
CONTEXT COLLECTION INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Before you Begin:

READ INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY BEFORE BEGINNING THE INSTALLATION

- Subfloor must be clean, sound, level and dry. See details below:
- Radiant Heat systems cannot exceed 81 degrees F (27 degrees Celsius).
- Relative humidity levels should remain between 30% and 55% RH before, during and after installation.
- For wood subfloors, it is recommended to repair any loose areas or squeaks prior to installation.
- Maintain indoor room temperatures between 55 and 72 degrees F (12 and 21 degrees Celsius).
- Using a straight edge, check for subfloor levelness. The subfloor must be level to within 2mm over a 2m (6') span. For wooden subfloors, sand high areas or joints. Use newspaper, roofing shingles or thin plywood to fill low areas. Do not use foam or other soft materials. For concrete subfloors, fill low areas (no more than 1/8") with a "cement-type" filler no less than 3,000 psi. Sand high areas.
- Subfloors should always be tested for moisture prior to installation. Moisture readings should be documented.
- NOTE: The National Wood Flooring Association recommends to all its member manufacturers that an installer should allow for an additional 5% of material to compensate for cutting waste and natural or manufacturing defects.
- The flooring installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality before installation. Thus, the installer shall not install any product with notable defects. Claims related to visible defectives must be made prior to installation. Each board should be inspected to ensure that the quality is acceptable. No claims relating to visible surface defects can be accepted after installation.
- Wood is a natural product. Blend the flooring by working from several cartons during the installation. This method ensures a uniform appearance throughout the installation.

Testing Wood Subfloors for Moisture:

Test with an approved moisture meter in several areas. The wood subfloor cannot have moisture content above 12%.

Testing Concrete Subfloors for Moisture:

According to the National Wood Flooring Association, moisture content in a concrete slab can be tested by securely taping a 2' square piece (10 cm²) of plastic sheeting to a slab in 3 to 4 locations. Let the piece of plastic stand for 24 hours. The presence of moisture is certain, if after the plastic is removed, the slab under the plastic is discolored, or the plastic is cloudy, or especially if there are water droplets on the underside of the plastic sheet. If tests indicate too much moisture is in the concrete, do not install hardwood floors. In the case of a moist slab, wait until it dries naturally, or accelerate the drying process via heat and ventilation, and then test again. Calcium Chloride (CC) tests and approved concrete moisture meters are the preferred means to determine the level of moisture in concrete. For the CC test, allowable moisture level is 3 lbs.(1.3KG) per 1000 s/f per 24 hours. NOTE: Concrete moisture meters such as Wagner and the Tramex should read no higher than 5%. If you are not certain that the concrete slab is sufficiently dry, contact a flooring installation or concrete industry professional.

Radiant Floor Heating

We warrant to you (the original purchaser) that Context Collection engineered wood flooring may be installed over hydronic (water-based) radiant-heated subfloors provided the surface temperature of the system does not exceed 81 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius). The relative humidity levels must be maintained between 30% and 55% RH. This applies to both floating and glue-down applications.



Prior to installing the flooring, operate the heating system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementations topping of the radiant heat system. Then set the thermostat to a comfortable room temperature for the installation.

Allow 2-3 days for opened boxes to acclimate to relative humidity levels of 30% - 55% and room temperatures between 55 degrees and 72 degrees Fahrenheit.

For installation using the floating method, over radiant-heated subfloors, apply a 2" bead of glue at the Drop Lock joint of each plank. It is recommended that the radiant heat be applied in a gradual manner after installing the wood flooring. Refer to the radiant heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

Pre- Installation

Measure the area to be installed and define the installation direction. It is recommended to install the length direction of the planks parallel to the main light direction. The board width of the last row shall not be less than approx. 2" (50mm). It may be necessary to adjust the width of the first row installed to accommodate the width of the last row. When measuring, leave an expansion space requirement of 3/8" (10mm) around the floor perimeter. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the hall length if possible. Always ensure the end-joints are spaced appropriately. Normal end-joint spacing is between 8" and 12".

Floating installation Preparation

Context Collection is designed to be installed using a floating method without glue. Before installation using the floating method, install an approved underlay. Please note that all cement subfloors and screeds require an approved moisture barrier (i.e. age resistant PE film, min. 0.20 mm (8 mil) thickness. Overlap edges a minimum 20 cm (8") and tape seams.

