

Alloc Wood

Installation Instructions & Maintenance

I. Recommended Areas

Alloc Wood is recommended for use in normal, dry residential environments. It may be installed on, above, or below grade in most situations. The product should not be used in commercial settings, in rooms with in-floor drainage, or wet areas such as a full bathroom (Alloc Wood can be installed in half-baths), or other areas that are not suitable due to job site conditions as mentioned below.

II. Job Site Conditions

1) Subfloors

Acceptable Subfloors:

- ¾" exterior grade plywood
- ¾" OSB board
- Concrete slab
- Existing wood
- Vinyl
- Ceramic floors
- Terrazzo
- Particle board

Non-Acceptable Subfloors:

- Carpet
- Thick cushioned floors
- Perimeter-glued vinyl

All Subfloors Must Be:

- Clean – swept or vacuumed and free of dirt and debris
- Level/Flat – 3/16" over a 10' span
- Structurally Sound – nail or screw loose areas that squeak and replace damaged areas that are loose or have been damaged by moisture
- Dry – check moisture in the subfloor (see below)

2) Concrete Subfloors

New concrete subfloors must be at least two months old prior to installation. Before installation, tape down a 3' by 3' piece of polyethylene to the concrete for 48 hours. If moisture beads form or the concrete darkens, a calcium chloride test must be performed. The maximum allowable reading on this test is 3 lbs./24 hours/1,000 square feet (1.5 lbs. for radiant heated floors).

On concrete subfloors, in addition to being clean, flat, sound and dry, a moisture barrier must be installed. This is normally accomplished by using either one of the Alloc underlayments

available – Rapid Roll or Quiet Care. See Section 12 **Underlayments** for proper installation information on this subject.

3) Wood Subfloors

Ensure that the boards of the subfloor are properly nailed, glued, or screwed to the supporting beams and that there are no squeaking or depressed areas. The subfloor must be level to within 3/16” over a 10’ span. Patch if needed and fill depressed areas with floor leveling compound. Raised areas must be sanded down. Wooden subfloors must have moisture readings of between 6 and 10% -- this must be checked with a moisture meter. The Alloc Wood must also be checked for moisture with a moisture meter prior to installation. Under no circumstance should Alloc Wood be installed over a wooden subfloor where the difference in moisture levels between the two is greater than 4%. Floor joists cannot be spaced greater than 16” without extra levels of subfloor being applied to increase rigidity. Under no circumstance should the spacing of the joists be greater than 19.2”.

4) Wood Subfloors over Crawl Spaces, Pier & Beam, and Manufactured Housing

Open all vents in the crawl space to ensure proper air circulation. These vents must be a minimum of 1.5% of the square footage of the crawl space (example: a 1000 square foot crawl space must have open venting that is 1.5% of the crawl space area, or 15 square feet). A 6-8 mil polyethylene film (moisture barrier) must be in place over the ground beneath the subfloor, with the seams overlapped and taped with a waterproof tape.

5) Vinyl, Linoleum, Rubber Tile or Sheet Subfloors

Ensure that the above flooring is properly bonded to the subfloor. Patch if needed and fill depressed areas with a floor-leveling compound. Do not remove any vinyl or resilient floor that may contain asbestos without first seeking professional advice.

6) Radiant Heat

Alloc Wood can only be installed using the floating method over radiant heating systems – do not use glue.

Radiant heat systems must be operating for a minimum of three weeks prior to the installation of Alloc Wood flooring. The system should be turned off at the time of installation, or if in winter, should be set at exactly 65 degrees Fahrenheit for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation. After the installation is complete, or when turning on the radiant heating system from a cold start, the operating temperature can be increased by a maximum of 5 degrees Fahrenheit in a 24-hour period. The maximum allowable surface temperature for Alloc Wood floors is 80 degrees Fahrenheit. This is equivalent to 60 watts per square yard – remember that rugs placed over the floor will increase the surface temperature under them. Alloc Wood floors are not suitable for installation over radiant heating systems that otherwise expose the floor to wide variations in temperature. An Alloc moisture barrier (Quiet Care™ or Rapid Roll™) is required over radiant heat floors.

7) Other Job Site Conditions

Heating/air conditioning must be on and set to a minimum of 60 degrees or a maximum of 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Relative humidity should be between 45% and 60%.

