



Hardwood

Preparing Your Home for the Installation of Your New Flooring

This guide explains what steps need to be taken to prepare your home for the installation of your new hardwood flooring. Additionally it offers advice about what to expect immediately following the installation, and how to best handle adding furniture and rugs to your new floor. If you have any questions or concerns about your hardwood flooring, please call the experts at Loudoun Valley Floors at 540.338.4300.

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1. Move your breakables, electronics, and valuables to an area away from the rooms where we will be working.
2. Remove wall hangings in the rooms having work done, as well as adjacent rooms and areas below.
3. Secure light fixtures and glass globes in the areas below the rooms having wood installed, as these items may become loose due to the vibrations of the installation.
4. Make certain your pets are in a secure area of the house, or take them to a friend or neighbor's house. Loudoun Valley Floors will not be responsible if your pet escapes.
5. Although most cutting is takes place outside your home, some cutting, such as the undercutting of door jambs, or removal of existing flooring must be done inside. This may create dust during the installation.
6. Make certain to notify someone at Loudoun Valley Floors when you purchase your flooring, or the installers before they begin the installation, if your home has had any standing water issues in the weeks before the scheduled installation date. This is important to prevent any wood expansion issues in the future due to water absorption. Even if your floor looks and feels dry it may still be holding excessive moisture, which can be very harmful to the hardwood flooring installed on top of it.
7. We will need access to a 220 volt receptacle for our sanding equipment. These receptacles are commonly used for dryers and ovens. We ask that these areas be made available to us even if work is not going to be completed in those rooms.
8. We will do all that we can to keep a safe environment while working in your home, but we ask for your assistance with keeping children and pets away from the work areas due to the sharp objects and power tools we must use.



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What to Expect With Your New Hardwood Floor After Installation

1. You may notice small nail holes filled with either colored putty or filler, usually along the walls and in front of cabinetry. This is referred to as face nailing, it is a necessary procedure to avoid damage to the walls and cabinetry during the nailing process and this is an acceptable method.
2. You may notice slight color variations due to mineral content and different grain patterns from board to board and in trim pieces. These variances are natural in an organic product. They are considered normal and are not deemed as defects.
3. If you are adding on to an existing floor there may be color and patina variations depending on the age of the existing floor. The new floor usually blends in overtime with exposure and use.
4. If your new flooring is pre-finished hardwood, you may use it immediately after installation. There is no need to wait before moving your furniture, rugs, and accessories back in to the rooms.
5. Sand in place flooring requires curing of the urethane finish before you resume to normal use of the floor. Wait 24 hours before furniture replacement and 10 days before rolling out rugs and tapestries.
6. You should never slide furniture or boxes across any wood floor. No matter how hard or durable the finish is, it can scratch. Felt pads are recommended on the bottom of furniture or chairs that are used frequently.
7. The installation of wood flooring can accentuate the imperfections in your sub-floor. Carpet and patterned vinyl flooring will hide subtle rolls and high areas that may be exposed when wood is installed in place.
8. If you have selected a floor with a higher gloss level expect to see more imperfections such as scratches, dents, and soil as they occur because the higher sheen will amplify such things.
9. If your floors are going to be sanded for a sand in place installation, or your old floors are being refinished, we will take measures to restrict dust from traveling into areas other than the rooms being serviced, but it may still occur to a minimal degree.
10. There may be some color variation from the stain swatches once it is applied to the flooring due to the natural characteristics such as varying densities and mineral content of wood flooring.