

How to Prepare for the Installation of Your Floor

Ensure that the Building is Closed

- All outside doors and windows must be in place before installation of your floor.
- All texturing and painting primer coats should be completed.
- Complete all concrete and plaster work before installation. (When concrete and plaster are drying, many gallons of water are evaporated into the house. The excessive moisture could damage your wood.)
- The building temperature and humidity levels should be as they will be when the building is lived in.
- Surface drainage should direct water away from the building.
- On raised foundations, it is important that the ground is dry and there is proper cross-ventilation underneath the house.

Clear Out the Work Area

- Move all furniture and plants out of the work area in advance.
- Remove pictures and wall hangings from walls of the work area.
- Remove books and other objects off of shelves, mantels, and countertops in the work area.
- Remove clothes, shoes, and other items from closets in the work area.
- For kitchen installations, remove refrigerator and stove. *Some* stoves that do not have extended legs which can be seen under may be left and worked around.
- For bath or powder room installations, remove toilet and pedestal sinks.
- For laundry room installations, remove washer and dryer.

Remove Existing Flooring

- Unless otherwise quoted, removal of existing floor coverings is not included.
- When removing carpeting, be sure to remove all tackstrips, padding, nails, and staples. Do not use a screw driver to remove tack strips as this will gouge your floor; use a pry bar or wonder bar instead.
- When removing linoleum, be sure to remove paper backing that may be adhered to slab.
- When removing tile or hardwood; be sure to scrape off all thinset, mortar, or adhesive so that the slab has a smooth surface.
- If there are pressure-controlled security pads under carpeting, you will need a security company to remove them in advance.

Protect your Home

- Be prepared for some dust in the work area. Expensive draperies should be removed or taped off.
- Unless otherwise stated in proposal, owner is to plastic any areas or objects that he or she wishes to keep from dust. Please note that even a low adhesive tape can sometimes peel off paint and other finishes that are not well adhered. Painters blue tape is not always fail safe either. For questionable surfaces, you should use extra low adhesive white tape. We cannot be responsible for paint, wallpaper, or other finishes that peel off from tape removal.
- Kitchen pantries should be cleared or taped off. Food items that are not well sealed can absorb vapors from adhesives or coatings, leaving an undesirable aftertaste.

Protect Your Pets

- Pets should be kept out of the work area at all times. If the job requires, this may be for several days. Cats and dogs like to enter the work area once wet adhesives or coatings have been spread. This is problematic not just for the animal and its owner, but also for your floor installer. Cleaning these coatings off of the animal's paws and skin requires unpleasant solvents that can cause the animal discomfort for days.
- If you have a protective dog, please keep it tied up or in a kennel so that our employees are not bitten. Even if your dog or cat is friendly, please tie it up if it could escape - we are *constantly* coming and going through doors and yard gates with equipment.
- Birds and fish are sensitive to even small changes in their air. Bird cages and fish tanks should be moved to a room that is well ventilated and can be closed off from any fumes.

Follow-up after Installation

- Some installations cannot be walked on for a period of time. Allow concrete sealers, adhesives, and urethane coatings to dry overnight. Floors which have been sanded or refinished cannot be walked on for several days. Most pre-finished installations of pre-finished flooring need at least overnight to dry before they can be walked on.
- For unfinished solid floor installations, the flooring material should be delivered to the site 2 weeks prior to installation. After installation, the unfinished flooring must acclimate for 3 weeks before it can be sanded and finished. During this 3-week period of acclimation, you can walk on the raw floors but you cannot wet-mop them. Be careful to keep all spills and chemicals off the floor during this time.
- Be prepared to re-light any pilot lights that we see fit to turn off in order to eliminate fire hazard. Wait until the next day and make sure the house is ventilated before doing so.