III. Underlayments

1) **Rapid Roll™**

Alloc Wood requires an underlayment be installed prior to the flooring installation. Rapid Roll 3-in-1 underlayment is recommended. Rapid Roll includes a moisture barrier, tape and foam, all in one.

Rapid Roll Installation

- Start in the corner of the room where you will begin to install Alloc Wood flooring, by unrolling the first Alloc Rapid Roll™ with the moisture barrier side down, foam side up.
- Overlap the walls by bending the moisture barrier edge up the wall approximately 2” – this is critical on below-grade installations.
- Roll out the next roll overlapping the tape side over the moisture barrier, butting the foam edges together. Be careful not to overlap the foam edges.
- Pull the protective face away from the tape and secure the tape edge to the moisture barrier edge.

2) **Quiet Care™**

If additional sound reduction or comfort under foot is desired, Alloc Quiet Care™ acoustical underlayment improves both floor-through-ceiling and in-room sound transmission while meeting the compression resistance requirements of Alloc Wood. The product includes Ultra Fresh™, an anti-microbial agent that inhibits mold, mildew and fungus growth. A built-in moisture barrier also eliminates the need for any additional underlayment.

Quiet Care Installation

- Start in the corner of the room where the installation of the Alloc Wood flooring will begin by unrolling the Alloc Quiet Care.
- Overlay the walls by bending the edge up the wall approximately 2” – this is critical on below-grade installations.
- Roll out the next row. Ensure that the foam edges do not overlap.
- Tape the foam edges with a waterproof duct tape – doing this creates a moisture barrier.

IV. Installation of Alloc Wood

1) **Notes on Wood**

Alloc Wood, like all naturally beautiful hardwood products, is a product of nature. While every attempt at quality is made during the manufacturing process, natural variances in both grading and manufacturing will occur – a 5% waste factor for these reasons is normal and should be taken into consideration when ordering. As a result, the installer of Alloc Wood must assume the responsibility for the final inspection of the product. If there is any question to the fitness of use of any board – for whatever reason – the installer must not use that board. This 5% factor does not take into account normal waste from cutting during installation. Under most circumstances, a 10 –15% overall waste factor should be expected.

Also, being a natural product, Alloc Wood may require the use of wood fillers during installation. This is considered normal and accepted practice in the hardwood industry.

2) **Grading**

To appeal to a wide range of consumer tastes, certain species of Alloc Wood come in different gradings (Cherry, Red Oak, and Merbau do not). The following is a list of these:

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Elegance</u>	<u>Authentic</u>	<u>Country</u>
Discoloration	Not Allowed	Restricted	Allowed
Color	Slight Variations	On dark colors some variations	All kinds of variations
Water Stains	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed
Structure	Variations allowed	Variations allowed	All kinds of variations
Sound Knots	0.12"	0.33"	No restrictions
Unsound Knots	0.04"	0.12"	No restrictions
Worm Tracks	Not allowed	Permitted if filled	Permitted if filled

3) **Acclimation**

It is vital that Alloc Wood flooring be conditioned prior to installation. To accomplish this, cross stack the unopened boxes for at least 48 hours in the room where installation is to take place. Do not stack boxes next to an outside wall or in direct sunlight. Alloc Wood should not be acclimated with the cartons in direct contact with a concrete subfloor. Do not open the cartons until they are to be installed.

4) **Tools Required**

- Safety glasses and dust mask
- Broom
- Chalk line & colored chalk
- Moisture meter
- Measuring tape and square
- Table type power saw; or
- Circular saw; or
- Power jig saw
- Hand saw or door jamb saw
- 3/8" thick spacer blocks of plastic or wood
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Chisel

5) **Layout and Measuring**

Determine which way to run the planks (*rule of thumb: lengthwise in the longest direction of the room*). Note that if at all possible, it is also best to run the planks perpendicular to the floor joists.

Be sure not to end up with a narrow strip for the final row – this row must be at least three inches in width for the mechanical locking mechanism to function properly. The best option may be to cut the first and last rows so they are equal in width. However, this three inch minimum requirement may not be possible in all layouts. If this is the case, then the final row will need to be glued into place.

If remodeling, carefully remove existing base and quarter round so that, if desired, they can be reused. Undercut all doorjamb so that the Alloc Wood flooring will easily slide underneath them. This can be done with an electric jamb saw, or by using a scrap piece of Alloc Wood and underlayment as a guide and undercutting the jambs with a hand jamb saw or regular hand saw.

