

# Elastilon® **Strong**

**Peel & Stick Easy Install Underlayment**  
**INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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**Sous-plancher à**  
**endos préencollé facile à installer**  
**INSTRUCTIONS D'INSTALLATION**

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**Contrapiso autoadhesivo**  
**de fácil instalación**  
**INSTRUCCIONES DE INSTALACIÓN**



# Installation Instructions

Please carefully review the instructions for both Elastilon and your flooring material before starting your project. Elastilon is designed as a floating installation system, so do not permanently fix or attach it to the subfloor or install under permanent cabinetry.

It is the responsibility of the owner/installer to ensure that the material, the environmental and the subfloor conditions are acceptable before the installation commences. The following instructions comply with recommendations as outlined in the Installation Guidelines and Methods published by the National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA). Additional application information is available at [www.NWFA.org](http://www.NWFA.org).

## Job Site Preparation

As wood is a natural product, it is important to recognize that hardwood floors will be affected by the levels of humidity and temperature within a room. The climate conditions in the room need to be maintained prior (at least 14 days), during and after the installation. The installation site must have a consistent room temperature of 60° - 80°F (16 – 27°C) and humidity level between 40-65% maximum (maintaining humidity levels closer to the upper range are recommended). Permanent air conditioning and heating systems need to be operational at all times. Care must be taken with wood stoves and electric heat which tend to create very dry conditions. The use of dehumidifier or humidifier depending on the situation may be necessary to maintain desired results. For complete details on how to deal with wood floors and the environment, please refer to the NWFA publications (# A100 - Water and Wood / No. C200 - Problems, Causes and Cures).

Be sure to follow the minimum jobsite recommendations listed in Section 1, Chapter 1 of the NWFA Installation Guidelines and Methods. All subfloors must be prepared for installation in accordance with normal subfloor preparation procedures and accepted tolerances within the wood flooring industry. Check the subfloor to see if it specifically meets the following requirements:

- Concrete slabs must be at least 60 days old and the moisture content cannot exceed 3 lbs. / 1000 sq. ft. under a Calcium Chloride test. The moisture content of the concrete floor must not exceed 3.9%. Also the RH levels in the concrete should not exceed 75%. If the moisture level of the concrete subfloor cannot be determined or if levels exceed the desired parameters, then the use of a 6 mil polyethylene film vapor barrier is mandatory.
- Wood subfloors must not exceed 13% moisture content and the moisture content difference between the subfloor and the flooring material must not exceed 4%.
- The subfloor must be even with a maximum tolerance between 1/8 in. over 6 ft. or 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. radius. (2 mm per 2.5 meters)
- The subfloor must be free of debris and any other loose material. Wood subfloors must be stable and securely fastened to supporting joists. Be sure to nail or screw any areas that are loose or squeak. Sand, scrape, or grind any raised edges and level all low spots with the appropriate leveling compound (Concrete floors included) so that maximum tolerances are met.
- Use of an approved wood flooring water or electrical radiant sub floor heating system is approved when installed either within or above the concrete / wood subfloor. The heating system should be run 3 to 4 days prior to the installation at a reduced temperature of 64°F (18°C). Two days after the installation is complete, the temperature of the system may be raised gradually over a one-week period to its desired operating temperature. Please note that the surface temperature of flooring should never exceed 81°F (27°C). Adding humidification may be necessary to maintain humidity levels at required levels. Always follow the flooring manufacturers' recommendations when it comes to radiant heat.

## Installation

Elastilon can be used over any structurally sound subfloor or just about any existing flooring material. Lay it right over any wood, concrete, vinyl tile or sheet, ceramic, or any other FLAT stable material. DO NOT INSTALL OVER ANY TYPE OF CARPETING.

