

Avignon Collection

Installation Instructions

You must read and understand these instructions completely before installing your flooring. USF Contract cannot assume responsibility for the suitability of USF Contract flooring for each individual installation, since USF Contract has no influence on the installer's proper application. Should an individual plank be doubtful as to appearance or dimension the installer should not use this piece. Reported any defect directly to USF Contract or its representative immediately. USFloors will send a replacement in a timely manner.

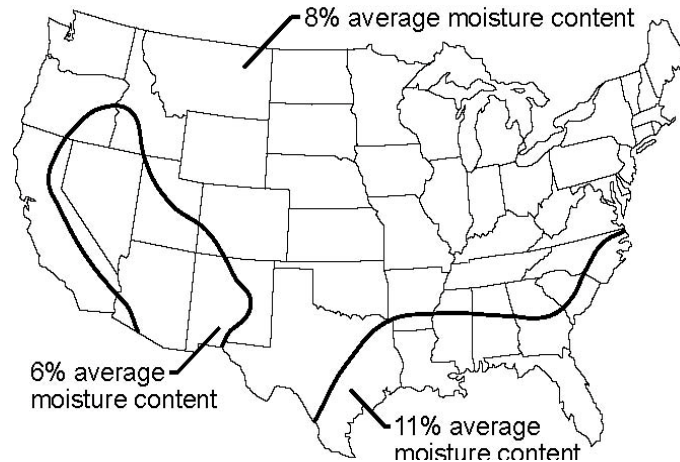
USFloors makes no warranty or guarantee of the quality of work performed by a selected installer. USFloors disclaims all liability for imperfect installation of its product. USFloors pre-finished flooring is best installed over a wood subfloor using staples/brads or glue. Installation of Avignon floors over in-floor radiant heating systems as a floating floor is acceptable.

Recommended equipment is the *Stanley Bostitch MARK III Flooring Nailer & Mark III Foot Kit*. Use of the foot kit to adjust the thickness to fit the 5/8" dimension is required. Typical air pressure settings are 85 lbs. (However, these settings may vary depending on the equipment). Proper use of this equipment will render good results.

ACCLIMATION:

- Avignon flooring must acclimate on-site a minimum of 72 hours in advance of installation.
 - Open each box and remove shrink-wrap completely.
 - Compliance with temperature and humidity recommended levels during the acclimation period, is important and that it be maintained in after installation.
 - Check and record the moisture contents of both the flooring and the subfloor before any work begins.
 - Optimum installation conditions are 70 degrees Fahrenheit at 30 - 50% humidity.
- Any wood flooring will expand and contract in response to changes in temperature and humidity. There should be no more than a 2% maximum difference in moisture content between the subfloor and surface flooring material. The amount of movement varies dependant upon temperature, dimensional stability of the materials involved, and moisture content of both the surface flooring and subfloor. Visible gaps at seams and joints will vary seasonally.
- Before site dropping the wood, the jobsite ought to be ready.
 - Do not deliver wood if jobsite moisture conditions are excessive.
 - Otherwise, one will absorb moisture from the other.
- Confirm that the work site structure is free from unwarranted humidity and weather exposures, with doors and windows in place.
 - Interior climate controls should be operating for at least 48 hours to stabilize the moisture conditions of the interior.
 - Once at the jobsite, the wood should be set indoors and spread over the subfloor.
- Delivery on a damp day or during rain, the boards will absorb moisture.
 - If installed in this condition, the flooring will shrink when drying.
- Deliver to the jobsite when plastering and painting are completed and dried.
 - Moisture evaporates from damp walls into the air within the house; expect absorption of some of this moisture by the flooring.

United States Map for Wood Flooring Moisture Content



SUBSTRATE PREPARATION:

- Using 3/4" CDX plywood substrate will result in optimum performance.
- Underlayment-grade plywood and fabricated board substrates must be clean, level, dry, and free of contaminants.
- Fill any low spots with appropriate filler and sand any high spots.
- For buildings with a raised foundation, install ground cover of six mil polyethylene sheets over the earth in crawl space.
- Concrete Substrate must be on or above grade.
 - Concrete is required to be sound, smooth, level and flat with a maximum variation of 1/8" in 10'.
 - Fill any low spots with appropriate filler and scrape any high spots.
 - Properly cure and test the substrate for moisture content.
 - Completely curing the concrete slab is mandatory.
 - If vapor pressure exceeds 3 lbs per 1000 square feet in 24 hours using calcium chloride test method, do not install the flooring.

INSTALLATION:

- Flooring should be square with the space, running parallel to longest room dimension.
- Leave a 1/2" expansion space around entire perimeter.
- It is important that the tongue & groove of each plank fit together tightly at all seems and butt joints.
- Secure starter row firmly in place either using nails or wedging.
- Use of proper equipment will improve overall quality of installation.
- **Nail-Down Method:**
 - Install flooring over a 15 lb Asphalt paper (roofing felt) or Red Rosin paper.
 - Once starter rows are secure, additional rows should be blind nailed using a professional quality flooring nail gun.
 - Excessive splitting or cracking of plank tongue can result from use of improper equipment or incorrect equipment settings.
 - Holding nail gun at a 45-50 degree angle to face of plank, insert nails directly above tongue.
 - Recommended fasteners are two inch long flooring nails (cleats), or 2-inch, 15 gauge-flooring staples with a 1/2-inch crown.
 - Beginning at a minimum of 2 inch from end of first plank, space nails at 8-inch intervals.
 - To prevent splitting, do not nail closer than 2 inch from either end of plank.
- **Floating Method:**
 - Make sure to test the subfloor for moisture content first and is prepared properly.
 - When using Natural Cork Corkshield® underlayment, no additional moisture barrier is necessary.

- A poly-film is required if using an alternative 1/8" thick pad and installing below or on grade.
 - Laying poly-film:
 - Lay 6-mil poly-film with seams overlapped 8".
 - Fasten seams every 18-24" with duct tape. Run the outside edges of film up perimeter of each wall 4".
 - Trim after flooring installation is complete.
 - Laying pad:
 - Lay Natural Cork Corkshield® or equivalent underlayment by butting edges, do not overlap. Duct tape the full length of the seam.
 - Leave ½" space between pad and all walls and permanent vertical fixtures.
 - Start first row with groove toward wall.
 - Glue end joints of first row by applying a small but continuous bead of Eurobond® D3 T&G Adhesive or Franklin® Titebond 2 PVAC glue to bottom side of the groove.
 - Always leave at least a 3/8" expansion space between flooring and all walls and vertical objects such as pipes and cabinets.
 - Use wood or plastic spacers during installation to maintain this expansion space.
 - Lay subsequent rows of flooring by applying glue to side and end joints and fitting planks together with a tapping block.
 - Remember to stagger end joints from row to row at least 8" apart.
 - Clean up any adhesive that is on the face of the floor by using a damp rag
 - DO NOT allow adhesive to dry on the flooring face as it is difficult to remove without damaging the finish.
- **In-floor Radiant Heat:**
- Turn on radiant heat system regardless of season. Be sure it remains on for five days in advance of installation.
 - A radiant floor should not produce surface temperatures over 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Continue to operate radiant heat system after installation.

*This type of installation requires a specific construction of the plywood subfloor and the installer for such must be familiar with the NWFA recommendations. For further information: NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association) at 800-422-4556 U.S, or 800-848-8824 Canada or www.woodfloors.org, www.hardwoodcouncil.com and www.nofma.org

In the event these instructions leave unanswered questions or if you would like additional information, please contact USFloors toll free, 800-404-2675 or 706-733-6120 prior to beginning installation.