

TECH TIPS

(By Steve Marley)

Article #2

August 8, 2014

Using the Correct Fastener for the Material Being Installed, Along With the Correct Fastening Schedule

Does it really matter?

The plain and simple answer is YES!!!

Okay, so it matters, but why? The answer is quite simple; a shorter fastener does not penetrate as far into the sub-straight as a longer fastener does, which diminishes its ability to securely fasten the plank to the sub-floor. Now, when you combine this with a fastening schedule outside the specified ranges you are creating a recipe for the dreaded “SQUEAKY FLOOR SYNDROME.” The bottom line is, short fasteners, and/or an insufficient fastening schedule can/will result in a loosely attached floor, which allows for the individual boards to move up and down, and when this occurs, the boards tend to rub together ultimately resulting in squeaks.

How to prevent squeaky floor syndrome: First and foremost it is imperative to make sure that the sub-floor conforms to the flatness requirements set forth by the wood flooring manufacturer. Most manufacturer’s will require the sub-floor to be flat to within 3/16” over 10’ in all directions. Secondly, but just as important, follow the manufacturer’s guidelines when it comes to the recommended fastener type/length and schedule between fasteners. By following the manufacturer’s guidelines, you will significantly reduce, or even eliminate the chance for squeaky floor syndrome to even occur.

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(Continued From Article #2 Recommended Fastening Schedule)

Article #3

August 16, 2014

Wood Flooring Type	Fastener to be Used	Fastener Spacing
Solid plank 3/4" thick T&G wider than 3"	16-gage cleat 1 3/4" to 2" over raised foundation. 16-gage cleat 1 1/2" over 3/4" plywood sub-floor on slab. 15-gage 1/2" crown staple 1 3/4" to 2" over raised foundation. 15-gage 1/2" crown staple 1 1/2" over 3/4" plywood sub-floor on slab.	Blind fastening along the lengths of the planks 1" – 3" from the boards' ends and 6" – 8" thereafter.
Engineered plank 3/8" thick	18-gage 1/4" crown staple 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" 20-gage cleat 1 1/4" to 1 1/2"	Blind fastening (staples) along the lengths of the planks 1" – 2" from the boards' ends and 3" – 4" thereafter. Blind fastening (cleats) along the lengths of the planks 1" – 2" from the boards' ends and 4" – 6" thereafter.
Engineered plank 1/2" to 9/16" thick	18-gage 1/4" crown staple 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" 20-gage cleat 1 1/4" to 1 1/2"	Blind fastening (staples) along the lengths of the planks 1" – 2" from the boards' ends and 3" – 4" thereafter. Blind fastening (cleats) along the lengths of the planks 1" – 2" from the boards' ends and 4" – 6" thereafter.
Engineered plank 5/8" to 3/4" thick	TBD	TBD