- In all below-grade applications, always install an approved 6 mil polyethylene film vapor barrier before laying the Elastilon. For concrete floors that are on-grade or above-grade, if the moisture parameters are higher than the required levels or the moisture levels cannot be determined, a 6 mil polyethylene film vapor barrier must be installed. All joints of the vapor barrier need to be overlapped by at least 8 in. (20 cm) and sealed with a moisture resistant tape. Allow the vapor barrier to run up the walls 3 – 4 in. (8 – 9 cm). The excess can be trimmed once the installation is complete.
- Begin by deciding the best layout of the floor for the room. It is best to start along the longest wall in the room. Remember that the floor must never be fastened to the floor below or any stationary object.
- Roll out the Elastilon (white plastic film side up) perpendicular (a right angle) to the direction of the flooring.
  - For 'First Time Users', run an equivalent amount of Elastilon underlayment up the starter wall, as the width of 2-1/2 planks. See 'First Time User' instructions for creating a starter strip below.
  - For 'Subsequent Time Users', run the Elastilon underlayment flush to the starter wall. See 'Subsequent Time User' instructions for creating a starter strip below.
- The rolls should be tight side by side with no overlap. See Figure (1). Be sure to cover the entire work area. Do not tape the long edge of the rolls together. The short end (3 ft. / 1 m side) of the rolls can be taped together to maintain alignment. The Elastilon should be free floating and not fastened to the floor below.
- You need to create a starter strip against the wall that the flooring will start to be installed. There are two methods available:
  - **FIRST TIME USERS:** Peel back the white protective film from only the underlayment that runs up the starter wall. Cut off the underlayment material below the film that is peeled back (leaving just the white protective film). The remaining underlayment material will then lay flush to the starter wall and the protective film (starter strip) will be positioned up against the wall where you intend to start laying the floor. See Figure (2). The extra underlayment that was cut off can be used at a later point in the installation or on a future installation. Simply place a leftover piece of the white protective film over the exposed adhesive until it is ready to be used.
  - **SUBSEQUENT TIME USERS:** With the Elastilon rolled out, peel and fold back the white vinyl protective film the width of 2-½ planks along the wall you will be starting at. **DO NOT** cut the Elastilon or the film. The adhesive layer will be exposed. Use the white vinyl protective film that was removed from a previous installation and fold it in half and place it onto the exposed adhesive layer with the crease facing the starting wall. Be sure that the temporary folded strip extends onto the original peeled back section. This temporary fold is now the starter strip where you will begin to build your floor.

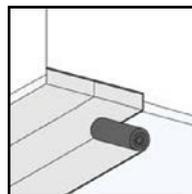


Figure 1

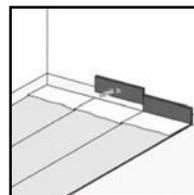


Figure 2

Note: An expansion space of at least 5/8 in. (16 mm) must be maintained around the perimeter of the installed flooring and all walls and stationary objects. It may be necessary to undercut the Sheetrock (drywall) to allow for additional expansion room. Expansion space will also need to be maintained in doorways.

- With the white protective film starter strip now folded back over the Elastilon, begin assembling the first two rows of flooring (tongue edge facing out from the wall) over this folded strip from side wall to side wall. The end joints should be staggered by the wood manufacturers' recommendations and/or industry recommendations. A small amount of white carpenters' glue (PVA) needs to be applied to all adjoining board-end joints (small butt joint). Be sure to clean any glue residue before it dries. See Figure (3)