Sound insulation material must be installed over the PE film, if so required. Approved underlay materials include 2 mm cork, high density foams (over 30 kg/m³) with max thickness of 2mm. The underlay should be butted side-by-side with no overlap. Tape seams together. Leave an open expansion gap of min 3/8" (10mm) around the whole perimeter (use the distance wedges), also at pipes, stairs, columns, doorframes and thresholds. In large rooms, a larger expansion space may be required. Install maximum 10m (32 In ft) length or width without an expansion space. If installing a distance greater the 10m (32 In ft), we recommend gluing or stapling the floor. If floating, the floor requires an expansion gap at 32 ft. The gap must be covered with a T-moulding or similar profile.

Floating floors must be able to move freely throughout the installed area. Do not connect or install tight to any construction member. An expansion space is required in all door openings. Similarly, rooms with off square areas, for example L, F, T, or U-shapes, require that the separate areas be allowed to expand and contract independently by installing an expansion space between these areas. If you have any further installation questions, contact your retailer.

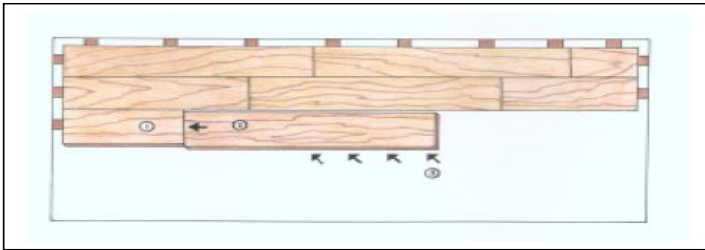
Installation method

Floating installation method:

1. First plank / first row. Work left to right. Place the first plank against the starting wall, with the front edge placed with 3/8" (10mm) expansion space. After 3 rows, position the flooring with distance of approximately 3/8" 10mm, from the starting wall using spacers. Leave additional space for floors exceeding 32 lin. ft. Ensure the first row is straight.
2. Second plank, first row. Place this plank tight to the short end of the first one. Fold down with a single action movement.
3. At the end of the first row, cut the last plank to fit leaving a 3/8" (10mm) expansion space at the end. Use the remaining piece to start another row, but only if at least 18" (500mm) in length.
4. Second row. The first plank must be min length of 18" (500mm). Put a distance of approx. 3/8" (10mm) against the wall. Generally, minimum distance between end-joints in parallel rows shall not be less than approx. 6" (150mm).
5. Second plank - Place the panel tight to the short end of the previous panel and fold down in a single action movement.



- After 2-3 rows adjust the distance to the front wall by placing 3/8" (10mm) spacers at the perimeter. Ensure first rows remain straight.



- Last row: The minimum width of the last row (and first row) is 2" (50mm). Ensure to make this accommodation before installation begins. Minimum distance to keep away from end wall is 3/8" (10mm). Cut the panels lengthwise to fit. Glue the short ends of the last row using PVA (e.g. Titebond T&G / D3 T&G) adhesive.
- Where necessary (e.g. under door jambs, or in tight areas) cut off the locking element of a joint using a chisel. Use PVA glue on the adjusted joint and push the planks together so joint engages and glue holds the joint together. If necessary, place some distance spacers between the last panel and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the adhesive.

Glue-Down Installation

Use a Premium Moisture-cured urethane wood flooring adhesive, or equivalent. Refer to the adhesive manufacturer container for specific recommendations with respect to spread rate, recommended trowel, etc. Trowel only enough adhesive in an area you can comfortably work within during the working time of the adhesive.

Follow the basic floating floor method instructions above to lay the planks into the adhesive. An underlayment is not required when using the glue-down method. If using an underlayment for sound abatement, the pad must be glued to the subfloor. Ensure the underlayment is approved for double-glue installations.

Staple-Down Installation

Context Collection is produced with a Drop-lock profile. This locking profile is designed to be floated, glued-down or stapled down. For the Staple-down method the staples are shot into the female (groove) side at a 45 degree angle. See diagram below:

Prior to installing the flooring using the staple down method, install either 15 lb. roofing felt or resin paper over plywood or OSB subfloors. This will deter moisture from below and help to prevent squeaks. Keep in mind that there is no complete moisture barrier system for staple-down installations. Ensure the wooden subfloor is approved for stapling or nailing wood flooring. Particle board is not an acceptable subfloor in staple-down installations (though it is acceptable for glue-down installations).

