

WIDE PINE FLOORING

by THE
WOOD MILL
OF MAINE

INSTALLATION GUIDE

Congratulations on purchasing the highest quality pine flooring available. We have done everything in our power to give you the floor that you have always dreamed of. Below are guidelines to help you finish the job correctly! If you have any questions along the way, feel free to contact us. We are always here to help!

TRANSPORTATION

If you decide to have us hand deliver your floor, it will arrive fully enclosed in plastic wrap and a tarp. Our delivery driver will help bring the planks into your home. Please make sure at least one person is on site to help the driver when the floor arrives. Having the owner or contractor on site makes unloading a much easier process.

If your flooring is coming via common carrier (LTL), it will arrive on a 18 wheeler box truck. (Please read our LTL delivery guide which covers everything you need to know about unloading and handling one of our custom built crates). Every LTL delivered floor is tarped, crated and banded for shipping. You will need metal snips to cut the banding, an electric drill with a Phillips head bit to open the crate, and a box cutter to remove the tarp. It is best to have at least 3 people on site when the truck arrives to expedite the unloading process. Due to the length of the pine planks, lift gate delivery is not an option.

You are always welcome to pick up your floor at our mill. If you choose to do so, keep in mind that you will be transporting 16'+ long boards. This is not easily done in the back of a pickup truck, even with an 8' bed. If you have, or have access to a trailer, that would work the best.

STORAGE

Storage is not recommended!! You should be ready to install and finish the floor as soon as it arrives!! Due to our strict kiln drying specifications, our white pine will act like a sponge, picking up any moisture from the air or sub-floor if not properly stored. Flooring boards from The Wood Mill of Maine ship at their optimum moisture content for installation upon arrival.

We ask that you do everything you can to keep the boards at this optimal moisture content. This means you should NOT acclimate your floor. Keep the boards indoors, flat stacked, covered on all four sides, and under the lumber tarp they arrived with. We do not recommend storing the boards outdoors, in a garage, basement, or on a covered porch. They should be brought into the home and left covered until installation.

SITE PREP

- ❖ To help prevent moisture from entering the boards and prevent physical damage, install your floor only after all other construction has been completed.
- ❖ Keep the moisture content of the workspace as low as possible for at least 10 days prior to installation. Common situations that increase the moisture content include:
 - a. Doors and windows being left open
 - b. Sheetrocking, plastering, or even painting
 - c. Cement and concrete work (allow at least 30 days to cure)
- ❖ Crawl spaces below the floor should be well ventilated and covered with 6mil polyethylene sheathing to protect the floor from the moisture below. If you happen to have a damp crawl space below the subfloor, address this issue before installation of the floor. Also, ensure the subfloor is at a proper moisture level as well.

INSTALLATION

We recommend that you lay your planks parallel to the longest dimension of the room. The planks should be laid perpendicular to your floor joists whenever possible, but not critical.

1. Before installing your floor, lay down one layer of rosin paper. Rosin paper is NOT a vapor barrier. The purpose of rosin paper is to ensure your floor will not squeak from rubbing against your sub-floor.

Consider establishing a primary line by snapping a chalk line on the rosin paper which will give you a reference point to align the planks in all of the rooms involved in your project.

2. For narrow widths 11 inches or less, blind nailing through the tongue is sufficient. For planks 12 inches and wider you will want to consider face nailing with antique cut nails. If you prefer a cleaner look, screw & pegging the floor is another option.

When blind nailing Tongue & Groove planks, we recommend using a pneumatic flooring nailer with 2" staple style fasteners. Use one nail or staple at least every 16", and 2" from the end of each plank.

When face nailing, nails should be placed 1" to 1.5" from each edge and one in the center of the board. Continue nailing down the length of the board about every 2 to 2.5 feet, or hitting each floor joist when possible. We recommend using 2.5" (8d) antique style flooring nails from Tremont Nail Co.. Consider pre drilling before nailing near butt joints to prevent the ends from splitting.

3. A minimal amount of sanding will be needed to remove the “mill glaze” and to ensure the floor sits perfectly flush. After proper sanding, pine will become more receptive to whichever finish you choose. If you are staining your floor, a light sanding will result in a more uniform and consistent color when compared to a floor that has not been sanded. We recommend using a **drum sander** and always sanding parallel to the grain of the wood. Floor screeners and random orbital floor sanders are NOT recommended, except in corners and near edges where a drum sander does not reach.

With the tongue and groove profile, we offset the Tongue & Groove so the top side is thicker, allowing for numerous sandings, if needed.

4. Popular finishes for our flooring have been high resin Tung Oil from Waterlox, oil based urethane from Minwax, and water based urethane from Vermont Natural Coatings. As always, follow instructions carefully from the manufacturer for the best results. If you do decide to stain our floors, many of our Wood Mill customers have chosen to use Minwax stains. There are hundreds of other brands available though, and we recommend chatting with us, or other professionals about the staining process.

Tung oil allows touch ups at a later date without re-sanding the entire floor. It penetrates the boards and binds with the fibers, providing you with a durable finish that ages nicely. Waterlox Tung Oil has been the most commonly used finish by our customers and is recommended for use in projects that may be subjected to high humidity.

Oil based urethanes often turn a golden hue over time. This type of finish can be useful when trying to match the wide pine floors found in colonial American homes.

Water based urethane resists yellowing, keeping pine close to its original color. Poly-weigh from Vermont Natural Coatings is an eco-friendly, low odor, quick drying option, and provides twice the hardness of other water based urethanes.

If you have any questions along the way, we can be reached at (207) 587-2145, or e-mail us at contact@thewoodmillofmaine.com.

Thank you for your order and enjoy your beautiful pine floor!