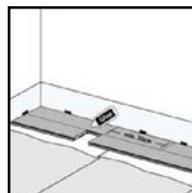


Figure 3

- Ensure that the floor boards are fitted together tightly and straight and that they are free of any dust or contaminants before they are installed. See Figure (4).
- When the first two rows are in position, apply forward pressure to the two rows so that the joint between them remains seamless, and then simply pull the white protective starter strip out from under the board to the edge of the flooring, being careful not to expose the adhesive face. See Figure (5). If this does occur, just tuck the protective film back under the edge of the already installed floor board. Finally, apply pressure to the top of the flooring to secure it firmly to the Elastilon. Do not use mechanical fastening systems such as straps to force boards together. It is permissible to use blue painters tape to keep board alignment as you continue to build the floor on the release film.
- At this time, you should confirm with a chalk or laser line how straight your installed floor is. The floor can still be adjusted at this point to ensure that it is square to the room.
- After the first two rows are installed, you can continue to lay multiple rows of flooring, following the same installation guidelines as the first two rows. Be sure to tap each board tightly together and to apply forward pressure as you pull the white protective film from under the flooring. Continue to press down on the installed floor as you lay the floor wall. You want to have full contact between the Elastilon and the flooring installed over it. As you pull off the protective film, it can be rolled up or folded for future use.

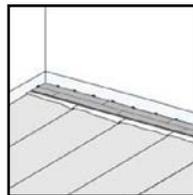


Figure 4

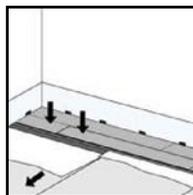


Figure 5

- It is necessary to put weight on the floor (as easy as walking over it), to help the floor adhere to the Elastilon evenly. It is important to have a strong bond between the floor and the Elastilon. If the subfloor has not been properly prepared there may be a need to weight down the low areas of the floor to ensure a good bond.
- Please note that it is possible to remove an installed floor board for only a brief period after it has been installed over Elastilon. If needed, slowly pull up the board from the Elastilon taking particular care not to damage the adhesive layer. A removed board can then be reinstalled as before. Once the adhesive has set (approximately 20 minutes) the only means to remove a board is to cut out the piece in question and replace it by gluing the four sides of a new board back in place. Be sure to place a piece of Elastilon underneath the new board so as to ensure a level surface with the rest of the floor.
- Once the floor has been completely installed, remove the expansion spacers and trim any excess poly to the floor level. To cover the expansion gaps, install/reinstall all baseboards and add appropriate moldings as needed.
- If installing unfinished flooring, it can be sanded immediately after installation.

## Special Notes

All wood products are affected by environmental conditions, especially prefinished materials. Acclimate the new flooring in the areas to be installed to normal lived in conditions while in the boxes, and in accordance with the flooring manufacturer's instructions. Detailed records need to be kept of the various environmental conditions and MC levels for reference if required at a later date. This is the responsibility of those overseeing the installation.

Elastilon can be used with long length (8 ft. / 2.44 m) as well as short length (12 in. / .30 m) boards. Be sure to follow the manufacturers' recommendations in terms of mixing floor boards to optimize the look and strength of the floor.

It is also important to visually inspect each piece of wood flooring before being installed. As with any other type of installation method, Elastilon cannot compensate for flooring that is severely bowed warped, cupped, milled incorrectly or damaged prior to an installation. However, most boards may be used if the defective section is cut and removed.

Deflection may cause a minimal amount of friction or "floor noise". Note that normal floor noise

will vary from one installation type to the next depending on subfloor type, subfloor deflection, species, milling and type of flooring material, relative humidity and the amount of topside pressure applied to the flooring material. For these reasons, "floor noise" is not considered a defect.

Although these instructions are common to the installation of Elastilon with all hardwood floors, particular attention must be given to the following when installing thinner boards. For example: ½ in. (12.5 mm), 3/8" (10 mm) and 5/16 in. (8 mm) wide flooring.

- All end joints must be glued throughout the installation.
- The floor must be flat to within .08 in. over 8 ft. (2 mm over 2.5 m)
- Expansion room must be maintained around all walls and obstacles.
- Transition moldings need to be placed at all doorways and hall entrances and areas greater than 30 ft. in width or length.
- Each board should be carefully inspected prior to the installation. Boards should be straight and flat without bowing, warping or cupping prior to the installation.

For a copy of Elastilon's full product warranty please visit our website:  
[www.robertsconsolidated.com](http://www.robertsconsolidated.com)

For any questions, please contact your local dealer or Elastilon at 1-866-435-8665.

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