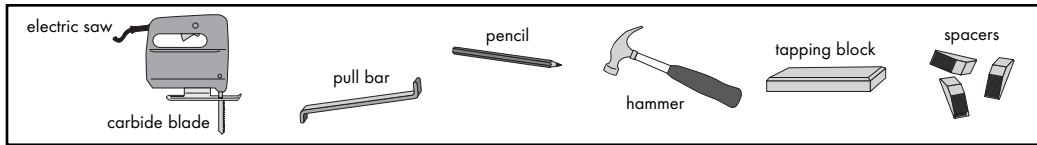


Esteem Glueless Hardwood Flooring Installation Instructions



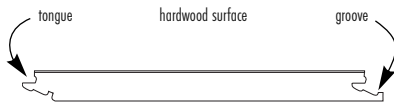
TYPICAL TOOLS REQUIRED:

Pull Bar, Tapping Block, 1/2" Wall Spacers, Tape Measure, Utility Knife, Broom, Electric Saw (carbide blade), 6 foot straightedge, Hammer, Pencil, Eye and Ear Protection.

See the Shaw installation video for an actual demonstration.

1 - PREPARATION

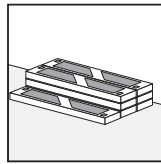
- VersaLock® Hardwood can be installed directly over most existing floor coverings, except for carpet. Wood flooring glued to concrete must be removed before installation. Shaw VersaLock Hardwoods are not recommended for installations over radiant-heated subfloors.
- Cartons of flooring [1] must lay flat, unopened, in the room being installed for a minimum of 48 hours before installation. Allow more time in high humidity or very dry areas.
- Subfloor must be leveled to within 1/8" in 6'** Fill low spots with Portland cement-based filler. Any high spots must be removed. Check for levelness with 6' straightedge.
- Remove any existing floor moldings (if any) except for the wall baseboards.
- Undercut doorframes [2]** Lay a loose plank upside down on top of the underlayment against the frame. This will be your guide for proper height to allow installed planks to float under it. Saw the bottom of the doorjamb off, leaving the required expansion gap allowance. The expansion gap must be greater than or equal to the thickness of the Shaw VersaLock Hardwood Flooring you are installing.
- Sweep the floor clean.
- Before installing over concrete, concrete covered with existing ceramic, marble, stone, vinyl tile, or linoleum.** — Test floor for excessive moisture. To do so, cut 3' x 3' squares of polyethylene plastic (one for every 200 sq. ft. of floor space). Spread around different areas of the floor for a more accurate evaluation. Tape all edges down firmly sealing them directly to the existing floor. Leave down for 24 to 48 hours; if moisture forms under the plastic or if the cement darkens, seal with a concrete sealer. Call Shaw Information Center at 1-800-441-7429 for assistance.
- On Wood Floors** — Use any of Shaw Hardwood and Laminate underlayments. DO NOT tape seams together when going over wood or organic floor. If wood floor is adhered over concrete, it must be removed before installing Shaw VersaLock Hardwood. **On Concrete Floors** — Use 2in-1 or



- new Silent Step™ 3-in-1 underlayments. 2in-1 should be rolled out overlapping the poly flap only, Silent Step 3-in-1 should be rolled out with the seams pulled together; both should go up the wall at least 2" when used over concrete. Tape underlayment seams using a 2" clear packaging sealing tape.
- Unroll one width of underlayment [3] along the longest wall. All work is done from left to right. Planks should run lengthwise against the longest wall, and if possible, [4] parallel to incoming sunlight.
- Rooms larger [4] than 26 x 40 (1,040 sq. ft.) require T-molding for expansion.

