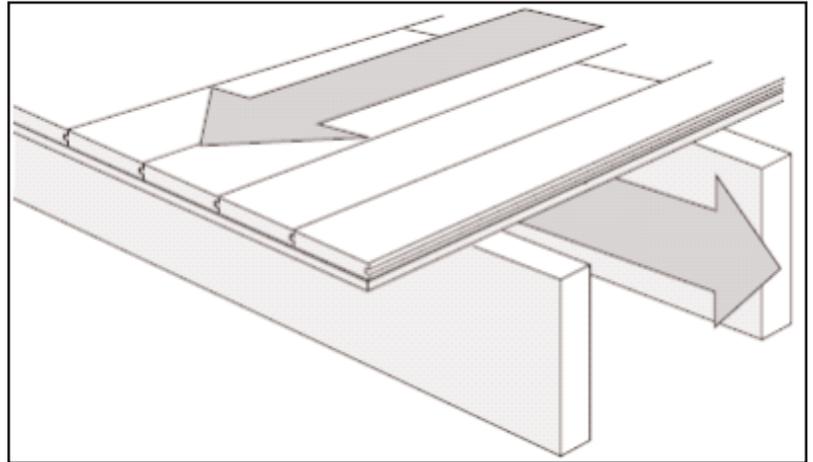


### Useful tips

- Remove doors and baseboards and trim door jambs if necessary.
- Always use quality tools while installing: a well-sharpened saw will prevent splices and a good nail gun will ensure proper nail penetration into the boards..
- Work with 3 or 4 boxes at a time so to ensure uniform installation.
- Vacuum frequently during installation to eliminate sawdust.

## FLOOR INSTALLATION

It is recommended that the floor boards be installed perpendicularly (90°) to joists.

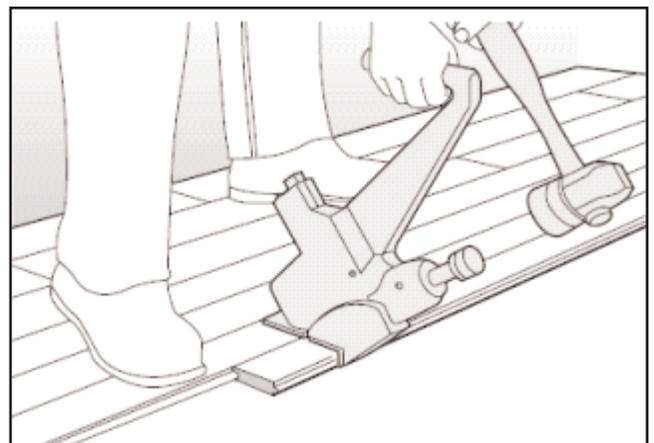
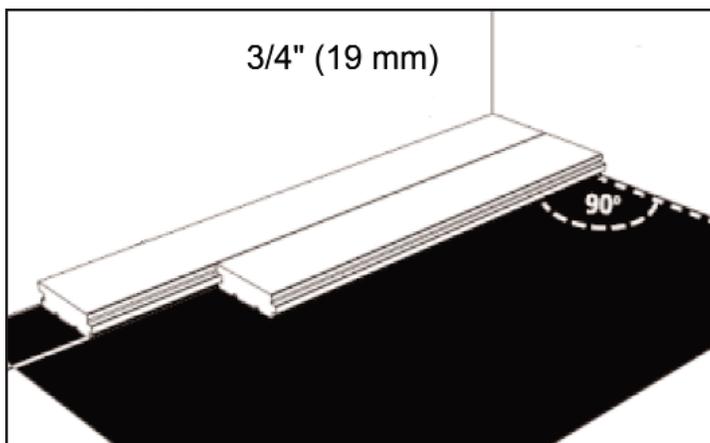


