

Concrete Subfloors: Lightweight and standard-density concrete subfloors are ideal applications for a Ua Floors floated floor. Concrete subfloors are generally acceptable for float-in installation if the subfloor appears to be dry (i.e. no standing water or discoloration of concrete) and a 6 Mil Poly sheet and 1/8" high compression or compaction rated floating foam underlayment or a 2 in 1 floating floor underlayment is used and installed properly. Be sure that, as a minimum, any concrete subfloor is at least 50-60 days old before installing a wood floor over it.

Moisture

To curb the adverse effects moisture will have on a Ua Floors wood floor and to determine the source of moisture problems, use the following checklist:

- a. Inspect the gutters, drains, and down spouts outside the house. Clear out any clogs caused by leaves, dirt, or other substances. Down spouts should transport water away from the foundation.
- b. Check the landscaping surrounding the home to be sure the yard is sloped away from the foundation (at least 6" in 10 ft.).
- c. Check windows and doors for proper drainage and waterproof caulking.
- d. Inspect concrete subfloor for cracks or buckling. Sometimes the water table may rise and force water up through the concrete floor with hydrostatic pressure.
- e. Check the ventilation system in the crawl space, basement, and attic. Moisture will collect on walls and floors if dead air (i.e. little or no ventilation) is present. As a rule, total vent surface area in a crawl space should equal 1.5 % of the square footage of the area in question.
- f. Inspect pipes, water heater tank, dishwasher, and any other plumbing fixtures in the affected area for leaks and repair any such leaks.
- g. Remember to take seasonal changes in relative humidity into consideration.
- h. Signs that the moisture content is too high include discolored (darker) concrete and evidence of actual water droplets.
- i. In high humidity areas (such as Louisiana, Florida, etc.), make sure homeowner knows that setting the temperature extremely low on their air conditioner can result in slabs "sweating" if the dew point is reached. This can add excessive moisture in the flooring which is not covered under any warranty.

Underlayments

Concrete subfloors require a 6 Mil Poly sheeting with 4 inch overlap and seams sealed with plastic tape and a 1/8 inch high compression or compaction rated foam underlayment. A floating floor 2 in 1 underlayment may be substituted. Follow underlayment manufacturer's instructions for installing the underlayment. Over a wood subfloor, the 6 Mil Poly sheeting is not necessary unless directly over a crawl space which might release moisture. Run the underlayment up the perimeter walls approximately 2". This provides a secure enclosure for the flooring. After the floor is installed and before the installation of the baseboards, trim the excess underlayment to the height of the floor surface using a fine trimming blade.

Do not open packages until ready to begin installation! Opening cartons to acclimate the flooring (as with some solid strip flooring) could result in a difficult installation as our T&G fit is very precise and acclimation can lead to the tongue swelling slightly and becoming hard to fit into the groove. Also, there is more chance of the unfinished back side of the flooring taking on more moisture than the prefinished top face, resulting in slightly bowed boards that are harder to install. This is only an issue of ease of installation. You may still use pieces that have acclimated if necessary, they just might be hard to install.

As an installer, it is your responsibility to be aware of the grade, Relative Humidity of the room, and moisture content of the subfloor. You should check that each plank is free of damage or manufacturing defects. Any unusable boards should not be used, and any boards that you find visibly objectionable should either be used in an inconspicuous place or not used at all.

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Installation

Always begin a floating floor installation with the grooves facing the wall!
 Leave expansion space at all walls and all vertical obstructions, e.g. (fireplace, doorjambs, etc.)
 Sweep or vacuum subfloor thoroughly.
 Use rated floating underlayments

Tools and Materials Required

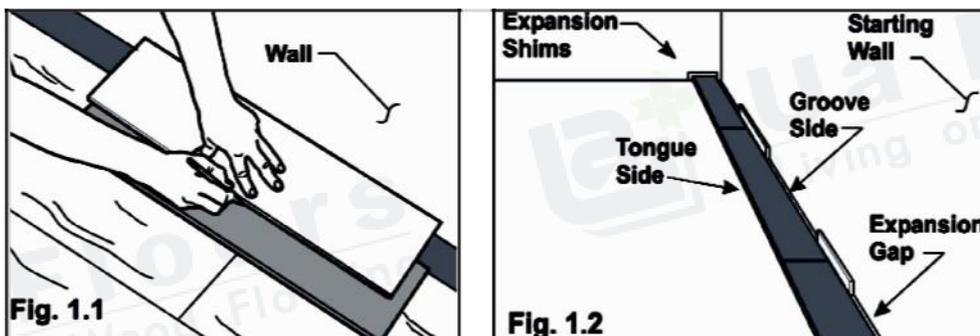
- Tape Measure
- Chalk Line
- Last Board Puller
- Hammer
- Knocking Block
- Floating Floor Adhesive, for example Franklin Titebond II or III or their Floating Floor Glue
- Expansion Shims
- Floor Protectors
- Router Bit
- Splines

Step 1: First Row

1-1 Start with groove side of boards facing starting walls. If starting wall is not square or is otherwise irregular, scribe the first row (Fig. 1.1), then cut boards to match variation in wall.

