

Installing Hardwood Flooring Doesn't Have To Be Difficult

There are many homeowners who elect to implement the use of hardwood flooring in their home. They enjoy the many options that are available when it comes to hardwood, as well as the lasting impression that this type of flooring leaves. However, many are hesitant to integrate this type of flooring into the home because they do not have the funding that is necessary to pay for professional installation. They may feel as if they lack the knowledge and ability to install hardwood floor. However, installing this type of flooring can be relatively simple if you know what you are doing.

The first thing that you should know and understand when it comes to installing this type of wood flooring is that there is a certain level of humidity in the home. It is important that the wood that you select has ample time to adjust to this basic humidity level before installing it. This can be easily accomplished by simply purchasing the flooring materials and stacking them neatly in the home, without causing obstruction of movement. This will allow you time to move everything from the room you plan to place the flooring, and rip up the old flooring if it is necessary.

The second step is to consider the flooring underneath the main floor. You want to be certain that your new floor is properly protected from any moisture that may seep in from this area. The best way to protect your new flooring is to lay felt just below where the new flooring will go. It is common for individuals to purchase felt that is considered "asphalt", and be certain that it is a high weight capacity. You will want to overlay each piece and then use either a hammer and nails or a staple gun to pierce it to the floor base. Not only will this help protect the new floor from moisture damage, but it will help take the pressure from the new floor as people walk on it and furniture is placed on it.

The third step to installing this flooring is to determine your "center" point, and how much of a gap will be needed around the room, next to the walls. It is important that the new hardwood floor is able to slide underneath the wall trimming in the room. Many homeowners will actually leave the trimming on the wall just to be certain that the new flooring will fit appropriately. If you find that the flooring will not fit, it is important to take the time to raise the wall trimming up all around the room to the appropriate level for the flooring. If this is not done at this time, you may find yourself in a big mess later on. Simply use a tape measure and a level to ensure that all the trim pieces are the same height, and that they are level with the room.

You are now ready to make your wood selection from the pieces that you have. It is always important to start near a wall and use the biggest pieces of wood first. This means that you should select the widest, or the longest wood pieces to place around the outer skirts of the room. You should use a good electric drill that will allow you to drill holes large enough for nails that are approximately one and a half to two inches long. This is because when you nail these items in, you will want to be certain that they penetrate the

subfloor level to ensure maximum security of the flooring. Next, you will want to use slightly smaller nails to secure the outer section of the wood that you are applying.

You should then take smaller pieces of wood and apply them in order immediately following the first piece. You will want to ensure that each piece is bonded appropriately with the subflooring, and that the outer pieces are bonded just slightly below the surface of the wood that you are applying. Many individuals elect to use tongue and groove wood pieces so that they fit securely with one another. This is actually a great option as it helps to ensure the security of the floor and that the pieces are held together in an even manner. Remember, as you place each piece of wood on the flooring, it is important to take either a mallet or a hammer and tap the wood securely in the direction of the wall you started from. This will help in the area of making sure that the pieces are bound tightly together.

Once you are done applying all pieces of the hardwood floor, it is important to select the type of stain and finish that you want to use. First, you should start by completely sanding the floor with a high grit sand paper. Once this has been completed, you will want to remove all the debris caused by the sanding and fill in any open gaps with wood putty. You should then use a hand sander to smooth this out, and clean the debris once again. Next, you will want to apply the stain that you have elected per instructions on the container. Once the stain has dried, it is important to place the finish glaze on the flooring. Once this has been achieved, simply dry and you are done! You have now installed your first hardwood floor!

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