

1. Conduct a visual inspection for signs of water leaks or visual moisture from the slab. Moisture testing of the slab is required where using a 1 inch core bit removing a 3: deep core and testing the bottom of that core. Moisture in the bottom of the core closest to the center of the slab should not be more than 9% moisture content prior to installation.
2. The subfloor surface must be dry and free of contaminants including but not limited to oil, paint, grease, dust, metal shavings, saw dust. The subfloor is to be fully scraped with a wide blade scraper to remove any plaster residues and mortar excess. The subfloor must be tested for flatness. Deformations to the surface greater than 3/16th's over 10 foot radius are to be filled and a leveling compound should be used following manufacturers recommendations. Elevated deviations greater than 3/16th' over 10 foot radius should be ground smooth to conform to the aforementioned specification for flatness.
3. Smartwood flooring does not need any acclimation time, therefore the product comes right out of the box and is ready to install.
4. Plan the location and type of any moldings to be installed, as some moldings are easier to install prior to installing the flooring.
5. Plan the direction you intend installing the floor. Set out the first run of floor boards using chalk/string lines. It is recommended you lay the boards parallel to the longest wall in the room starting with the tongue closest to the wall and working outwards. When using a rubber mallet, **DO NOT HIT THE EDGE OF THE GROOVE SIDE AS IT WILL CAUSE DAMAGE.** Only hit the surface of the board in the direction you intend it move.
6. Apply the Patented Smart-Step adhesive using the manufacturer's recommended notch trowel, while trying not to work too far ahead so the adhesive doesn't dry prior to Smartwood flooring being set in place.
7. In order for direct stick systems to perform at their optimum levels it is a recommendation that at least 75% transfer of adhesive to board is achieved during installation (see technical sheet for details or check with your local wood flooring association).
8. Lay out the flooring over the applied adhesive firmly pushing the tongue and groove together in a random pattern, while keeping the short joints no closer than the width of any one board. Apply even pressure to the boards to guarantee full contact between the adhesive and the base of the board. Use a low tack masking tape (Blue painters tape) on all end joints to ensure the boards don't move from the installed position.
9. Denatured Alcohol with any non-colored paper towels or shop rags is recommended for cleaning (do not use red shop rags as sometimes they can stain flooring).
10. Standard power tools, such as a chop saw and table saw with standard carbide cutting tipped blades is required (Diamond blades for Jigsaws are recommended). **\*\*It is also highly recommended to use a vacuum attachment on all power tools to extract and reduce dust.\*\*** Very important - sheetrock dust during construction without proper protection can easily get into the brush marks and micro bevels of

any wood flooring product. **DO NOT MOP WITH WATER** until all sheetrock dust is removed as it will turn to hard plaster and leave white in the grain. If white has entered the grain and cannot be removed use a soft brass bristled brush with denatured alcohol and be careful not to damage the finish when removing the dust.

11. Smartwood flooring cleans easily. Remnants from the base should be carefully vacuumed as the base can be abrasive and damage the surface. Glue residue on surface can be removed with denatured alcohol or if completely dry using a standard pencil eraser or tennis ball (yes, tennis ball).
12. Upon completion, care should be taken to protect the flooring from damage during the final stages of construction. Installation of Smartwood flooring should be completed at the final stage of the project, to minimize any damage to the floor surface. The use of protective sheeting such as foam underlay and MDF (medium density fiberboard) to cover high traffic areas is appropriate where required.
13. **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** Smartwood like any other flooring requires some expansion gaps at walls. It is standard for all wood flooring to expand along the width of the boards and just like any other wood flooring Smartwood expands as well. Smartwood expands less and thus requires a ¼ inch expansion gap between the installed flooring and the finished wall or hard surface. When installing off of a finished saddle, 1/8th of an inch space can be used but 3/8th's of an inch is required on the opposing side wall. Additionally and critically important, for every 20 foot of installed flooring widthwise, 3/16ths of spacing must be added in addition to the wall gaps. This can be one 3/16th gap or 3 - 1/16th's gaps for each is sufficient.

**SAFE WORK PRACTICES** Wood dust may cause irritation and repeated inhalation may damage health. Machinery or power tools may generate sufficient noise to damage hearing. The following work practices should be employed when working with Smartwood products. Work areas must be clean. Sawing, sanding and routing equipment should be fitted with dust extractors. Dust levels should be below standards set by your local association. When machining wood flooring, respiratory protection, gloves, clothing, hearing and eye protection should be worn. After handling flooring, wash skin thoroughly with mild soap. Regularly launder clothing. Dispose of waste material responsibly.

**Disclaimer:** The information presented herein is based on data considered to be accurate as of the date of preparation of this Safety Data Sheet. However, no warranty or representation, express or implied, is made as to the accuracy or completeness of the foregoing data and safety information, nor is any authorization given or implied to practice any patented invention without a license. In addition, no responsibility can be assumed by the vendor for any damage or injury resulting from abnormal use, from any failure to adhere to recommended practices, or from any hazards inherent in the nature of the product.