

Tech Tips: Tongue & Groove Installation

THE GROOVE ON THIS NOSING IS WAY TOO BIG!!!

Has this happened to you? Your customer or an installer calls you up in a total uproar stating that during the installation of the trim nosing they discovered that the groove on the nosing is “WAY TOO BIG,” which results in a sloppy/loose connection between the flooring plank and the nosing. They go on to say that the molding was mis milled and that there is no way they can use the molding in its present condition and that new moldings need to be made with matching tongue and groove profiles.

Actually, believe it or not, there is nothing wrong with the way in which the groove profile was made. In fact, it is made that way on purpose and here is the reason why: The milling profiles differ from wood flooring manufacturer to wood flooring manufacturer with regards to the placement of the tongue and groove. The bottom line is, to match the tongue and groove profiles for all the different wood flooring manufacturers would require constant retooling, which would result in significant down time resulting in much higher costs for the finished product. By utilizing a standard size groove, the molding manufacturer is able to accommodate a wide variety of wood flooring profiles with regards to the grooves placement. It also speeds up the production times by not have to halt production by having to retool.

But won't the tongue and groove be too loose? The answer is no, not if it's put together correctly. The key is too completely fill the groove channel with high viscosity glue, which when cured, will create a continuous bond all around the tongue and groove, perminately locking the tongue and groove together preventing them from moving.

Please refer to the photos on the next page that shows a close-up of the tongue and groove joints of a stair nose and piece of flooring. **Notice how the glue completely fills the space between the tongue and groove creating a continuous bond once dried and cured.**

