

Bella Citta Solid

Installation Guidelines



Before You Begin Your Project

Bella Citta Solid is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit manufacturing, grading and natural deficiencies not to exceed 5%. Bella Citta will replace or refund the purchase price of any material deemed to be defective in excess of 5%.

- Installer/Owner assumes all responsibility to inspect all flooring before installation. If the installer/owner feels flooring material is off-grade, wrong color, improperly manufactured, wrong sheen level and finish problems, **DO NOT INSTALL** the flooring. Immediately contact the distributor/retailer from which the flooring was purchased. **NO CLAIM** will be accepted if flooring has been installed. **"Installation warrants acceptance"**. The installer/owner should select boards appropriately and relocate marginal boards to inconspicuous areas or cut out pieces with defects, when required.
- Prior to installation of the wood floor installer/owner must determine that the jobsite environment and subfloor meets or exceeds all applicable standards.
- Bella Citta declines any responsibility for flooring failure resulting from substrate and or jobsite environmental deficiencies.
- Use appropriate floor leveling products for correcting subfloor deficiencies.
- The use of stain and finish touch-up kit and putty during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- Upon ordering of wood floor material consider adding additional 8% to allow for cutting waste (5%) and grading allowance (3%).
- The selection of mechanical fasteners such as floor nailers varies by manufacturer, offering the choice of manual or air-assisted. Therefore, it is the installer's responsibility to ensure that the fastener is properly set as dimpling of the wood face or edge is not considered a manufacturing defect.
- Occasional noise in mechanically fastened floors is due to abnormal structural movement and in many cases related to changes in environmental conditions. Bella Citta does NOT warrant against mechanical fastened related noise issues.

Tools Required

- Hardwood flooring nails or cleats: Bella Citta strongly recommends the use of cleats vs. staples to achieve maximum results when installing hardwood floors.
- Compound miter or chop saw
- Undercut or jamb saw
- Moisture meter
- Hardwood floor nailer (with rubber mallet; manual or air-assisted; must have "finish and edge protection" on the nailer)
- Chisel
- Drill and 1/16" bit
- Hammer and nail set
- Tape Measure
- Chalk line and Chalk
- 6 to 8d Finishing nails
- Wood Putty
- Earplugs and safety glasses

Pre-installation Procedures for Jobsite Inspection

- All "wet work" concrete, plastering, masonry, drywall, spray texturing and painting should be thoroughly dry.
- Bella Citta suggests installing your solid plank flooring on main floors and upper floors only. Below grade installations can be acceptable but only with an experienced installer aware of the potential complications and cognizant of the liabilities associated. As such, Bella Citta does not recommend installing solid plank flooring on all below grade applications.
- Crawl spaces must have a minimum of 18" from the underside of the floor joists and the ground.
- Crawl space earth must be covered 100% with a 6 mil black polyethylene vapor retarder.
- Subfloor must be checked using appropriate method.
- Jobsite must have permanent HVAC systems in place and operating. Room temperature must be maintained between 67-77° F and relative humidity of 45-55% for 14 days prior, during and until occupancy.

Handling and Storage

- Wood flooring should be stored in the controlled environment (45 to 55% Rh) in which it is to be installed. Materials should be delivered and allowed to acclimate for a minimum of 72 hours before installation or until acclimation is achieved.

Subfloor Requirements

- Flat-Within 3/16" in 10' radius and/or 1/8" in 6'. Level low spots with appropriate leveling material.

- Wood subfloors flatten low spots with 15 or 30# tar felt or shims, concrete grind high spots and fill low spots using appropriate leveling compounds.
- Nail or screw any loose areas of wood subfloor prior to installation to minimizing subfloor squeaking. Any subfloor with excessive vertical movement will cause squeaking.
- Check for appropriate moisture levels as per NWFA requirements.
- **It requires a plywood or OSB sub floor over joists.** Do **NOT** nail over particleboard or products of a similar nature as you will void your warranty. Bella Citta requires a plywood or OSB subfloor over joists.

Installation: Bella Citta **recommends following NWFA Installation Guidelines**

Fastening Machines:

Hardwood flooring fastening machines vary from manufacture to manufacture however Bella Citta strongly recommends the use of cleats vs. staples to achieve maximum results. Avoid striking the edge of finished flooring with mallet or hammer to prevent edge crushing or splintering. Fastening machines faceplates should be protected to prevent face scratching of floor material. Nailer protection shoes can be purchased to fit various floor fastening machines. (www.nailershoe.com)

Improper air pressure settings or incorrect face plates may cause improper fastener setting into nail pocket. High air pressure may cause tongue damage due to over penetration and resulting in cracked or broken tongues. Low air pressure may leave fastener too high causing the adjoining board to experience edge damage or edge blistering. Proper air pressure will leave fastener set flush with top of tongue as illustrated.

