Please read these instructions completely before beginning the installation

Kentwood floors must be installed in accordance with the following instructions. Failure to do so may void the product warranty.

Note

Installation of Chevron Herringbone style flooring requires a high degree of technical ability and should only be performed by a qualified and experienced professional hardwood installer.

Part 01
Product Use & Installation Options

Product Use

This floor may be installed:

• On, above or below grade
• With glue down installation only
• Over plywood or concrete subfloor

This floor may be installed over radiant heat if:

• The installation conforms to the conditions specified in the Special Instructions for Installation over Radiant Heat (available from your dealer)

Kentwood accepts no responsibility for any damage to the floor caused by a radiant heat system. Such damage is not covered by the product warranty.

This floor should NOT be installed in a bathroom, laundry room or any area that may experience elevated humidity (sauna, sunroom, etc) Such use will void the product warranty.

Kentwood floors are for indoor use only, in residential or light commercial applications. The use of a certified installer is recommended for all installations.

If installing any Kentwood floor in a single room greater than 30’ x 40’ (9m x 12m) special installation measures may be required. Please contact Kentwood technical services for more information.

For Technical Assistance in Canada, please call: 1-800-992-3163

For Technical Assistance in the USA, please call: 1-800-851-3841

or email info@kentwoodfloors.com
PART 02
Before Installation – Product Inspection & Site Preparation

INSTALLER’S / CUSTOMER’S RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the installer and/or customer to ensure that the KENTWOOD product meets or exceeds their expectations for visual appearance and manufacturing quality.

Because KENTWOOD floors are made from real wood, every piece of KENTWOOD flooring will have a unique appearance, often with naturally-occurring variations in color, texture and grain pattern. Showroom samples and photographic reproductions may not represent the full range of color, texture and grain variations and milling tolerances which can occur in the product itself. It is strongly recommended that, prior to commencing installation, the customer and installer open several boxes of product and loose lay the boards on the floor. Examine the product carefully to ensure that it meets the customer’s expectations for appearance, color and visual character and quality before proceeding with the installation.

If the visual appearance or manufacturing quality of the product is deemed unacceptable, it should not be installed. Flooring that has been installed will be deemed to have been inspected and accepted by the installer and customer, even if the customer is not present at the time of installation. Every piece of flooring should be inspected and if any piece does not meet expectations of quality, it should not be installed.

Note

KENTWOOD floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry practices which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. These defects may be the result of manufacturing or naturally occurring characteristics of the material. It is recommended that a minimum 5% cutting or grading allowance be added to the total square footage when calculating the quantity of flooring required. Boards that are judged to be defective should not be installed or should be installed in an inconspicuous location where they will not be noticeable (e.g. inside a closet).

It is the sole responsibility of the installer to ensure that the job site, subfloor and installation tools and materials meet or exceed these instructions and any applicable industry standards. KENTWOOD accepts no responsibility for problems arising from incorrect or improper site preparation or installation procedures.

For further information on installation standards and guidelines, call:

In Canada: 1-800-992-3163
In the US: 1-800-851-3841
or email info@kentwoodfloors.com

SITE PREPARATION:
INSTALLATION IN NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED HOME

Installation of wood flooring is one of the last jobs of a new home construction. Prior to installing a wood floor, the following conditions must be met:

- The building is completely enclosed with all outside doors and windows in place and securable, including a door from an attached garage to house interior
- All concrete, masonry, plastering, drywall, texturing, painting, tiling and other wet work is complete and dry
- Basements must be dry, within recommended temperature and humidity ranges, with no standing water and adequate cross-ventilation in accordance with local building codes
- Crawl spaces must be dry, with no standing water and adequate cross-ventilation in accordance with local building codes. Exposed earth crawl spaces must also have a vapor barrier installed to NWFA guidelines
• Gutters and downspouts are in place, directing water away from the building
• Landscaping is directing water away from the building
• HVAC systems are fully operational, enabling heat and humidity levels to be controlled and maintained throughout the home, and have been operating for a minimum of 5 days prior to installation
• Subfloor is properly inspected and prepared for installation in accordance with these instructions
• If installing over radiant heat, ensure that the system is in full working order and has been fully tested and running for a minimum of two weeks prior to installation. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone

INSTALLATION IN EXISTING HOME (RENOVATION)
Installation in an existing home must meet the same conditions as a new home. If part of a larger remodeling project, ensure that all wet work (painting, wallpapering, texturing, etc.) is completed and thoroughly dry before commencing flooring installation. In addition:

• Remove all furniture, artwork and other valuables from installation area
• Remove baseboards and moldings
• Undercut door casings and jambs (use a piece of the flooring as a depth gauge)
• Remove existing flooring, if necessary
• If installing over radiant heat, it is strongly recommended that a radiant heat technician be consulted prior to installation to ensure that the heating system can be operated effectively at temperatures acceptable to the wood flooring. The system should be turned off for 24 hours prior to installation in the install zone

CLIMATE CONTROL
Conditions at the job site must be maintained with the temperature between 60 - 80°F (15 - 26°C) and humidity at 30-50% before, during and after the installation.

