

MERANTI FLOORING INSTALLATION

As with any flooring material, proper installation is critical to long-lasting performance. The basic installation procedures for meranti flooring are similar to those used for other tongue & groove flooring products.

Moisture is the source of many problems. As wood gains moisture it swells. As it loses moisture it shrinks. This simple fact is at the root of many flooring installation problems such as expansion, cupping and crowning. Builders can avoid problems through proper installation techniques and by being aware of woods reaction to excessive moisture.

For best results, follow these basis instructions:

1. **WATCH OUT FOR EXCESSIVE MOISTURE IN THE AIR.** Make sure all work that puts moisture in the air has had a chance to dry or cure thoroughly. This includes plaster, masonry and paint. Do not install or store flooring in a room that has excessive moisture!
2. **ALLOW THE MOISTURE CONTENT OF THE FLOORING TO REACH AN EQUILIBRIUM WITH THE LOCATION.**
 - A. **Interior Use:** Unpack the flooring and place it on stickers in the heated room in which it will be installed for at least four weeks prior to installation. This will allow the wood to gain or lose moisture to match the site conditions.
 - B. **Exterior Use:** Store the flooring in a dry place off of the ground and under cover, but with proper air circulation for at least two weeks prior to installation. The garage is ideal.
3. **CHECK JOISTS AND SUB-FLOORING MATERIALS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE DRYNESS.** Do not install flooring over dump joists or subflooring. These building components should be at 8 to 10 percent moisture content before installing the floor.
4. **USE THE RECOMMENDED 3/4-INCH PLYWOOD SUBFLOORING IN INTERIOR INSTALLATIONS.** Plywood makes the best subfloor. Code-approved flakeboard can also be used; however, particle board is not recommended.
5. **INSTALL 15-POUND BUILDING FELT OVER THE SUBFLOORING IN INTERIOR INSTALLATIONS.** This will make a sturdier, stiffer floor and will enable you to drive some nails through the subfloor into the floor joists.
6. **INSTALL FLOORING PERPENDICULAR TO THE JOISTS EVEN WHEN USING SUBFLOORING.** This will make a sturdier, stiffer floor and will enable you to drive some nails through the subfloor into the floor joists.
7. **INSTALL FLOORING WITH THE TOP SIDE UP.** Flooring is not reversible. A small gap between boards is an indication that the flooring is not oriented correctly.
8. **PRE-NAIL NAIL HOLES THROUGH THE TONGUE TO AVOID SPLITTING.** Drill at about 45 degrees in preparation for blind nailing.
9. **MAKE SURE EVERY SECOND OR THIRD NAIL PENETRATES THROUGH THE SUBFLOOR AND INTO THE JOISTS.** Floor joists are usually placed 16 inches on center. Place nails every 8 inches. For proper holding power, it is necessary that nails penetrate into the joists.
10. **WHEN FLOORING IS BEING USED FOR EXTERIOR PORCHES YOU MUST:**
 - A. Prime all sides and edges before installation (two coats are preferred). Use a top quality oil based or alkyd based deck finish, which is specially formulated for weather protection and walking surfaces. Flooring may then be installed directly on joists. Allow air to circulate under porches to help keep lumber dry.
11. **BLIND NAIL THROUGH THE TONGUE AT ABOUT 45 DEGREES using a 7d OR 8d FINISH NAIL.**

SAND AND FINISH THE INSTALLED FLOORING. Use three coats of polyurethane and sand between coats for interiors. Apply stain prior to the polyurethane for different results.

Dry Meranti Flooring is intended for interiors or "covered" porches. It will absorb moisture if it is not properly cared for as stated above.

There are NO remedies that will completely eliminate the inherent conditions of lumber products. However, following the recommendations listed above will help lessen the severity of these conditions.

If these conditions do occur, the use of caulking, splicing, or replacing may be necessary. Consult your local contractor, lumberyard, or home center for your specific needs.

The manufacturer is NOT responsible or liable for any of the inherent natural properties of lumber products, the cost to replace, match for color, match for texture, repair, unforeseen costs, or due to consumer neglect or improper installation.