Acclimation:

- Acclimation depends on geographical location, interior climate control and time of year. The point of acclimating the wood flooring before installation is to allow the moisture content of the wood to adjust to the installations jobsite "expected normal living conditions"- that is temperature and relative humidity that will be typically be experienced once the structure is occupied. RULE OF THUMB: Typically a R H fluctuation no more than 20% per geographical location.
- It is strongly recommended that flooring acclimatize at house temperature for at least 48 hours at the recommended relative humidity (RH) level in the room it is to be installed. The recommended RH level should be between 45-55%. NOTE: When RH drops to 45% or below wood floor will lose moisture and has the potential to gap, check, crack and split. When RH rises to 55% or above the wood floor will gain moisture and has the potential to cup.

Installation Steps:

Doorway and Wall Preparation

- Undercut door casings and jambs using jamb saw or handsaw.
- Gently remove any existing baseshoe or baseboard and save to re-install upon completion. Pull nails through the backside.
- Remove any existing doorway thresholds and discard
- Roll out and staple down acceptable vapor retarder with a perm rating of .7 and less than 50 and overlap seams a minimum of 4 inches or more. NOTE: Installation of vapor retarder reduces the potential for moisture or vapor related problems but does not guarantee elimination.

Establish Starting Point

- Measure out from the wall (at both ends of the room) the width of the plank plus 1/2" (minimum) expansion space, plus 1/4" (6mm) size of the tongue. Mark the sub floor accordingly; place the chalk line into position, and snap a line. You will align the tongue of your starter plank along this chalk line.
- Ex: $5" + 1/4" + 1/2" = 5-3/4"$
- Remove flooring from 3 or more cartons to ensure maximum color and shade mixture.
- Install parallel to the longest wall for best visual effects.
- Select the planks, and then lay them out on the floor in the general pattern in which they will be installed. The straightest planks should be used for the first and second rows. This is critical to your installation. Select your planks with care. Those with flaws must be re-cut and used as starter boards for the next row, used in closets, under cabinets or discarded as waste.
- Lay the tongue edge of the plank facing the wall, leaving a 1/2" (minimum) space between the groove edge and the starting wall. This expansion space will allow for the wood to expand if necessary due to environmental changes.
- Stagger all board end joints at least 6" apart in adjacent rows.
- The first row must be secured to the subfloor using
- 6d-8d casing or finish
- Face nailing: Drill holes on the surface of the planks 1"

- (2.5cm) in from the back edge (grooved side), and 3" in from the ends. Space the holes 10"-12" apart. Secure nails using a claw hammer and nail set.
- Fill with Bella Citta approved wood putty.
- Blind nailing: Drill holes in the tongue of the plank on a 45° angle. Once again, drill holes 3" in from both ends, and space the holes every 10"-12". Secure nails using a flooring nailer or claw hammer with nail set.
- To finish off the first row, select a plank that is at least 6" (15.3cm) longer than required, as you will use this remainder piece to start your second row. Also make sure that the end joint of the remaining piece does not line up with the end joint of the adjacent plank in the first row. Cut this piece, position the two pieces into place, and secure. Position the planks in the second row, making sure that the end joints are at least 6" (15.3cm) apart from those of the first row. Fasten these planks by blind nailing them with a flooring nailer (avoid clustering the end joints).
- Install the balance of the wood floor with an approved hardwood flooring machine using 1-1/2" to 2" cleats, 6 to 8" apart, within 3" of ends and with a minimum of 6" between end joints. To avoid unsightly clusters joints.
- The last 1-2 rows will need to be face nailed when wall clearance does not permit blind nailing.
- Pre-drill holes on the surface of the planks 1" (2.5cm) in from the front edge (tongue side), and 3" in from the ends. Space the holes 10"-12" apart. Secure nails using a claw hammer and nail set.
- Fill with Bella Citta approved wood putty.
- Always fill nail holes to prevent moisture penetration, and drill into the darker grain of the wood.
- Baseboards, quarter round, and shoe mould should be nailed to the wall only, not the wood floor.
- Clean your floor with Bella Citta Solid approved cleaning products.
- Carefully move your furniture back in place using felt pads on all legs and take in the elegance of your new Bella Citta Solid prefinished floor.