Flooring material should not be delivered to job site until these conditions have been met and maintained for five days prior to installation.

Following installation, these conditions should be maintained at all times to ensure proper performance of the floor. See Warranty for details.

ACCLIMATION AND CONDITIONING
Acclimation (or acclimatization) is the process of adjusting the moisture content of wood flooring to the environmental conditions in which it will be used and which are typically expected for the environment. Because environmental conditions vary from region to region and job site to job site, judgement and discretion are required on the part of the installer to determine appropriate acclimation requirements for each job and treat the material accordingly.

Required interior conditions for hardwood flooring are temperature of 60 - 80°F (15 - 26°C) and relative humidity of 30 to 50%. When these conditions have been established at the job site, material may be delivered to the site. Do not deliver flooring to job site if climate conditions have not been met and maintained as described above otherwise damage to product may result.

Note
In areas with extreme climate conditions it may be necessary to use humidifiers or dehumidifiers to ensure the humidity is kept within the recommended range.
Note

While acclimation is concerned with the moisture content of the flooring, it is also important that the flooring material be in the same temperature range as the installation site. Flooring that has been warehoused or transported in very cold conditions may need to be allowed to come to room temperature on site prior to installation commencing.

When flooring has been delivered to the job site, leave the boxes closed until ready to commence the installation, and then open only as needed.

MOISTURE CONTENT

All wood flooring must be tested for moisture content prior to installation to ensure moisture content is within allowable limits. When ready to commence installation, open several boxes of product and test and record moisture content of the flooring using a reliable and accurate moisture testing device. Wood flooring should have a moisture content between 6 and 9% or as expected for the environment in which the flooring will be used. If the moisture content is not within this range, allow the flooring to acclimate at the climate controlled job site until the moisture content comes to within the acceptable range.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

The installer is responsible for ensuring that the subfloor is suitable for the flooring application and properly prepared for installation.

- **All subfloors** must be flat, clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. The subfloor must be flat to within 3/16” over 10 feet, or 1/8” in 6 feet radius.

- **Plywood or OSB subfloors** must meet local building code requirements. (US: minimum 3/4” T&G Exposure 1 rated plywood or 23/32” T&G Exposure 1 rated OSB. Canada: minimum 5/8” T&G Exposure 1 rated plywood or 23/32” T&G Exposure 1 rated OSB installed over joists 16” on center or less.) They must be secure to the joists, free of squeaks and protruding fasteners. Subfloor moisture content must not exceed 12%, and the variance in moisture content between the subfloor and the flooring boards must not exceed 3 percentage points.

- **Concrete subfloors** must be dry, clean and free of non-compatible sealers, waxes, oil, paint, drywall compound, or other bond-breaking substances. (Check for the presence of sealers by applying drops of water to the slab. If the water beads up, there may be sealers or oils.)

All slabs must be tested for moisture content using test method ASTM F2170-11 or equivalent and must return a reading of 75% relative humidity or less.

RACKING

Real wood flooring contains natural variations in color and grain pattern. In order to prevent color clustering or repetitive grain patterns in the finished floor, it is recommended that boards be racked (visually sorted) before installation to create a satisfactory and pleasing color arrangement. Immediately prior to installation, unpack several cartons to get a sense of the range of color variation and arrange the planks to achieve a satisfactory appearance.

- When racking, distribute lengths where possible. Avoid ‘H’ patterns, stair-steps and other discernible patterns in adjacent rows.

  - For products 3 - 5” (8 – 13cm) in width, stagger butt joints a minimum 8 - 10” (20 – 25cm) and do not use boards of less than 6” (15cm) in length.
  
  - For products over 5” (13cm) in width, Stagger butt joints a minimum 10” (25cm) and do not use boards of less than 12” (30cm) in length.

- **When racking, inspect all boards for visible manufacturing defects.** Boards with manufacturing defects in excess of industry standards (5% of total quantity) may be replaced by the dealer under the terms of the product warranty. Once installed, boards will be considered to have been accepted by the customer and will not be eligible for replacement. (See Warranty for details.)
PART 03
Installation

Ensure subfloor is suitable and properly prepared. Verify moisture content of both subfloor and flooring is within allowable limits before commencing installation. If installing over radiant heat, place approved heat sensors on the subfloor in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions. A minimum of 5 sensors must be placed for every 1000 square feet of flooring installed. (Sensors and Special Instructions For Installation Over Radiant Heat are available from your KENTWOOD dealer. Failure to install the product in accordance with these instructions will void the product warranty.)

Determine the layout for the floor and the direction the pattern will run. Typically the pattern will follow the length of the room, but in some cases it may be positioned according to fixed features such as a fireplace or a main entranceway.

Precise measurements are essential when laying a herringbone pattern. Verify measurements and check row alignment frequently to ensure the pattern is being laid accurately and evenly.

