

Elof Hansson



Installation Instructions

The Traditional South American Exotic collections by Elof Hansson can be nailed down, on or above grade.

Job site preparation:

- If necessary, remove furniture and appliances
- Check moisture content of the subfloor and record it! Do not deliver wood flooring until appropriate temperature and humidity conditions have been achieved.
- Ensure subfloor is clean and flat, repairing to ensure it is to NWFA specifications
- If necessary, remove all baseboards, trim, molding and thresholds, and doors
- Measure and undercut to allow for expansion around fireplaces, stair skirts, castings, doorjamb, etc...
- Wood flooring should be one of the last jobs completed on the construction project. Limit foot traffic on finished wood flooring.
- Surface drainage should direct water away from the building.

Wood at the jobsite:

- The jobsite must be checked to see if it is ready for the delivery of the wood. Wood should stay separate of the jobsite if wet jobs are not completed and the moisture conditions are not to spec.
- Check moisture content of sub-floor and wood flooring, and record it. They should be within 4% of each other.
- Ensure product is delivered dry to jobsite making sure no rain or other water source has dampened the cartons.
- Make sure the building is fully enclosed and after all wet jobs are complete.
- Make sure the HVAC system is operational and on a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation, and that it will remain on between installation and when the property is occupied.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry.
- Crawl space earth (or thin concrete slab) should be covered 100 % by a vapor retarder of black polyethylene, minimum of 6mil.

Acclimation Guidelines:

- Ensure building is enclosed. Do not store wood flooring at the jobsite in uncontrolled climate conditions, such as garages, exterior patios, etc...
- Verify the building is maintained at normal living conditions for temperature and humidity

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- Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air-conditioning systems should be operational for at least five days prior to installation.
- Check wood flooring moisture content of several boards from different boxes upon delivery, record it, and establish a base line for acclimation.
- Prior to installation, ensure the wood flooring is within 4% +/- of subfloor. (NWFA says that boards 3" or wider should be within 2%)

Subfloor flatness and integrity:

Wood subfloors must be flat, clean, dry, structurally sound, free of squeaks and protruding fasteners.

- For installations using mechanical fasteners of 1 ½" and longer, the subfloor should be flat to within ¼" in 10', or 3/16" in 6'.
- For glue-down installations and installations using mechanical fasteners of less than 1 ½", the subfloor should be flat to within 3/16" in 10' or 1/8" in 6'.

* If peaks or valleys in the subfloor exceed the tolerances specified above, sand down the high spots and fill the low spots with a leveling compound or other material approved for use under wood flooring. Inspect the floor carefully for movement or squeaks in the subfloor and repair any problem areas. Further nail or remove any protruding fasteners.

Concrete Subfloor Guidelines:

Subfloor must be flat

- Make sure the slab is flat. 1/8" to 3/16" in 10' radius
- Grind high spots and fill low spots with patching or leveling compounds.

Subfloor must be dry

- Perform moisture test using relative-humidity testing (ASTM F-2170), calcium chloride testing (ASTM F-1869 to identify moisture content of the slab.
- If slab tests too high in vapor emission, always use a moisture barrier to protect the wood.

While solid floor can be glued directly to concrete when the slab tests within allowable standards, it is recommended to use a moisture barrier on all installations over concrete.

Slab must be:

- Minimum 3000 psi
- Free from non-compatible sealers, waxes, oil, paint, and drywall compound
- Do not attempt to glue over a chalky or soft concrete slab.

Follow adhesive manufacturer's recommendations for proper application, proper adhesive and correct trowel notch and spread rate.



Installer responsibility:

- Sub-floors should be clean, flat and dry (10% humidity). If floor exceeds maximum, the subfloor will need to be sealed with moisture and or vapor barrier.
- Flooring needs to acclimate a minimum of 2 days (48 hours). Flooring should be un-palletized and spread out through installation area.
- Temperature has to be between 59-80 degrees Fahrenheit during installation.
- Inspect each board before laying to make sure material is the quality ordered.
- Installer needs to work from several open boxes at a time to ensure a blended floor.

