



MAKE SURE TO READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE INSTALLATION!!!

INSTALLATION/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Beautiful hardwood floors are a product of nature and therefore, include natural variations. Prolinea floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The Installer/Owner of Prolinea products has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. He/she must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects, whatever the cause. Use of stain or putty stick for defect correction during installation is an industry accepted procedure. Five percent must be added to actual square footage needed as allowance for cutting waste and allowable manufacturing defects. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece. Prolinea assumes no liability for manufacturing defects that are identified after installation.

DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

Do not deliver material during inclement weather conditions. Handle and unload with care. Store in a dry place, being sure to provide at least a 4-inch air space under cartons which are stored over on-grade concrete floors, flooring shall not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors in place and until cement work, plastering and all other materials are thoroughly dry. Concrete should be at least 60 days old.

TOOLS

You will need a table saw, circular saw or jigsaw, chalk line, tape measure, hammer, drill, 1/16" drill bit, nailset and 7d flooring nails or equivalent. For ease of installation Prolinea recommends the Primatech Q550 flooring nailer or equivalent. For glue down installations, please use one of the approved adhesives listed in the "Installing Your Floor" section on page 3 of this document. A non-marring white tip mallet should be used when installing flooring.

SUBFLOORS

3/8" Continuous Strip® is for nail-down installation only over subfloors. In pier and beam construction it is necessary to have a board or plywood/OSB subfloor over joists. Do not nail over particle board or similar products. If gluing directly over concrete please see approved glues below and follow the glue manufactures instructions for installation. Before starting your installation, be sure the subfloors meet the following requirements:

JOISTS – Plywood/OSB over joists(16" O.C.) should be a minimum of 3/4" thick T&G exterior grade. The 4' x 8' sheets should be laid with the direction of the surface grain at right angles to joist direction. Offset the plywood end joints every 4 ft. and be sure to leave a 1/8" gap between sheets. Nail every 6" along each joist using 10d common nails or equivalent fasteners.

CONCRETE - One successful method of installing 3/8" Continuous Strip® over on, or above grade concrete, is to provide a Plywood/OSB nailing surface over 4 mil polyethylene film. Your poly-film should be laid loosely over the entire floor with edges lapped 4" and lapped 4" up your wall (Fig. 1). Next, lay down 3/4" x 4' x 8' sheets of exterior grade plywood/OSB with 1/4" gaps between sheets and with your end joints staggered every 4 ft. Fasten down your subfloor with powder-actuated or hammer-driven concrete nails. Use a minimum of 18 nails per panel, starting at one end of the panel and working toward the opposite edge to be sure of flattening out the plywood and holding it securely.

Note: Never install 3/8" Continuous Strip® in a basement. The excessive moisture which is natural in a basement will cause a floor failure. Never install 3/8" Continuous Strip® over

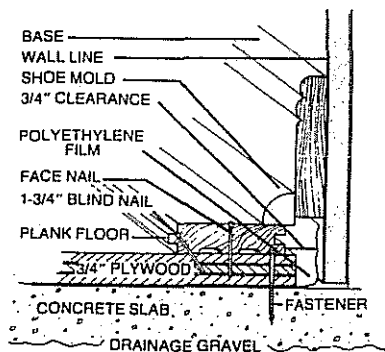


Fig. 1



concrete which has cured for less than 60 days.

MOISTURE RESISTANCE

Prolinea 3/8" Continuous Strip® is crafted of the finest hardwoods available. However, we would like to point out that all wood naturally expands when exposed to moisture and even our high quality kiln-dried products will expand when exposed to unusually heavy moisture conditions. Because of the nature of wood, at least a 3/4" space must be left parallel to the direction you lay the floor to allow for expansion. Do not install Continuous Strip® below grade (no basements) or over any subfloor with an existing moisture problem.

MOISTURE CONTROL

Look for and correct any cause of excess moisture, such as water in the basement, plumbing leaks, excessive condensation on water pipes, poorly fitted doors or windows, wet walls/foundations or 'green' lumber. In crawlspace homes it is recommended that you spread at minimum 4 mil polyethylene ground below your subfloor.

VENTILATION

Proper air circulation is important to prevent moisture build-up. In crawlspace homes at least two vents on opposite walls should be left open year round with the combined size of the openings being no less than 1.5% of the square footage of the first floor.

PRE-INSTALLATION PREPARATIONS:

As part of your subfloor preparation remove any existing base, shoe mold or doorway thresholds. These items can be replaced after installation to cover any unattractive cut edges. All door casings should be undercut or notched out to avoid difficult trim cuts. This can be easily done with a jamb saw or by laying down pieces of flooring on your subfloor as a depth guide for your handsaw (Fig. 2).

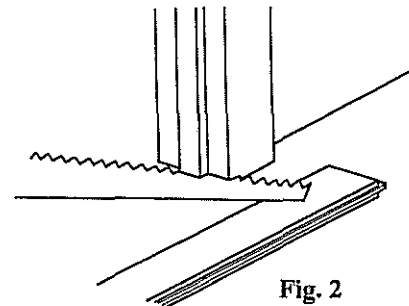


Fig. 2

GENERAL INSTALLATION RULES:

1. Your floor should be delivered to the job site at least 72 hours before installation. The flooring boxes should be opened up and the heating or air conditioning turned on so the flooring can acclimate to the conditions under which it will remain after installation.
2. Your 3/8" Continuous Strip® flooring should be installed at right angles to your joists. If your installation requires the flooring to lay parallel (or less than 45° toward parallel) to the joists, blocking must be used 24" O.C. between the joists.
3. Continuous Strip® requires a 3/4" expansion void between the first and last rows of strips and the walls, and at all vertical obstructions within the room.

