

## **PRE-FINISHED, 3/4" & 5/16" SOLIDS, STRIP OR PLANK**

### **THE FOLLOWING CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES ARE AN APPENDIX OF THE SHAW HARDWOODS WARRANTY FOR APPLICABLE PRODUCTS.**

*PLEASE READ AND REVIEW THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS AND CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION. FAILURE TO MEET NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS STATED WITHIN THE INSTRUCTIONS WILL VOID THE SHAW WARRANTY COVERAGE. THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES ARE INTENDED FOR USE WITH SOLID HARDWOODS ONLY. (Refer to applicable warranty appendix for installation instructions and care & maintenance guidelines when installing engineered hardwoods.)*

### **PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE**

- Wood flooring is a natural product that will be greatly affected by the environment. It is important to know that as humidity levels change throughout the year, your flooring will have a tendency to expand and contract. In order to keep your wood flooring always looking its best, we recommend that you try and keep your humidity levels between 35-65% year round. Some suggestions on how to do that:
  - Heating Season (Dry)-In the drier months, a humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to add to the dry conditions.
  - Non-Heating Season (Humid, Wet)-In the summer time, an air-conditioner, dehumidifier, or turning on your heating unit periodically can reduce humidity levels. In the wetter months, avoid excessive exposure to water and make sure all expansion areas around the perimeter of the floor are not blocked.
- Vacuum your floor regularly as you would carpet. Do not use a vacuum with any type of rotating brush; a brush attachment works perfectly. In addition, sweep your floor with a broom or a dry dust mop on an as needed basis.
- Water can be very damaging to your floor; therefore food or liquid spills should be removed in a timely manner. If a cleaner is needed for difficult spots, use a damp sponge. Do not use any abrasive type of sponge or cleaner. For general cleaning of soiled areas, dip or spray a clean cloth with Hard Surface Cleaner. The cloth should be slightly moistened, not wet. As you clean the floor, follow by wiping the floor dry.
- Never wet mop your floor with water and /or products like Oil Soap. Water is your floors' worst enemy. Water can cause wood to expand and may damage the floor. Adding an Oil Soap to the mop has a similar effect as with other waxes and cleaning agents. They can leave residue on your flooring surface and they can soften and dull the flooring finish.
- Use mats at all exterior doors to help reduce sand and grit from getting onto the floor. Gritty sand on the bottom of shoes will act like sandpaper and can damage any finish.
- Keep high heel shoes in good repair. Any spike high heel shoe that has lost the protective cap can exert over 1000 pounds per square inch of pressure which can damage your floor.
- Wood is a natural material and will change color due to exposure to natural and artificial UV light. Any area rugs should be moved from time to time, to allow the flooring to naturally change color when exposed to the light.
- Your floor already has the best finish available on the market today. There is no need to put any type of wax on the floor. Do not use any ammonia, wax or oil based cleaners.
- NOTE: Spray mist only as necessary. Do not apply moisture unnecessarily, vacuum instead. Ammonia will damage or dull many surface finishes and should not be used to clean your solid wood floor. Too much moisture will damage your floor and void the warranty.

### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

**Doorways:** Attempting to continue installing rows through a doorway into another room can cause problems because the narrow opening is a very small base upon which to continue consistent even rows into the next room. **Use a master reference line placed through the adjoining rooms to insure plank alignment.**

**To avoid these problems, rooms may be divided at doorways by using a color matched T-molding.**

**Pipes, vents and other fixed objects:** Each can be unique, but the general rule is to measure very carefully before you cut and remember to leave an expansion gap equal to the thickness of the flooring, between the fixed object and the flooring. You will cover expansion gaps with molding, colored sealant, vent covers or pipe rings when the floor is complete.

**Installation on Stairs:** Flooring on stairs must be fully nailed to the stairs. Installation on a flight of Stairs or complete stairwell is not recommended. Check with local building codes before cutting off any of the original wood or bull nosing on the existing step. Stair Nose Moldings should be installed using construction grade adhesive, as well as screw type fasteners or nails.

**CAUTION:** Hardwood installed on steps can be slippery when dusty or wet. Always use caution on steps, especially while walking on steps with stockings or socks only, on the feet.

## MOLDINGS, TRIM & TRANSITION PIECES

### Installation Tips:

- Moldings must be predrilled **to** avoid splitting whenever they are to be secured with nails or fasteners, unless a pneumatic trim nailer is used.
- The tool of choice for cutting hardwood moldings is a 10" or 12" motorized miter saw with pre-set adjustments for the basic miter cuts at 22.5°, 45°, and 90°. A carbide tipped blade makes the best cuts.
- When installing Wall Base molding, eliminate the need to putty as many holes on the molding by placing the bottom nail below the finished line of the Quarter Round.
- On Wall Base or Quarter Round moldings, never restrict the hardwood floor's natural contraction/expansion movement by driving the fasteners at a downward angle. Rather, attach the moldings to the wall or vertical surface.
- Always miter cuts rather than having butt cuts when splicing hardwood moldings. Decide the direction of the miter by cutting the molding with the long point oriented in the same direction as your natural line of vision when you enter the room.