For best results, it is also recommended that material be mixed from at least three cartons when installing.

Alloc Wood is designed to be a floating system – this means that the floor is never fastened to the subfloor or any other fixed objects. Restricting the floor from floating will prevent it from properly expanding and contracting due to changes in temperature and humidity. Always leave a minimum of 3/8” expansion space between Alloc Wood flooring and all walls or other fixed objects.

6) Connecting the Planks; First Row

To begin the installation, start the first row in the corner of the room to be installed and continue the first row in a left-to-right manner. Orient the planks so that the **groove side of the locking mechanism is facing away from the starting wall and to the left. To allow for proper expansion, trim the tongue from the long side of the locking mechanism that will be facing the wall and the groove side of the locking mechanism from the short side of the plank on the left.** Do this as well on all planks that will be next to a wall or other fixed object. Cut the last plank in this row to fit, leaving 3/8” expansion space, and use what is left over from this cut to start the second row – this piece must be at least 12” in length. Remember to always stagger the end joints a minimum of 12”.

7) Connecting the Planks; Second Row and Onwards

Method 1. Angle-Snap *(recommended for 4' boards)*

Connect the length side first, by lining up the planks and inserting the tongue of the board to be installed **into the groove of the already installed planks** at an angle of 45 degrees. Fold it down while pushing it in – this may require reasonable pressure. Also, it may be helpful to **wiggle the plank slightly while folding it down, lowering it slightly with each successive wiggle.** While working the planks into place, a slight cracking noise may be heard – this is normal. The distance between the end joint of the plank on the floor, and the end joint of the plank being installed should be about 1/8”. Connect the end joint of the plank just installed by using a tapping block and hammer and gently tapping it towards the other planks(s) that are already installed in the row.

Always use care when using a tapping block on Alloc Wood, and never use a hammer directly on the material being installed. If a tapping block is not available, a scrap piece of material may be substituted.

Method 2. Angle-Angle *(recommended for 8' boards)*

After installing the first plank of the second row, insert a 20 degree angled wedge under the right-hand side of the short end of the plank. Engage the short end of the next plank, laying it flat and keeping the long side parallel with the previous row. Using a tapping block and hammer, engage the long seam. This is best done by starting on the left-hand side of the plank and engaging the seam, starting on the left and moving to the right. Always use care when using a tapping block on Alloc Wood. If one is not available, a scrap piece of material may be substituted.

8) Expansion Joints

Alloc Wood can be installed in a *single room* up to 25 feet in width and 40 feet in length without using transition pieces. Expansion joints are required when going through doorways or narrow openings.

9) Door Jambs

When going through doorways, it is not possible to lift the planks so that they can be angled in for installation. In this situation, it is necessary to remove the top part of the groove side of the locking mechanism with a sharp chisel and to use an approved wood glue to hold the planks together.

10) Plank Removal/ Repair

After installation, should an error in the installation or a damaged plank be discovered, Alloc Wood can be easily repaired or replaced. A color-matching wood putty can be used for most minor repairs.

However, in the event that an entire plank needs to be replaced, do the following: After carefully removing the moldings, unfold the planks in reverse order of the installation. Start with the long side and lift the pieces out of the locking joint before unlocking the short joints – even though portions of the locking element may be broken off in this process, the planks are still fit for reinstallation at least three times. Place removed planks flat on the floor. It is a good idea to number the pieces as they are taken up, as the cut pieces are unique to that row. Replace the affected material, reinstall the unaffected planks, and reattach the moldings.

11) Installing Stairs

To install Alloc Wood on a stairs, follow these steps:

1. Cut the pieces for the tread, riser, and nosing.
2. Use an approved wood mastic, such as Bostik's Best Wood Flooring Adhesive, and a 3/16"x1/4"x1/2" V-notched trowel, to attach the tread and riser pieces. Allow the adhesive to cure before proceeding.
3. Finish the step by installing a stair nosing. This is done by pre-drilling the molding and attaching it with both construction adhesive and countersunk nails. Use a putty to fill all nail holes.

12) Other Installation Tips

Kitchens and Outside Doors - The expansion spaces in areas where moisture seepage may occur (in front of the dishwasher, behind the refrigerator, behind the washing machine, at outside entries, around the toilet, etc.) must be sealed. Fill the expansion space with weather stripping before applying a silicone sealant.

