



Verde Bellissimo “*Loc n Roll*” Locking Floor Installation Instructions

Verde Floors Bellissimo “*Loc n Roll*” can be installed using either glue down or floating method. It can be installed over most any structurally sound sub-floor. Bellissimo, like all of Verde Floors products, are extremely stable and dimensionally stable. This makes them suitable for installation above, below or on grade. (See information and installation guidelines below.)

NOTICE: RESPONSIBILITY OF INSTALLER / OWNER

All materials must be carefully inspected before installation. Wood is a natural product containing variations in color, tone and graining. Therefore, some variation in color is to be expected in a natural wood floor. All real hardwood floors are a product of nature and therefore not perfect. Verde Floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards that permit defect tolerances of up to 5%. Even though our product goes through several inspections before it leaves the factory, it is the responsibility of the **customer** and/or **installer** to perform a final inspection prior to installation to avoid installation of flooring with visual defects.

ANY and ALL warranties that are offered with this product **DO NOT** cover materials with visual defects once they are installed.

We highly recommend that you visit the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA) website at: woodfloors.org/consumer for installation help and review the Verde Floors care and maintenance guide for tips.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Basic tools and accessories:

- Broom or vacuum
- Chalk line
- Tapping block
- Wood flooring cleaner
- Hand or Electric jamb saw
- Miter, Table or Compound chop saw
- Quality moisture meter
- Safety glasses
- Straight edge
- Tape measure
- Carpenter’s square
- Utility knife
- Pry bar

For floating installation: Underlayment.

For glue down installation: Approved wood flooring adhesive and the proper trowel.

PROPER JOB SITE CONDITIONS

It is the responsibility of the installer/owner to determine that the job site sub floor and job site conditions are environmentally stable and structurally (see local building codes) acceptable for wood floor installation. The jobsite temperature must be between 60^of to 80^of and have a Relative Humidity between 35%-65%).

The customer and/or installer is responsible for wood flooring failure resulting from or connected improper



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or deficient sub-floor, subsurface, or from job site damage or deficiencies before and after the hardwood flooring has been installed. See NWFA guidelines.

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

Concrete Sub-Floors

New concrete slabs require a minimum of 60 days to cure before installing any floor covering, particularly a wood floor.

All concrete subfloors must be tested for moisture content prior to installing the wood flooring. The test must conclude the following to proceed:

* Less than 3 lbs. /1000 sq. ft. /24 hrs. on a standard calcium chloride test

* Less than a reading of 5.0 on a Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter (moisture meter)

Lightweight Concrete

Lightweight concrete has a dry density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot and is only suitable for engineered wood floors when using the floating installation method. Many products have been developed as self-leveling toppings or floor underlayments. These include cellular concrete, resin reinforced cementations, underlayments, and gypsum-based materials. Although some of these products may have the necessary qualifications of underlayment for wood flooring installation, many do not. To test for lightweight concrete, scrape a coin or key across the surface of the sub-floor. If the surface powders easily or has a dry density of 100 pounds or less per cubic foot, use only the floating installation method. Regardless, the same moisture testing described above must be done before installation.

All Concrete subfloors must be dry, smooth and level (3/16" in a 10 foot Radius - 1/8" in 6") and free of structural defects. To prep the subfloor for flooring installation, handscrape or sand the subfloor with a 20 grit #3-1/2 open face paper to remove loose, flaky concrete. Grind high spots in concrete and fill low spots with a cementitious based leveling compound (min. 3,000 psi).

Concrete must be free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax grease, dirt and curing compounds. It is critical to ensure a proper bond between the adhesive, concrete and wood flooring. Therefore, these may be removed chemically or mechanically, but do not use solvent-based strippers under any circumstances as residual solvents can negatively affect the bond of flooring adhesives.

Again, these engineered hardwood floors may be installed on above or below grade ONLY where moisture problems do not exist. To ensure a long lasting bond, make sure that the perimeter of the foundation has adequate drainage and vapor barrier.

Wood Subfloors

Wood subfloors must be nailed or secured with screws secured properly to the substructure. Nails should be shank type and screws must to be counter sunk. The wood subfloor must be structurally sound and dry. It should not exceed 3% of the moisture content of wood flooring to be installed prior to installation. If the subfloor is single layer less than 3/4" thick structural plywood, an additional layer of plywood must installed as a cross layer, for strength and stability (minimum 5/16" thick for a total 1" thickness). This is to reduce the possibility of squeaking and reduce deflection which can affect the performance of the flooring.

Wood subfloors must be free of paint, oil, existing adhesive, wax, grease, dirt, urethane, varnish, etc. Underlayment grade OSB (not the wax side) is also a suitable subfloor when the proper thickness and fastened to the substructure properly. Particleboard can be used as a subfloor in a floating installation,



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but is NOT recommended for glue down. When installing over existing wood flooring, it is recommended that the new flooring be installed at right angles to the existing floor.

Sub-floor Moisture Check

Approved Wood Flooring Adhesive may be used for above, on or below grade applications and on all substrates as listed above for glue down installation. Because on and below grade applications are susceptible to moisture they should be tested for moisture prior to installation in several locations within the installation area. Acceptable conditions for above, on and below grade applications are:

* Less than 3 lbs. /1000 sq. ft. /24 hrs. on calcium chloride test.

* Less than a reading of 5.0 on a Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter (moisture meter).

To correct any sub-floor problems concerning moisture, either wait until the subfloor dries to meet specifications or use an appropriate moisture barrier.

Subfloors Other Than Wood or Concrete

Terrazzo, tile and any other hard surfaces that are secured the substrate, dry, structurally sound and level, as described above, are suitable as a subfloor for floating or glue down engineered wood floor installation. Note: Perimeter glued resilient vinyl or rubber tiles are unacceptable undergarments for floating or glue down installation and must be removed prior to installation of new flooring.

