



Let's Build Something Together™

INSTALL A GLUE-DOWN ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOOR

Skill Level: ADVANCED Try these projects after you have a collection of DIY successes under your belt, and make sure you're ready for a challenge. You'll need experience with a wide variety of specialized tools, and it may take several days to finish. If you've built a deck or installed an irrigation system, these projects probably match your abilities.

✓ MATERIALS

- Engineered Hardwood Floor Planks
- Transitions and Mouldings
- Moisture Test Kit
- Flooring Adhesive
- Flooring Adhesive Trowel
- Hardwood Flooring Cleaner
- Circular Saw or Miter Saw
- Tablesaw—optional; for cutting lengthwise
- Dead Blow Hammer
- Nylon Tapping Block
- Pry Bar
- Pull Bar
- Spacers
- Pencil
- Tape Measure
- Wood Glue
- Hammer and Nail Set
- Finish Nails
- Safety Glasses
- Dust Mask
- Latex or Vinyl Gloves
- Knee Pads

Hardwood flooring adds warmth and beauty to any room, and is also a great way to increase the value of your home. At Lowe's, you'll find a variety of hardwood flooring styles and colors, from domestic species like Oak and Maple to exotics like Brazilian Cherry and Bamboo. Engineered flooring can be installed on any level of the home, but different installation methods are necessary for different types of subfloors. These instructions will show you how to glue down an engineered floor to a concrete subfloor.

Remember that a good flooring installation starts with a correctly prepared subfloor. So be sure to watch the subfloor prep videos and download the instructions at [Lowe's.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos). We show you how to level your floor, check for excess moisture and mark a starting guideline.

GETTING STARTED

- 01 Plan on this project taking at least two days for the actual installation. You cannot walk on the floor for 24 hours after it has been glued down, so make sure you leave yourself a way to leave the room without walking on the boards. You'll have to finish the last few rows the following day.**
- 02 Bring the flooring into the room so the wood planks can acclimate to the room's temperature and humidity for at least 72 hours before installation. This reduces problems associated with moisture, such as warping and fit. Stack the flooring in a flat position in the room or rooms where it is to be installed and allow it to acclimate.**
- 03 Check the moisture level of the subfloor to make sure the floor is within the manufacturer's recommendations. If your moisture level is not within manufacturer's recommendations, stop the installation and call a Lowe's associate for help.**
- 04 Once you have prepped the subfloor, carefully sweep and vacuum the surface on which the flooring will be installed.**

IMPORTANT

Before you begin this project, read the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure you follow all local building codes. If you're not comfortable installing a hardwood floor, call a Lowe's associate for help, as we install many types of flooring.

GETTING STARTED (cont.)

- 05** There are many types of glue on the market. Since moisture can be an issue for wood flooring, it is best to use a glue that has some type of moisture resistance. Many glue systems have two parts, a moisture barrier that is applied before installation and a glue that works with the moisture barrier to secure the floor. A great example is the Bostik glue system which uses MVP as the moisture barrier and Bostik's Best as the glue.
- 06** Check the planks for warping and defects, which typically affect around 5% of the product. These boards are unusable and should be discarded. If more than 5% of the product is defective, stop the installation and call a Lowe's associate for help.

INSTALLING THE FIRST ROWS

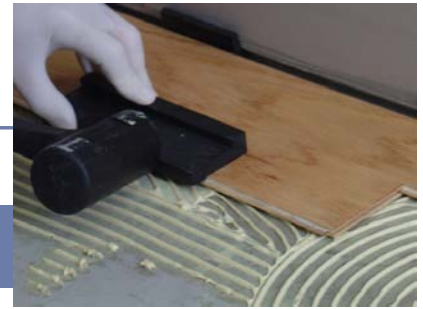
- 01** Put on your safety glasses and latex gloves.
- 02** Place spacers between the flooring and the wall for the expansion gap.
- Be sure to check the manufacturer's recommendations for the appropriate expansion gap.
- 03** Trowel out enough glue for 2-3 rows at a time since you cannot walk on the glue.
- Make sure you have the correct trowel for the type of glue you are using.
 - Pour glue out of the bucket by tipping the bucket on its side allowing a small amount of glue to pour out.
 - Use the trowel to cut the glue off.
 - Trowel the glue by holding the trowel at a 45° angle and using enough pressure to make sure the teeth are in contact with the concrete.
- 04** Using the straightest boards, lay the first row of flooring along the guideline, with the tongue side facing the room.
- This will serve as a guide for the rest of the room or house.
 - Press the wood firmly into the glue to ensure proper adhesive transfer (you want the ridges of the glue from troweling to be in contact with the subfloor and also the back of the plank).
 - Use the dead blow hammer and gently tap the tapping block against the flooring to ensure a tight fit.
 - It is important to use a tapping block so you do not damage the tongue and groove system.



INSTALLING THE FIRST ROWS (cont.)

05 For the second row, fit the groove on the tongue of the first row.

- Once again, use the dead blow hammer and gently tap the tapping block against the flooring to ensure a tight fit.



06 Place the second row so that the ends are at least 6" apart in each row.

- This will help strengthen the floor.
- This will also give the floor a staggered look, so you may need to cut the first plank.
- To cut the flooring, lay the plank on its face and cut with a circular saw.
 - Make sure you're using the correct blade to cut flooring.
 - Make sure you allow for the appropriate expansion gap.



INSTALLING THE REST OF THE FLOOR

01 When installing the rest of the floor, mix planks of different colors and grain to give the floor a more random pattern.

- You will need to work out of multiple cartons at a time.
- TIP:** Dry fit a few rows together before you install them to see how they look and speed up the installation.

02 Repeat the process of spreading the glue and setting planks in the glue 2-3 rows at a time.

- Continue to stagger the ends at least 6".
- Continue to maintain the expansion gap around the perimeter of the floor.
- Occasionally, remove a board and check the back to make sure proper adhesive transfer is occurring.

03 If you have entry areas or columns, cut the planks to fit.

04 Make sure you clean off excess glue on the planks with hardwood flooring cleaner.

- Some flooring adhesives require special wipes to clean up the glue.

05 When you near the end of the room, stop and leave enough space so that you can leave the project without walking on the boards.

- Wait 24 hours before finishing the installation.
- Make sure to put the lid back on the glue.

06 Finish the last few rows by spreading the glue and setting the planks.

- Continue to stagger the ends at least 6".
- Continue to maintain the expansion gap around the perimeter of the floor.

INSTALLING THE REST OF THE FLOOR (cont.)

07 For the last row, you might have to cut the pieces to fit.

- Measure the distance to the wall from the last laid row. Do not measure from the tongue.
- Subtract the manufacturer's expansion gap and cut the last row.
- If the width of the last row is less than 1", glue it to the previous row by placing glue on the tongue.
- To fit the last row, place a piece of scrap wood against the finish wall and fit the boards together by gently using the pry bar.



08 Wait 24 hours before walking on the last few rows.

FINISHING UP

01 Once the last row is attached, install the transition pieces according to the manufacturer's instructions.

02 When your transitions are in place, remove the spacers and install the baseboards and shoe moulding.

- Attach the trim and shoe moulding to the walls, not the floor.

03 Keep 1-2 cartons of your hardwood flooring so you can fix any potential problems in the future, like a damaged board.

You can now enjoy your new hardwood floor, its warmth, beauty and ease of cleaning, for decades to come.



For other flooring installations, and other home improvement projects, visit [Lowe's.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos).

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