**Wall Base** - Borders the wood floor at the base of the wall to give the room a finished look. This molding along with the Quarter Round conceals the required expansion space between the wall and the hardwood flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks.

**Quarter Round** - This molding conceals the required expansion space between the Wall Base and the hardwood flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks where a wall base won't fit or at the base of the stairs to provide a subtle blend between the floor and the wall or vertical surface.

**Threshold** – A molding typically used at exterior doorways as a transition between flooring and the doorway threshold. It is also used to transition a wood floor to different floors to make them fit together perfectly, such as high pile carpeting or tile. Another typical use for a threshold is to conceal the expansion space between the flooring and a vertical surface such as fireplace hearths and sliding glass doors.

- Installation: Lay the Threshold Molding in place to determine a proper fit. The Threshold Molding should overlap the flooring by 1/8" to 1/4" leaving the balance for expansion. Nail the molding to the subfloor behind the lip of the molding. Be sure when nailing, not to obstruct the floors expansion space.

**T Molding** - Used in doorways to join two wood floors in adjoining rooms, or when making transitions, from a wood floor to another floor that is approximately the same height such as ceramic tile, hardwood or laminate floors.

- Installation: A space of 1 1/4" between the two adjoining floors is necessary to properly install the T- molding. This is to allow for the expansion space. Measure, cut, and dry fit the T-molding in place to insure the proper fit. When using the T-molding between a ceramic tile floor and the hardwood floor, apply 1/4" bead of clear silicone sealant to the top edge of the ceramic tile. When using between two hardwood floors, seat the molding in place allowing for a minimum of a 1/4" overlap on the wood flooring. Make sure to allow for the expansion space between the T-Molding and the tile or wood. Fasten the T-mold by nailing to the subfloor through the center part of the molding.

**Flush Reducer** - Used to join hardwood floors with floors in adjoining rooms that have floor coverings that are lower in height, such as vinyl, ceramic tile, or low pile carpeting.

- Installation: To attached molding, pre-drill and nail in appropriate 6" to 8" intervals. Do not nail closer than 2"-3" from the ends of either side.

**Flush Stair Nose** - Provides the proper transition for stair treads, which match the hardwood flooring that has been installed. The Stair Nose also provides the proper transition from one floor level to the next, such as the step down into a sunken living room.

- Installation: All Stair Nose moldings must be installed using construction grade adhesive as well as finish nails or screws. Set the nail or screw heads, then use color matched wood filler to achieve a desirable finished look.

## **HARDWOOD FLOORING CARE & MAINTENANCE**

### **Routine Maintenance**

- Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
- For tough spot cleaning, such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, or tar, use an acetone based nail polish remover (10% solution) on a clean white cloth, then wipe the area with a damp cloth and buff dry to remove any remaining residue.
- Sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor regularly with the hard floor attachment (not the beater bar) to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- Periodically clean the floor with cleaning products made specifically for pre-finished hardwood floor care. Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not wash or **wet** mop the floor with furniture polish, soap, water, or oil-soap detergents, or any other liquid cleaning material. This could cause swelling, warping, delamination, discoloration and joint-line separation, and void the warranty. Always avoid using excessive amounts of water or cleaner on the flooring. Damp mopping should only be done with a well wrung out sponge mop designed for hardwood flooring.
- Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
- Do not use any type of buffing, polishing or steam cleaning machine on your flooring.
- For 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, you may need to use a heavy-duty stain remover made specifically for hardwood floors.
- A more frequent dust-mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.

### **Environmental Protection**

- Entry mats will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that might otherwise be tracked onto your floor.
- Do not use rubber or foam backed plastic mats as they may discolor the flooring finish. To prevent slippage, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
- Use floor protectors and wide-load bearing leg bases/ rollers to minimize indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector.
- Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 35% and 65% throughout the year to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of the wood.
  - Heating season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.
  - Non Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier, or periodically turning on your heating will help to maintain humidity levels during summer months.
- Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.
- Do not walk on your floor with stiletto heels, spiked golf shoes, or other types of sports cleats.
- Do not allow sharp, pointed, or rough textured objects to be exposed to the hardwood flooring.
- Keep your pet's nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.
- Rearranging your area rugs and furniture must be accomplished periodically allow the floor to age evenly. UV sunlight will soften or darken the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees.

- Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances; but first, put down a piece of quarter inch plywood or Masonite to protect the floor. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.
- A protective mat should be used for furniture or chairs with castors.

## **Repairing Your Hardwood Floor**

- Minor damage to your hardwood floor can be repaired by using a color fill. This special product should be matched to the color of your floor and, when properly used, will make the damaged area virtually invisible. In addition, the repaired area will hold up well to traffic and wear.
- A qualified hardwood flooring installer should repair extensive damage to traditional engineered or solid hardwood flooring.
- Call the SHAW Information Center at 1-800-441-7429 for assistance.