13) Direct Glue Method

Although designed to be installed as a floating floor, Alloc Wood can be directly glued to the subfloor in certain situations.

Alloc Wood can be direct glued to the following:

- 1) 3/4" plywood
- 2) 3/4" particle board (must be 40 lbs. density or higher)
- 3) 3/4" OSB
- 4) concrete slabs
- 5) existing vinyl (must be well-adhered, glued using full-spread method)

Refer to the above sections (**Wood Subfloors, Concrete Subfloors, and Wood Subfloors over Crawlspace...**) for specifics on subfloor conditions.

For best results, use a moisture-cure urethane, such as Bostik's Best and a 3/16"x 1/4"x 1/2" V-notched trowel. Apply at a rate of 50 square feet per gallon. Be sure to follow all of the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations and directions for use. Note that open times will vary in accordance to the Relative Humidity. It is best not to install from on top of the Alloc Wood – work from the subfloor into the material. However, if this becomes necessary, use a "kneeler board" to displace weight.

It will be necessary to use a tapping block that rests on top of the Alloc Wood and has an overhanging lip.

Note that all other aspects of installation are the same as for floating installations (see above). Therefore, the direct gluing method may not be suitable for the 8' planks.

14) Moldings

All Alloc Wood Moldings are designed to blend with their assigned patterns – due to the fact that both Alloc Wood and Alloc Wood Moldings are made from natural materials, it cannot be guaranteed that the two will be an exact match.

The following moldings are available for use with Alloc Wood Flooring:

- Quarter Round
- Stair Nosing
- T-molding
- Square Nose
- Reducer

These should never be attached directly to the flooring material. The T-molding, Square Nose, and Reducer are attached to the subfloor via the Monotrack system. To install these, first attach the Monotrack to the subfloor – on concrete use a construction-grade adhesive, and on wood attach by either nailing, screwing, or gluing to Monotrack in place. Ensure that proper expansion is allowed for between the base of the molding and the Alloc Wood floor. Attach these moldings by simply pressing them in place – the channel on the bottom of the molding will easily press into the center rib of the Monotrack. Attach Quarter Round by pre-drilling, nailing, and filling the holes with matching putty. Only attach Quarter Round to the wall, never to the Alloc Wood flooring itself. Stair Nosings should be attached as outlined above in section **IV. 11 Installing Stairs**.

V. Maintenance

1) Routine Maintenance

Alloc Wood is easy to care for, just sweep or vacuum periodically. When needed, Alloc may be cleaned with a dry dust mop using a spray bottle cleaner such as Alloc Free&Clean™. No further treatment of the surface is required. Do not use any floor polishes, detergents, oil-soaps or other soaps, or waxes, as the actions or residues from such cleaners may be harmful to the appearance of your Alloc Wood floor. Never use scouring pads or steel wool on your Alloc floor as damage may occur. For a complete list of approved cleaning materials or help with difficult stains, contact Alloc, Inc. at **877-DO-ALLOC**.

2) Spot/ Stain Removal

Most stains can be removed with a small amount of Alloc Free&Clean applied to a clean, white cloth. However, for stains such as ink, shoe polish or paint, apply a small amount of acetone to a clean, white cloth to remove.

3) Preventative Maintenance

While the Lifestrong finish applied to Alloc Wood is both durable and strong, the key to keeping any floor looking good is proper preventative maintenance.

- **Use walk-off or entry mats both outside and inside all outside doors to collect dirt and soil from shoes.** It has been estimated that over 90% of all abrasive, grit-like material that is damaging to floors is literally “walked-in” the house on the soles of shoes.
- **Use protective furniture coasters under narrow wheels and felt pads under furniture legs.**
- **Move appliances carefully, using a piece of Masonite with the smooth side down as protection between the appliance and the floor.**
- **Clean up spills as they occur.** Moisture is the enemy of any wood based product.
- **Maintain a balanced Relative Humidity of between 45 and 60%.** The lack of humidity can lead to minor gapping. This is natural and will subside once the relative humidity has returned to an optimal level.
- **Place area rugs in high-traffic areas.** This will make long-term maintenance easier and less expensive.

4) Long-Term Maintenance

As they age, all wood floors will eventually show the signs of wear and tear. Minor scratching, especially in high-traffic areas, will cause the finish to dull. To restore the luster to an Alloc Wood floor, use a water based urethane to “screen and re-coat” the floor.