Nailing Installation: Wall Line Layout

- Ensure subfloor is clean, flat and dry.
- Use felt, asphalt laminated, or asphalt-saturated kraft paper
- Choose a starting wall according to the most aesthetically or architecturally important elements in the room. Typically the starting wall will often be the longest unbroken wall in the room.
- Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall allowing $\frac{3}{4}$ " expansion space between the starting wall and the edge of the first strip/plank.
- As a general rule, a $\frac{3}{4}$ " expansion space must be left around the perimeter and at all vertical obstructions.
- If laying a random-width floor, start with the widest board.
- Lay and blind nail one row of plank along the entire length of the working line.
- Stagger end joints of boards row to row a minimum of 6" for strip flooring, 8-10" for 3"-5" plank, and 10" for plank wider than 5".
- Minimize expansion on floors wider than 20 feet, more or less spacing between rows may be needed depending on the geographical area, interior climate control and time of year.
- Where spacing is required: use a washer or removable spacer to leave additional space every few rows. Do not use spacers that may cause damage on factory-finished products.
- Blind-nail through the tongue using 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-2" fasteners. Fasteners should be spaced every 6"-8".
- To assist with the holding power, you can
 - o Screw and plug at end joints, alternating at staggered locations and intervals along each board
 - o Apply an approved wood flooring adhesive
 - o Use kerfing or relief cuts ever 8"-12" parallel to the grain.

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Nailing Instructions: Center Line Layout

- Ensure subfloors is clean, flat and dry
- Find the center of the room, measuring of f the two longest walls, and snap a line down the center of that room.
- Install a starter board on the line. Fasten the starter board to the floor using wood screws.
- Nail the first row of flooring against the starter board, being careful not to move the starter board when nailing. The groove of the flooring should be against the starter board.
- Drill and hand-nail the first three rows through the tongue. **DO NOT TOP NAIL.**
- After installing in one direction, remove the starter board and start rows going in the opposite direction.
- Install a spline or slip tongue in the groove of the board that was against the straight edge. Put wood glue down the entire length of the groove before installing the spline.
- Install the remaining rows in the opposite direction.

Glue Down:

- Ensure subfloor is clean, flat and dry
- Work from several boxes at one time to ensure proper blending of the floor.
- Leave $\frac{3}{4}$ " expansion space against all walls and other vertical objects
- Follow adhesive manufacturer's instructions for spread rate and clean up.
- Test the substrate for moisture.
- Choose a starting wall according to the most aesthetically or architecturally important elements in the room. Typically the starting wall will often be the longest unbroken wall in the room.
- Snap a working line parallel to the starting wall, the width of the board, plus the tongue and $\frac{3}{4}$ " expansion space.
- Install starter board along the edge of the working line. Lay one row of plank in the adhesive along the length of the working line.
- Stagger end joints of boards row to row a minimum of 6" for strip flooring, 8-10" for 3"-5" plank, and 10" for plank wider than 5".
- Tape or tensioners to keep floor together.

Wood does move and seasonal gapping may occur.

Wood Flooring has a comfort level: wood flooring will perform best when the interior environment is controlled to stay within a relative humidity range of 30-50% and a temperature range between 60-80 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Maintenance:**

While specific-finish types may require different maintenance, some guidelines apply to the care of all wood floors.

- Install floor protector pads on all furniture legs before furniture is placed on the wood floor.
- Rugs should be placed at all entrances. 7 days after installation of European Elegance and after color change with exotic wood floors (1-3 months depending on species). Take special precautions with non-skid pads as they may imprint their pattern onto the finish.
- Expect that the floor will shrink and expand with changes in humidity. To minimize these changes, it is recommended that some kind of humidity control be used in the home.
- Routine basic maintenance includes sweeping, vacuuming and or dust mopping to remove dirt and grit. Only use a vacuum with special hardwood setting, no beater arm.
- All shoes, especially high heels should be kept in good repair. If they lose their protective cap, they will dent the surface of any floor.
- Pet nails need to be trimmed regularly to prevent finish and wood damage.
- Keep an eye on potential spill areas, such as dishwashers, sinks, icemakers and stove tops. This also includes household plants and Christmas tree stands.