### Step 1: Starting line

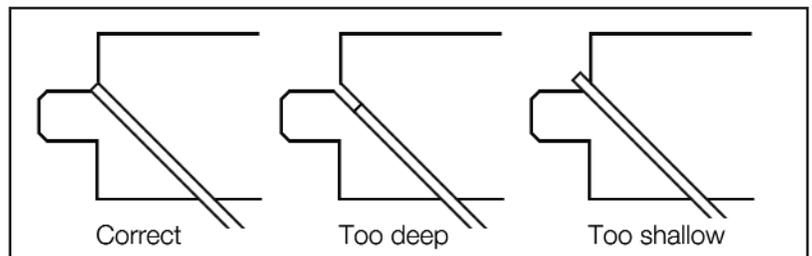
- Draw the start line with a chalk line, making sure that your line is parallel to starting wall. Leave a 3/4" expansion gap. Draw the line at a distance equal to board width plus 3/4". For example if you selected 4" wide floor boards, draw your starting line at 4 3/4".
- Use spacers between the wall and the boards in the first row so as to leave the required expansion gap for moisture regain.

### Step 2: Floor boards installation

- Install the first row along the starting line using the spacers. Always place the groove towards the wall, and the tongue towards the opposite side.
- Make sure the boards are straight and aligned.
- Carefully select the boards. Those with imperfections should be installed in less visible areas.



- The last board in each row will have to be trimmed and can be used to start the next row, providing its length is of at least 6'' (152 mm). Always keep an expansion gap lengthways; a 1/4'' (6 mm) gap is recommended.
- Depending on the nail gun you are using, the first rows may need to be nailed manually until you have gained enough space to manipulate your nail gun.
- Nail the boards every 6'' (152 mm) to 8'' (203 mm). Each board requires a minimum of two (2) nails to ensure proper fastening. Do not nail too close to board edges: leave a 2'' (51 mm) clearance. For 4'' or 4 1/4'' boards, in addition to the staples, it is strongly recommended to glue the floor to the plywood at least one row out of 4. For larger planks, it is necessary to glue each row in addition to the staples. Applying an "S" of glue under the board is sufficient, it is not necessary to use a trowel and cover the back with glue. The adhesive to be used must retain a good elasticity such as the Bona R850T.
- The last row will have to be ripped lengthways. Do not forget to leave a 3/4'' expansion gap.
- Mask the holes in the last row with an appropriate paste or wax.
- Pre-test your nail gun to adjust it and get used to it. Control the pressure so as not to damage the tongue. Note that exotic wood species require a special adjustment



### Step 3: Mouldings

- Install transition mouldings, nosings, level reducers, T-shaped mouldings.
- Install the baseboards and quarter-rounds, making sure that you nail them to the wall and not to the floor so as to allow for natural floor movement (hence the necessary expansion gap).
- Reinstall the doors if necessary.

### Step 4: Care and maintenance

- Once the installation is complete, vacuum to remove debris and excessive dust.
- For a varnished floor, regularly clean the surface with a hardwood floor recommended cleaner and a mop. "Bona Cleaner" is effective, eco-friendly, non-toxic and leaves no residue.
- For an oiled floor, periodically clean the surface with a recommended cleaner. The "Natural Oil Bona Floor Cleaner" is a cleaner designed for oiled floors. Non-toxic, water-based, it cleans and nourishes the wood.

- Never use large amounts of water to wash your floor, and do not try home made cleaners like water and vinegar.
- Install felt pads or protective covers under all the furniture to protect your floor against scratches. Never move a heavy object without protecting your floor; if you have to, place a carpet upside down under the object and then slide it over.
- Save a few floor boards for potential future repairs.
- Protect your floor against sunlight and intense light sources because they can cause color changes.

The environment in which your floor is installed is even more important than cleaning it. Wood is a living material that reacts to changes in humidity. The wood should at all times be in a relative humidity between 40 and 50%. We experience highly variable humidity in Quebec, so in winter it is advisable to use a humidifier in the house to maintain a good moisture. The heating in winter greatly dries ambient air and causes gaps between the boards, or even cracks. In summer, moisture can rise rapidly. You should use a dehumidifier to control the humidity. You can use a hygrometer to measure the humidity of the air.

The following chart clearly shows the variations in width of a floor board of 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" wide, depending on the relative humidity of the ambient air:

Relative humidity	23%	30%	40%	45%	50%	70%
Changes	-0.7%	-0.4%	-0.0%	+0.4%	+0.7%	+1.8%
Result per board	-3/64"	-1/32"	0"	+1/32"	+3/64"	+1/8"

Source : National Wood Flooring Association

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