

*Installation Instructions*



**Why Swedes  
have both feet on  
the floor...**



AKTIEBOLAGET  
**BERG & BERG**

## **Quality you can stand on.**

*Berg & Berg is dedicated to producing natural hardwood floors to the highest technical Swedish standards. As we strongly believe in the natural beauty of real wood, we do not stain any of our floors, but offer a wide selection of natural colors instead. We control the entire production process from milling the logs to drying and applying the 5-coat UV finish to our product. This silky finish maintains the natural appearance of the floor and offers maximum protection.*

## **Why choose Berg & Berg?**

**Solid Sawn Hardwood** *The wear layer of all our floors is made of solid hardwood—never veneers.*

**Natural Colors Only** *Unlike stained products, Berg & Berg floors come in their natural grain and color throughout the entire wear layer.*

**High Dimension Stability** *The 3-layer cross-grained engineered construction provides our planks with a superior dimensional stability.*

**Quality Engineering** *Berg & Berg floors are precision milled for trouble free installation and long-term durability.*

**Cleaner Installations** *No sanding, no fumes, no smells, no mess. Install and enjoy your new floor the very same day.*



**Enduring Protection** *Five coats of Bona High Endurance UV finish, provides superior scratch and abrasion resistance for years of trouble-free service.*

## Installation Instructions

Acclimatize the unopened original cartons for at least 48 hours (at normal ambient temperature) in the room where the floor is to be installed. Open the cartons just prior to installation.

### BEFORE INSTALLATION

We recommend the installation of this product as a floating floor. Floating installations join the individual floor elements using adhesive in the tongue and groove profile, without glued connection to the subfloor or contact with surrounding walls.

Glue-down installation should be performed only by professionals. Berg & Berg engineered wood floors can be installed over radiant heating with a maximum surface temperature of 81°F. Please refer to details below.

Check each board prior to installation for any possible visual defect or misgrading. These will be replaced free of charge.

Room temperature and relative humidity during and after installation should be 65–80°F and 45–60% respectively. These values represent a healthy and comfortable environment. Exceeding these levels can lead to irreversible damage to wood floors. Good ventilation during and after installation avoids build-up of temperature and humidity.

### INSTALLATION OVER RADIANT HEATING

Berg & Berg engineered floors may be installed over radiant heated subfloors. However, it is imperative to follow these guidelines:

- The subfloor should be completely dry. Moisture on a dry-weight basis must not exceed 1.5% for concrete, 0.3% or less for gypsum bonded subfloors, and 6–10% for wood.
- A vapor barrier should be installed on all concrete, stone or other mineral subfloors.
- Two days after completion of the installation, gradually increase the temperature over a 7-day period to normal operating level.
- Never allow the floor surface temperature to exceed 81°F.
- Maintain recommended interior humidity levels at all times, if necessary, by means of humidifiers and fans.

Beech and maple expand and contract more than other wood types. There is a greater risk of gaps appearing especially when installed over radiant-heating systems. Such gaps are not manufacturing defects. Take the above into consideration when choosing a wood type to be installed over radiant heating.

### **SUBFLOORS**

Subfloors should be clean, dry, flat and leveled. The subfloor level should not vary more than 1/8" in 8 ft. Uneven subfloors must be leveled. We strongly recommend the complete removal of all carpet and fabric surfaces.

Engineered wood flooring must be protected against humidity arising from the subfloor. A vapor barrier should be installed on all concrete, stone or other mineral subfloors. A suitable vapor barrier is a 6 mil poly film layer, which should be installed with an 8" overlap. Tape all joints. Extend the poly film a few inches up the walls.

Regardless of the age of the subfloor, a moisture barrier should always be used in the following applications: On top of concrete subfloors with direct ground contact, on lightweight concrete joists, on floors above hot or damp spaces (boiler rooms and laundries), and on joists over ventilated crawling space in foundations.

As an alternative to poly film a waterproof moisture membrane may be used.

### **NOISE REDUCTION**

Place sound insulation material on top of the moisture barrier. Do not overlap the joints.

We recommend Cork, PE-foam, or a similar sound abatement product, giving a minimum IIC rating of 56 and STC rating of 53.