When you have determined the center line for the pattern, snap a chalkline along the entire length of the installation area. Then, snap a parallel chalkline XX” (XXmm) to the left of the center line and another XX” (XXmm) to the right. These will serve as guides for the outer edges of the first two rows. You may want to snap additional lines as guides for the outer rows as you proceed with the installation.
To use as a guide to begin the installation, prepare a perfectly square piece of plywood 20” x 20” (500mm x 500mm). Select your starting area in the middle of the room and affix the plywood guide to the subfloor in a diamond position with the top and bottom points aligned with the center line.

Prepare the boxes of flooring. A unique feature of chevron herringbone flooring is that the boards are milled in two different profiles, one for the left side of the pattern and one for the right. It is recommended that you physically separate the boxes, keeping the left boards on your left hand working side and the right boards on your right hand working side. This will avoid confusion when you begin installing.

Open a box of each, inspect the boards, and rack out your first section of flooring.

Use Kentwood PRO Elastomeric Flooring Adhesive or similar moisture-cured urethane adhesive specially formulated for wood flooring installation. For trowel selection, adhesive application and all other aspects of adhesive usage, follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions.

Begin installation in the area directly in front of your plywood guide. Spread adhesive over a reasonable working area. Set the first right hand board in place with the groove side snug to the plywood guide and the butt ends aligned with the chalk guides. Set the first left hand board in place against the plywood guide, engaging the upper butt joint with that of the right hand board. When installing boards, avoid pushing them into place across the subfloor as this may unevenly redistribute the adhesive. Instead, hold the new board above the subfloor at an angle, engage the tongue and groove joint, then press the board directly down onto the subfloor. Ensure no glue is forced into tongue & groove joints during installation as this may affect the fit of the joint. Avoid getting adhesive on the flooring surface, and clean up any seepage or spills immediately according to manufacturer’s instructions.

To prevent boards shifting after they have been set into place, strap them with blue mask tape. (Do not use regular masking tape as it may leave a residue of adhesive on the surface.)

Continue working forward until the first two rows are complete to the far wall. Cut final row to fit, allowing ½” expansion space to the wall. Remove the plywood guide and work back to complete the first two rows.

Continue with the installation in whichever direction best suits the working conditions. Check measurements and row alignment frequently to ensure that your rows are staying true and square. Snap new chalk lines with every row to serve as guides.

When installation is complete, remove all the blue mask tape from the floor. (Do not leave the blue mask tape on the floor for more than 24 hours.) If desired, roll the floor with a padded roller of recommended weight (100 to 150 lbs). Install moldings and transitions as required. Ensure baseboard moldings are affixed to the wall, not the floor. Wait 24 hours before moving furniture or appliances onto floor.

If the flooring was installed over a radiant heating system, wait 24 hours after installation or until the adhesive has fully cured before turning the system back on. Bring the temperature of the system up gradually, in 50 increments. Never allow the surface temperature of the floor to exceed 82°F (28°C) and avoid dramatic temperature changes; always adjust the system gradually in 50 increments. It is recommended that a dedicated thermostat be installed to allow the temperature of the radiant heating system to be accurately controlled.

PART 04
After Installation

ON COMPLETION OF THE INSTALLATION:

- Sweep or vacuum the floor and clean lightly with Therapy by Kentwood Spray Cleanser to ensure the floor is delivered to the customer looking its best
- Ensure the homeowner or site supervisor is cognizant of the need to maintain heat and humidity at the required levels at all times
• Ensure the homeowner or site supervisor has been given a copy of the Kentwood care & maintenance guidelines (available online at kentwoodfloors.com)
• Complete a visual inspection of the installation with the homeowner or site supervisor. Inspect the floor from a standing position in non-reflected light. Touch up nail holes or slight imperfections with appropriate touch up putty or stain according to accepted industry practice.
• Complete the installation record form for future reference

**If the floor is not being put into use immediately, the use of a floor protection membrane is strongly recommended.** Use a material with a Perm Class 3 vapor permeance rating to avoid trapping moisture/vapor on or within the floor. We recommend Kentwood Kover. When using floor protection, be sure to:

• Cover the entire floor to avoid exposing a partial area to sunlight causing an uneven color change.
• Overlap the seams of the membrane and tape them to each other. Never tape the membrane directly to the floor.
• Run membrane to the perimeter walls and tape to the base or shoe mouldings using low adhesion masking tape.

**24 HOURS AFTER INSTALLATION:**

• Remove blue tape if necessary.
• Install a floor protection membrane (Kentwood Kover) where appropriate (see above).
• If the flooring was installed over a radiant heating system, bring the temperature of the system up gradually, in 5°F (2°C) increments. Never allow the surface temperature of the floor to exceed 82°F (28°C) and avoid dramatic temperature changes; always adjust the system gradually in 5°F (2°C) increments. It is recommended that a dedicated thermostat be installed to allow the temperature of the radiant heating system to be accurately controlled.