



### **Basic requirements**

HM WALK floor installation should be the very last step of any construction or renovation project. All wet work should be complete and dried. Prior to installation, the HVAC system must be in operation, and room temperature must have been maintained at 60-80 °F for at least one week. To avoid any moisture-related damages, subfloor must be dry and crawl spaces if they exist must be well ventilated, with a 6mil polyethylene barrier covering the ground. Relative humidity must be maintained between 30 and 70% at all times.

### **Radiant Heat**

The radiant heat system should be tested and in operation for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. The wood surface temperature must never exceed 80 °F. If the radiant heat pipes or elements are visible or exposed in the subfloor, they must be covered with a minimum ½" thick plywood.

### **Subfloor moisture level check**

Wooden subfloor (plywood, approved OSB, solid board): The moisture differential between HM WALK and subfloor must be less than 2%. If moisture reading is too high, postpone installation, find moisture source and correct.

Concrete subfloor: Prior to installation, concrete subfloor should preferably be 45 to 90 days old, 30 days being the absolute minimum. Concrete moisture must be checked and recorded.

Subfloor moisture the concrete subfloor moisture content is suitable if the reading is either 4.5% or below using a concrete moisture meter, or 4lbs or less

as measured by a calcium chloride test. Owner and installer are solely and jointly responsible for pre-installation subfloor moisture check and must ensure that all conditions and/or specifications listed in this guide have been thoroughly met prior to installation of HM WALK floor.

### **Subfloor preparation**

Sound: Plywood, approved OSB or solid board subfloor must be securely fastened to joists to prevent any movement or squeaks. Thoroughly inspect and replace existing subfloor that shows evidence of water damage or structural weakness. Concrete subfloor must be just as structurally sound before installing hardwood floor.

Flat: Subfloor surface must be flat and maximum tolerance is ¼" in 10 feet. If necessary, flatten any irregularities, by grinding high spots, and fill any uneven spots with leveling compound.

Dry: Wood and concrete subfloor must be dry as previously specified.

Clean: Vacuum and remove debris or obstacles such as cleats, nail heads, dried glue or any other material.

### **Installation, General**

#### **Helpful advice**

It is recommended that you sketch out your installation to avoid surprises. Decide starting point or wall. Decide layout angle. Boards in the last row must be at least 1 ½" wide to be attached properly. If the last row is to be less than 1 ½" wide, you must reduce the width of the first row so that both the first and last rows meet this minimum requirement. It is very important to start off straight and square. Use the chalk line to snap a line parallel to the starting wall and perpendicular to the adjacent wall.

Leave the boards in their original packaging until ready for use. To enhance the floor's look, use several boxes at once and mix boards to ensure variations in colour and shade. Never force boards into place. Clear away or remove any debris that could interfere with the proper engagement of the tongue and groove. Remove any baseboard, threshold and old floor covering as necessary. Trim bottom of the door jamb and casing with handsaw to insert boards underneath.

### **Floating Installation Procedure**

Cover all of the subfloor as well as the base of the walls [approx. 2"] with The Silencer SR underlayment with attached moisture barrier. Install the underlay in the opposite direction to the boards without overlapping. The recommended underlay includes a self-adhesive flap. Use waterproof tape to attach the strips on the short side. While facing the wall, start on the left corner leaving a ½" gap at both walls for expansion with the groove facing you. Moving right, put the next board in place. Moving vertically, insert the end tongue into the end groove of the first board. Continue in this way until it is time to cut the last board to finish the first row.

NOTE - To eliminate any small movement on the end joint it is recommended to apply a continuous bead of glue to the end drop lock of each board. The board chosen to finish the first row should be no shorter than 18". Leave a ½" gap for the last board to expand in all directions. Start the next row with the trimmed end of the last board. It should also be no shorter than 18". Butt joints must be

staggered by at least 6" in all adjoining rows. Avoid lining the joints up or having them follow too regular a pattern. Insert the tongue at the side of the board into the groove of the first row at a 30° angle. Line up the far left side, set the board down and apply slight pressure to lock in place. If the board requires more than slight pressure, then the locking joint is not correctly aligned and may be damaged if forced. Disconnect the board and insert ensuring the correct angle. Install subsequent rows in the same way. As the floor can still be moved after the second row has been installed, it is recommended that you measure and realign with spacers, if necessary. The boards on the last row must be at least 1 ½" wide. Remember to leave a ½" gap for the expansion space. If an obstacle prevents the last board sliding into place, cut the latch of the groove's locking system with a chisel. Apply wood glue to the groove and insert the last board.

### **Finishing touches**

If necessary, install transition moldings, stair nosings and reducers. Remove the spacers. Install base and base shoe as required, through the underlay. Nail them to the walls and not to the floor, so that the floor can move naturally through seasonal expansion and contraction. Trim any underlay that extends above baseboard.

### **Maintenance**

Set a few boards aside in case future repairs are required. Wrap in polyfilm to protect from moisture. When installation is completed, vacuum the floor thoroughly, spray a light mist of Bona cleaner on a terry cloth mop and clean the floor