Important: The first row must be square to ensure a true, fixed base from which to build entire floor.

1-2 Always leave [1/4"] expansion gap between boards and walls (Fig. 1.2). Use expansion shims spaced every 12" along all walls to help prevent avoidable movement during remainder of installation. Ensure at least one end joint is in each row, regardless of row width (e.g., hallways).



1-3 Apply floating floor adhesive to upper inside of grooves on board (Fig. 2.2). Because this is a floating floor system the glue placement is very important. The glue should be placed along the topside of the groove and the full length of the groove (sides and ends). This can be accomplished by inverting the plank and applying a bead of glue (3/32") on the upper side of the groove. When the plank is turned back over the glue will run down the back of the groove to create total coverage. If the groove is totally filled with glue it could hinder the closing of the seams because of excessive glue squeezing out thus not allowing a tight fit.

Note: Since first row boards lie with their groove side against the starting wall, only apply adhesive to board ends.

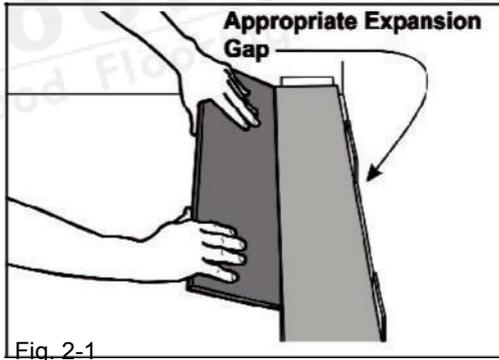


Fig. 2-1

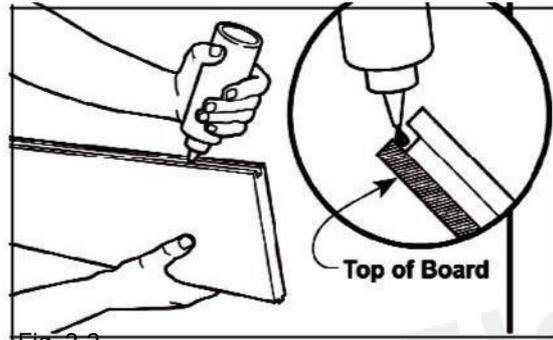


Fig. 2-2

Step 2: Subsequent Rows

2-1. Start each subsequent row with cut off end of last board from previous row (Fig. 2.1). Such cut off piece must be longer than 12 inches. Beginning at left, stagger end joints by minimum 6" (8" is preferred).

2-2. Apply adhesive to upper inside of grooves on board (Fig. 2.2).

2-3. Procedure for installing each board: Set cut-off board from previous row, as described in Step 2.1. Remember to allow for expansion gap and shim accordingly. Work from left to right. If needed, use Last Board Puller or Knocking Block to ensure proper end joint and side joint fit. If end joint has slight gap, knock other end, making sure side joints stay properly engaged as well. This is probably your last chance to make sure this is right! Finish setting board by placing Knocking Block against tongue side and gently tapping board flush to previous row.

Never tap groove side or top surface layer!

2-4. At end of row, cut board to appropriate length (allowing for expansion gap), apply adhesive and install as above. If necessary, use Last Board Puller to gently pressure board into place.

2-5. Check all seams for tight fit and move on to next row.

Changing Directions: If necessary to continue floor in reverse direction (e.g. through doorway), or away from groove, use a spline which use a spline which supply from Ua Floors or you can make yourself on your table saw with some scrap flooring. Apply glue to groove and insert spline tongue, converting groove into tongue.

Step 3: Last Row

Since last row will generally not fit perfectly, scribe row as shown in Fig. 1.1, remembering to allow adequate expansion gap. Engage all seams with Last Board Puller. Ensure last row is over 1.5 inches wide.

After Installation

Remove expansion shims and use required moldings and/or trim pieces to cover expansion space. Always nail moldings to wall, never to flooring!

Clean Up

Immediately clean any adhesive spilled on wood flooring during installation.