2 - START OF INSTALLATION

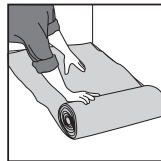
- The width of the first row planks should be approximately the same width as the last row. This may require cutting the first row plank to a smaller width. Measure across the room (inches) and divide by the width of a plank to see how many full width planks will be used and what size width will be needed for the last row. The last row should never be less than 2" in width.
- Use spacers [5] to maintain the proper expansion gap around the entire perimeter of the floor (remember the expansion gap should be equal to or greater than the thickness of the flooring). Quarter Round molding will cover this expansion gap. **IMPORTANT:** this gap must be maintained around cabinets, pipes, toilet flanges and any other obstacle in floor.
- INSPECT EACH BOARD CAREFULLY FOR DAMAGE PRIOR TO INSTALLING IT.**
- Check groove on plank to make sure it is clean or free of debris.
- To lock planks together, [7] insert tongue into the groove at a slight angle, when top edges meet, rotate downward. Planks will click together for a tight fit. If there are any gaps, reconnect the planks. Connect end edges first, then the longer side edges of the planks. Start by building a 2-row rack. To do this, start with 4 planks [see [6]], plank 1 should be full length, plank 2 should be cut to 1/3 its original length (approximately 29"). This will give the proper amount of stagger to the end joints and thereby make your floor more



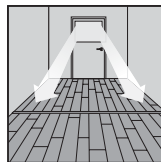
[1] Do not stack cartons more than 3 high. Do not store near heat/air vents.



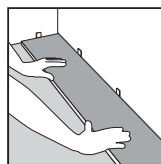
[2] Undercut doorjamb for a professional fit.



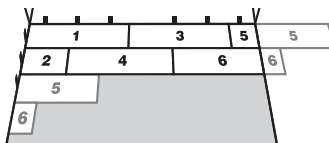
[3] Roll out underlayment as you go. Just enough for the next few rows of planks you're installing.



[4] Try to run planks parallel to main light source. T-molding is only required for rooms of more than 1,040 sq. ft.



[5] Use the (7mm) spacers to maintain an even expansion gap around the floor. Note: expansion gap should be equal to or greater than thickness of flooring.



[6] Master installation strategy



[7] It's easier to assemble if you kneel on top of the planks and use a pulling motion to insert.

secure. This 2 row rack can be built either directly against the start wall and the spacers, or away from the wall so that you can kneel on one row and pull the second row toward you.

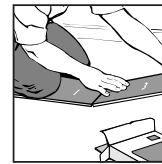
- Connect plank 2 to plank 1 by inserting **edge tongue [7]** into **edge groove** at a slight angle. When top hardwood surfaces touch, rotate downward.
- Connect plank 3 to plank 1 by [8] inserting **end tongue** into **end groove**, keeping the edges perfectly aligned. When the top VersaLock Hardwood surfaces touch, rotate downward.
- Connect plank 4 to planks 2 and 3 by [9] first joining the ends of 4 to 2. To do this, leave a gap where the tongue and groove of planks 3 and 4 are. Once the ends are connected, [10] place a hand under the locked ends, raise the planks slightly upwards (1"±). This angle will now allow you to slide the tongue of plank 4 into the groove of plank 3 (the end joint will slide down into place without releasing) when top VersaLock Hardwood edges meet, rotate both planks (4 and 2) downward. Use this method throughout the remainder of the floor.
- Continue to build these 2 rows until you reach the adjoining wall, leaving your expansion space. When door molding or other obstruction won't allow the needed space to rotate the plank downward, align tongue to groove and use pull bar [11] to tap the tongue into the groove until top Glueless Hardwood edges meet on both long and short side of panel.
- If you build these rows away from the starting wall, go ahead and push them into position now. Be sure to place spacers at both ends of each row, and 2' intervals along the start wall.
- If the starting wall is uneven, you can scribe the contour of the wall onto the first row of planks. Use a 2" square block and a pencil and follow the contour. Disassemble, cut at line and reassemble. To disassemble, kneel on row 1 and carefully raise the edge of row 2 rotating upwards and removing planks in the opposite direction in which you installed them.
- Begin the third row with a plank cut to 2/3 its original length. This could be from one of the cut planks from row 1 or 2. (see master installation strategy illustration above)

3 - REMAINDER OF FLOOR

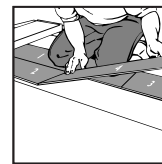
- Repeat the process of using random length start planks (minimum of 16") to ensure a more natural look.
- Use cut pieces from the end of each row as starting planks. Always stagger end joints a minimum of 20"; making random so as not to show a repeating pattern.
- All joints should be a tight fit with no gaps. [12] Stop and re-connect if a joint is not tight or if all edges are not even with adjacent planks. These Planks can be engaged and disengaged several times if needed to help make a correct installation.**
- Cutting the last row, place a full row of planks directly on top of the last row installed planks (keeping the tongue in the same direction of the installed planks). Use the full width of scrap pieces of plank, insert a spacer between wall and scrap piece of plank. [13] Place a pencil next to the edge and trace a line down the planks following the contour of the wall. Cut planks on line and connect last row. Tap lightly and follow along the edge until it's all in place, leaving no gaps.