Caution: It is the installer's responsibility to use the proper tools when installing locking engineered flooring using this method. Improper tool use can mark the surface of the flooring.

What you need:

18 gauge or 20 gauge, 1/4" inch (6.4mm) crown staples. Staple length to be 1" to 1-1/4" long.

An air pressure stapler of 72.5 psi is recommended. Air pressure should be adjusted so the staple seats properly into the bed of the groove side. A short/thin air line is preferred to ensure the pressure does not vary during installation. The seated staple should be flush within the surface of the pocket. Use a piece of scrap to properly set the tools before actual installation. Note: improper stapling techniques can cause squeaks in the floor.

Staples must be 3" to 4" from the ends of each plank and every 10" along the length of each plank.

If you are installing new wood flooring over existing wood flooring, be sure to install at right angle to the original wood floor.

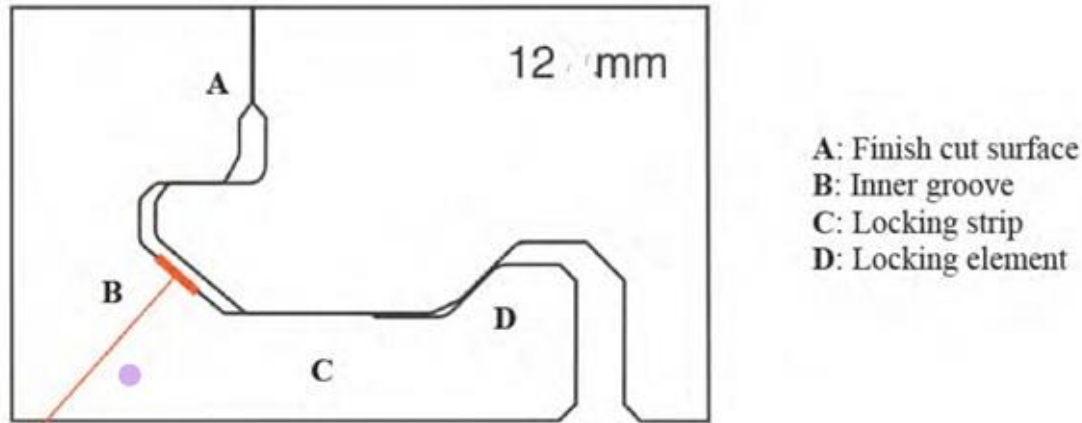


Fig. 1 Placing of the nail in the lockingsystem

Problems that can occur

If the nail gun is not correctly positioned, problems with nails that are not completely lowered can appear. (Fig 14). Nails / staples may have to be lowered manually to accommodate the next plank,

If the nails are inserted in an incorrect angle, problems with shattered fibers can appear. Shattered fibers can be removed by scraping with a knife and/or brushing the groove to remove loose fibers so that the next board can be installed correctly.

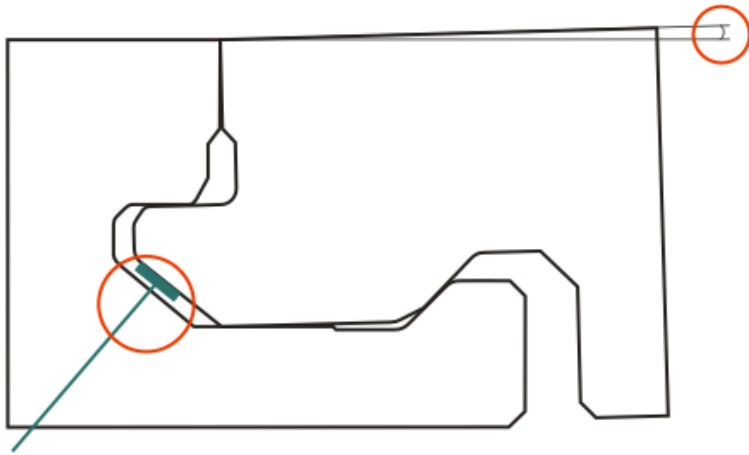


Fig. 14 Nail is not lowered and the next floorboard can therefore not be correctly installed