Note: In climates with extreme humidity or areas with excess soil moisture (coastal areas, waterfront sites, etc.) consider including expansion space within the floor (as well as at the wall lines) by spacing in joints between strips about every 12"- 15". This is easily done with strips of 1/32" sheet metal, thin metal washers, etc. placed between the rows of flooring before nailing tight. Extended acclimation time is also recommended.

4. Because of the natural color variation in hardwood flooring from piece to piece, it is important to work out of three or four cartons at a time to assure a beautiful blend of shading.



5. The proper nail spacing (by hand or by machine) is at least one nail every 6" to 8". Every board should be nailed so there will be nails within the last three inches of both ends of the board. Additional nails will enhance holding power. Do not nail closer than two inches from the ends of boards. **IMPORTANT:** Internal seams do not require nails on either side of the seam, (Fig. 4), fasten only within three inches of the actual end joint.

6. For machine nailing over plywood-on-joists use a 1 1/2" or 1 1/4" cleats in your nailing gun. For machine nailing over plywood-on-concrete use a 1-1/4" cleat or staple in your nailing machine.

7. Because of the walls being in the way, you will be forced to hand-nail the first 2 rows of strip and the last 3 rows of strip. Pre-drill your nail holes with a 1/16" drill bit to avoid splitting. Be sure to countersink all hand-driven nails. Countersink and putty all nails which are driven through the exposed face of the boards.

INSTALLING YOUR FLOOR:

1. From your starting wall, measure out a distance equal to the width of the strip plus 1 inch in both corners. Snap a chalk line between these two points so you will have a guide to keep your first row of strips absolutely straight.

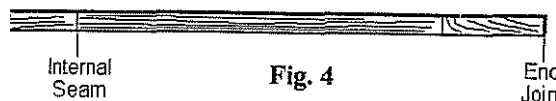
2. Line up your first row with the edges of the tongue on the chalk line and the groove side 3/4" away from the wall.

3. Because of the similar length of each piece of Continuous Strip® it is important to create a random pattern at the beginning of the installation. The easiest way to accomplish this is by cutting the first four rows at twelve inch intervals, thereby creating a "stair step". Then, when the end of the row is reached, your final cuts are used to start the next four rows.



4. Continuous Strip® is a true square edge, prefinished product. Because of the precision milled edges, it is necessary to do the following when installing this product:

- Do not use a hard mallet when tapping boards into place. Use only a soft tool such as the one which is supplied with Primatch Model Q550.
- Prolinea recommends the Primatch Models Q550 or equivalent.
- **For Glue down installations**, follow the installation instructions of the following adhesives or equivalent:
 - Bostik's Best Urethane Wood Flooring Adhesive
 - Sika AcouBond System using SikaBond T-53
 - Franklin Titebond 811 Advantage Urethane Wood Flooring Adhesive
 - DriTac Easy Spread 7400 Moisture Cure Urethane Wood Flooring Adhesive with TR 6



5. Pre-drill and face-nail the first row of strips using a 7d flooring nail or equivalent every 8" along the groove side (Fig. 1).

6. Continuous Strip® has "end joints" and "internal seams" (see Fig. 4). The end joints should be staggered by a minimum of 6 inches between rows. However, the internal seams need not be staggered. If you are concerned about how they look, Prolinea has done extensive consumer research. As a professional hardwood flooring installer you may be concerned about the looks because you are a perfectionist--a very good trait to have. But the consumer does not find the look offensive. This is partly because the internal seams are so tight that they are less noticeable than is an end joint.



7. Face nail the first row (Fig. 1) and next row of strips by hand. Pre-drill your nail holes at a 45 degree angle down through the nailing groove on top of the tongue. The next rows should blind nailed. Avoid bruising the wood by using a nail punch to drive the nails the last 1/8" into the tongue. Use 7d flooring nail or equivalent.
8. Continue nailing by hand, or start using your nailing gun to lay consecutive rows of flooring. As you nail, be sure to pull the flooring right together. While slight bows in 3/8" solid flooring are normal, Prolinea's unique manufacturing process helps minimize the potential. Bowed boards can usually be pulled straight by use of a pry bar or by simply using additional nails as needed.
9. The last 2 or 3 rows of strips will have to be either blind-nailed or face-nailed by hand. The last row of strips may need to be ripped down in width to provide at least 3/4" room for expansion at the wall line.
10. Putty any nail holes and small gaps using a matching putty stick (available at most retail flooring centers) and install your thresholds, base moldings, and/or shoe moldings, being careful not to obstruct your 3/4" expansion space.



INSTALLER

You are the final grader for this Prolinea Hardwood Floor. The product has been graded at the mill, but if there are any unacceptable defects do not install that piece.

PROLINEA ASSUMES NO LIABILITY IF DEFECTIVE MATERIAL IS INSTALLED.

NOTE: It is a good idea to keep some extra flooring for repairs in the future.