4 - MOLDING AND TRANSITIONS

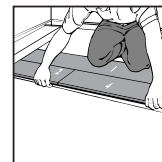
- Remove the spacers from the expansion space.
- Silicone sealant must be used to fill the expansion gap in all areas where a water source is present, such as windows, sinks, dishwashers, refrigerators, pipes, and toilet flange, etc.**
- Do not use in 3/4 and full bathrooms.
- Nail or glue your matching quarter round to the wall or wall base board. Do not nail down into the floor. This floor is designed to not be fastened in any manner. The quarter round will cover the expansion gap and silicone sealant, overlapping the floor.
- Pre-drill nail holes in the quarter round before nailing. Use Shaw color coordinating putty to fill the countersunk nail heads.
- Glue, screw, or nail the proper length of molding track to the subfloor, next to the joining floor covering allowing the proper expansion zone. Select the proper transition



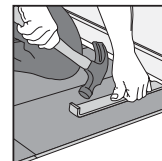
[8] Keep ends perfectly aligned while connecting the tongue and groove.



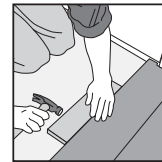
[9] Connect the ends of planks 2 and 4 leaving a slight gap between 4 and 3.



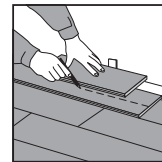
[10] Place hand under locked ends of 2 and 4, raise slightly, pull plank 4 into plank 3 edge groove. Snap assembled group down into place.



[11] Use pull bar and hammer to tap together gapped joints at walls and door jams.



[12] Tap together any gapped joints as needed. Use the Shaw tapping block.



[13] Use full width scrap plank and 1/4" spacer to mark your cutting line on last row.

molding, allowing for a slight overlap on the new VersaLock Hardwood floor.

In the event that accidental damage is done to one of the planks, minor scratches can be repaired using a Shaw Flooring repair kit.

Shaw Hardwood Flooring Care Guide:

Shaw VersaLock Hardwood flooring is designed to stand up to the toughest household conditions. However, to keep it looking its best, follow these simple instructions for protection and care.

Routine care instructions:

- Remove loose dirt by using a non-beater bar vacuum or a dust mop.
- To clean, use a damp mop or cloth with Shaw EverClean™ cleaner. Do not saturate floor.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool, soap based detergents, waxes, polishes, or scouring powder because they may scratch or dull the flooring surface.
- Wipe up spills immediately. Avoid allowing liquids to stand on your floor.
- A more frequent dust mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.
- For tough spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, harden the spot with ice and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
- For tough stains use Shaw's Heavy Duty Remover.
- Do not use any type of buffing machine.

Scratch and wear protection:

- Any hardwood flooring may scratch if not cared for properly. Therefore, follow these simple and protective steps to keep your flooring looking new:
- Place floor mats at outside doorways to collect dirt and moisture. Remove any standing water immediately.
- Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level of 35-60% throughout the year to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of wood.
- Use Shaw EverShine to refresh the gloss level of your hardwood floors to its original shine.
- Rearrange your furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. UV sunlight will change the color of different species to varying degrees.
- Do not walk on your floor with "stiletto-style" heels; they will cause indentations.
- Keep pet nails trimmed and filed in order to minimize indentations. All wood floors will indent.
- Use a wide base air tire dolly when moving heavy appliances or furniture. But first, put down a sheet of quarter-inch clean plywood or Masonite to protect the floor. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor without precautions. Use floor protectors and wide-bearing cylinder leg bases/rollers to minimize indentations from heavy objects. The heavier the item, the wider the floor protector should be.
- Never use ball rollers.

For any questions call the Shaw Information Center at 1-800-441-7429.