### **SPACING**

Wood is a living material which expands when moisture levels increase. A minimum gap of 1/2" should be maintained between all edges of the floor and walls. Also hold to this expansion gap in doorways or wherever floors of different rooms meet. During installation the gaps are kept open with wedges, which should be removed immediately after a room has been finished or during any long interruptions in installation.

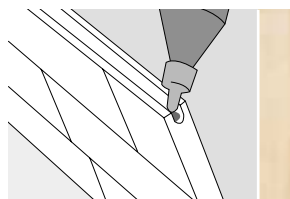
Rooms 30 ft. or more in one direction should be divided into smaller sections. Cover the expansion gap with a T-mold.

### **APPLICATION OF ADHESIVE**

To secure a durable wood floor the boards must be bonded with adhesive in the tongue and groove. We recommend waterproof PVAC wood adhesive.

The adhesive must be applied in a continuous bead along the top inside edge of the groove, both long and short edge:

Over radiant heating system an additional bead is applied to the bottom inside edge of the groove.



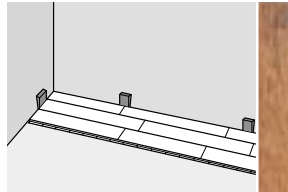
Join the elements immediately using a square edged hardwood tapping block (1 ft. or longer) and a hammer. The tapping block should always be positioned along the tongue.

## INSTALLATION

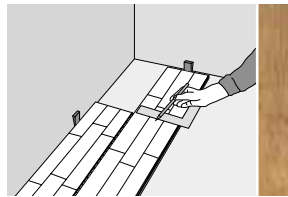
In long and narrow rooms the boards should always be positioned lengthwise. When possible, place the floor-boards in the direction of natural daylight.

- Installation should be started in a left corner with the grooves towards the wall:

For uneven walls scribe the profile on the first row of boards, and cut accordingly.

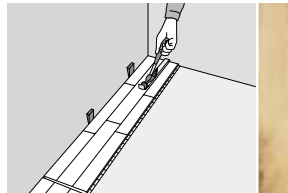


- The last piece in a row is scribed and cut. Do not forget the expansion gap at the end of each row and secure it with wedges:

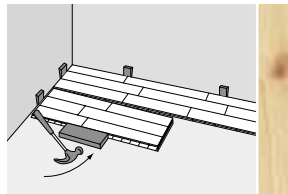


- Use an installation bar to insert the last segment:

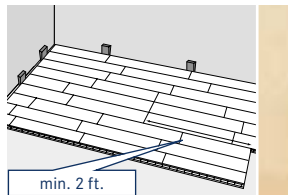
It is very important that the first rows are absolutely straight.



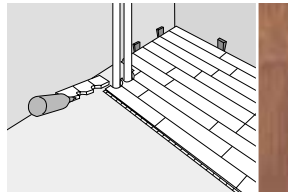
- Use the remaining cut-off to start the next row:



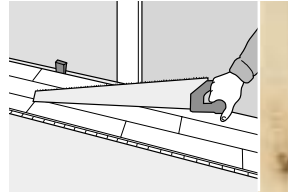
- The ends of adjacent rows must have an offset of at least 2 ft.:



- Keep a minimum 1/2" distance from all stationary objects (heating pipes, spindles etc.):

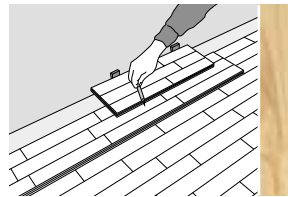


- Cut wooden door jambs and frames so that the floor can slide underneath with ease. Take a piece of the flooring as a distance guide for the saw, and cut the door jamb with a thin saw blade:

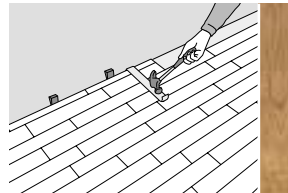


If the door jamb cannot be cut, maintain an expansion gap. It can be covered with elastomeric sealer or a wooden profile (molding).

- For the last row scribe the profile of the wall and cut accordingly:



- Put the last boards in place using an installation bar. Do not forget the expansion gap:



After the last board is in place, all wedges must be removed. The expansion gaps are then covered with moldings. They must allow natural expansion and movement of the floor.