Radiant Heated Subfloors

Before installing over any radiant heated floor, turn off heat and wait until the floor has reached room temperature. After installation is complete turn the radiant heat on, 2^o at a time to allow the flooring to acclimate to the radiant heat. **NOTE:** The radiant heat system **MUST** be equipped with a thermostat the **DOES NOT** allow the heat to exceed 85^of. If the radiant heat system is not so equipped, **DO NOT** install the wood flooring. The slab **MUST NEVER** exceed 85^of. (see NWFA Guidelines - Appendix H Radiant Heat Installation at www.nwfa.org/member/pdf/installg/appenh.pdf).

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As stated previously, the surface must be sound, tight and free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax, grease, dirt and other debris. Terrazzo and ceramic tile substrates must be abraded to assure adhesion. **WARNING: DO NOT** sand existing resilient tile, sheet flooring, or felt linings or backing as these products may contain asbestos fibers that are not readily identifiable. Inhalation of asbestos dust can cause serious bodily harm. Check local, state and federal laws before handling hazardous material and/or before attempting the removal of these floors.

Preparation

Remove any moldings around the perimeter of the room. Undercut all door casings with a hand or power jamb saw using a scrap piece of flooring as a guide for the height of the cut.

"Racking the Floor"

Racking the floor is an important part of creating an esthetically pleasing look to the installation. Start by using random length strips from the carton or by cutting four to five strips in random lengths, differing by at a minimum of 9". As you continue working across the floor, be certain to maintain this 9" minimum stagger between end joints on all adjacent rows. **NOTE: DO NOT** waste material; use any leftover or cut pieces from cutting the starter row to start the next row or to complete a later row.



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INSTALLATION METHODS

It is **NOT** necessary to acclimate the flooring unless the temperature of the flooring is NOT between 60^of to 80^of or the moisture level of the flooring is 3% more or less than the subfloor.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

Use the proper approved underpayment as described previously. When installing a floating installation, a 1/2" expansion gap must be maintained around the perimeter of the room.

Step 1.) Allow the floor to acclimate, if necessary.

Step 2.) Insure that the proper subfloor requirements are met.

Step 3.) Begin the installation by laying the underlayment.

Step 4.) As you lay the first plank, use spacers to maintain the minimum 1/2" expansion gap around the perimeter of the room.

Step 5.) Cut the starter piece as needed.

Step 6.) Lay the end joints onto each other for the first row, using a bead of glue at each end joint to secure the pieces together.

Step 7.) A cut piece from the first row will be used to start the second row (for esthetics use a minimum of 9" length pieces). Be certain to always stagger the end joints a minimum of nine inches as well.

Step 9.) To begin the second row, place the tongue of the cut piece into the groove, and lock and drop it into place.

Step 10.) Place the second board of the second row into the groove and lock it into place similar to the first. The end joint will then be held down by the following rows. It is **NOT** necessary to glue the end joints further until the last row.

Step 11.) The last row will be cut to fit and should be wider than two inches.

Step 12.) The end joint of the last row should also be glued like the first row.

Step 13.) If the width required to finish the last row is narrower then the plank, measure the dimension and then rip the planks to the proper width and then install the row.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

There many ways to install Verde Floors wood flooring using the glue down method such as wet lay or tacked. However Verde Floors requires that the adhesive be a **NON**-water based adhesive. Use of a water based adhesive can and will void the Verde Floors warranties. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions **EXACTLY** for proper installation. **NOTE:** By not adhering to the guidelines you can void your flooring warranties.

Step 1.) Select a starter wall. It is recommended to start the installation along an exterior wall as it is more likely to be straight and square with the room. Measure out from the wall the width of two planks plus 1/4". Mark each end of the room and snap your chalk line.

Step 2.) Spread "adhesive" from the chalk line to the starter wall using the adhesive manufacturer's recommended trowel size. **NOTE:** It is important to use the correct trowel at an angle to get the proper spread of adhesive applied to the subfloor. This will help insure a proper and permanent bond and improper bonding can cause loose or hollow spots.

TIP: Change the trowel every 2000 to 3000 square feet due to wear down of the notches. This assures you always get the proper spread of adhesive.

Step 3.) Install the first row of starter strips with the tongue facing the starter wall and secure into position.

NOTE: Alignment is critical and can be achieved by top nailing the first row with finishing nails (wood substrate installation), or sprig/pin nails (concrete sub-floor). This will prevent slippage of the planks that can cause misalignment. **NOTE:** The planks along the wall may require cutting to fit since most walls are not straight.

Step 4.) Once the starter rows are secure, spread 2'-6" to 3' of adhesive out from the installed planks **OR** no more than can be covered before the adhesive begins to cure (See adhesive manufacturer's



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guidelines for adhesive open time). Begin to place the next row of planks into the already installed starter rows and lay flat into the adhesive. Occasionally test for proper adhesive transfer by lifting a board and looking for good coverage (90%), and then replace it into the adhesive.

Step 5.) Continue to install planks until you reach the opposite wall.

Step 6.) Measure and cut, if necessary, the last row against the wall for a proper fit.

CLEAN UP AND PROTECTION

Clean any adhesive off the surface before it cures using the cleaning product recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Use mineral spirits after it cures.

If you need to protect your wood flooring after installation, use an UNCOATED Kraft paper or cardboard, taping with blue tape to keep it from sliding. NEVER use plastic or other materials that will trap moisture between the flooring and the covering. When moving heavy furniture protect the wood flooring with a thick cardboard. See *Verde Floors* “Care and Maintenance Guide” for complete information.