



**Baird Brothers Fine Hardwoods**  
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# HOW TO TREAT AND HANDLE HARDWOOD FLOORING

A list of tips that will save you time, money and trouble.



FINE HARDWOODS  
*Our Family's Heritage. Your Family's Home.*

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# Installation Safeguards for Hardwood Floors

**BAIRD BROTHERS FINE HARDWOOD FLOORING** is a kiln-dried product. It is manufactured at 6% moisture content with a 2% allowance for pieces outside of that range, up to 8% maximum moisture content. To maintain these moisture levels in transit, do not transport or unload the material in rainy, snowy, or other excessively humid conditions. Be sure to cover the material with a tarpaulin or vinyl if conditions are either foggy or damp.

**PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**, examine the job site for the following conditions. Any excessive moisture underneath/in the house, insufficient ventilation under the house, wet subfloors or subfloors with inadequate moisture barriers must be addressed prior to unloading any material in that area.

- **CRAWL SPACE CONSTRUCTION** — A ground cover of 4-6 mil polyethylene is essential as a moisture barrier. Vents must be in place to provide adequate cross ventilation.
- **CONCRETE SLAB CONSTRUCTION** — Proper on-grade construction requires both a vapor barrier between the gravel fill and the slab to prevent moisture entry through the slab, and a vapor barrier on top of the slab to prevent moisture from reaching the finished floor.
- **SUBFLOORS PREFERRED** — 5/8" or thicker plywood or dressed 3/4" square edge boards (no wider than 6" laid on the diagonal) with maximum joist spacing of 16" o.c., minimum thickness 1/2" exterior sheathing grade plywood should be glued and properly nailed into place. NON-VENEERED PRODUCTS SUCH AS CHIP-BOARD ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.
- **HANDLING & STORAGE** — Flooring must be stored in a dry, well ventilated area.
- **PRIOR TO DELIVERY OF FLOORING** — The building must be closed-in with all outside windows and doors in place and sheetrock fully installed. All concrete, masonry and framing members, etc. should be thoroughly dry. Never pour concrete after flooring has been delivered.
- **AFTER DELIVERY OF FLOORING** — The material should be broken down into smaller lots and stored in the area in which it will be installed. Allow two to three days for the flooring to become acclimated to that particular job site. Temperature and humidity should be maintained at or near occupancy levels.

Here are some guidelines and frequently asked questions to assist you during installation, and to help keep your floor looking great for years to come.

- **WASTE & DEFECTS** — The industry allowance for cuts and defects is 5%. It is the responsibility of the installer to check all pieces of flooring for any type of defect prior to the installation.
- **TOOLS & TIPS FOR INSTALLATION** — A pneumatic air gun (with 1-1/2" or 2" nails) is recommended for ease of installation. Be sure not to over tighten the flooring during installation, as this is the most common cause of "cupped" boards. Start your rows with cut off pieces nailed evenly across floor joists.
- **AFTER THE FLOORING IS INSTALLED** — In order to maintain the beauty of the floor and to ensure that it remains in sound, structural condition – basements and crawl spaces must be kept consistently dry. Dampness in these areas must be avoided!
- **RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE** — All furniture which will be in contact with the floor should have felt pads that are maintained to help prevent surface scratching. You can sweep or dust mop your floor daily but only deep clean with appropriate cleaner as needed. Avoid wet-mops or steam mops that can dull the finish, or even damage the wood.