



ALEXANDRA Parquets

INSTALLATION GUIDE

3/4" SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORS NAIL DOWN

It is important to read all instructions before installing. An installation that does not comply with instructions could void your warranty.

It is recommended that your floor is installed by a certified professional installer.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Parquets Alexandra 3/4" solid wood floors can be installed on grade and above grade, with the exception of the Intemporel collection which can be installed on all levels, even below grade as well as on concrete floors and over radiant heat systems. For below grade Intemporel collection installations Hard Maple is not guaranteed.

INTEMPOREL

For Intemporel collection products, the installation can be nailed or glued on plywood with a minimum thickness of 5/8" or glued down directly to concrete or even over a radiant heat system with hot air, hot water or glycol. For nail down installations use nails of 1 1/2" minimum length. Most radiant heat systems are suspended in concrete - use the glue down method for these applications. Occasionally a radiant heat system is suspended in the joist space beneath the plywood subfloor. The recommended method for installation in this application is glue down as well. **Electric radiant systems are not recommended** due to the abrupt variations of the system. NOTE: For an installation of the Intemporel collection directly to concrete with or without a radiant heated floor, please refer to the glue down 3/4" solid hardwood installation guide.

EXPRESSION AND SIGNÉ ALEXANDRA

In the Expression and Signé Alexandra collection products, the floor must be nailed to a plywood subfloor with a minimum of 5/8" thick, if the structure has joists centered every 16". Otherwise, installation is recommended with 3/4" thick plywood.

RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTIES OF THE INSTALLER AND OWNER
Prior to installation, the installer and the owner must ensure that the work environment and subfloor meet the conditions and recommendations mentioned in this installation guide. Parquets Alexandra guarantees the hardwood floor under normal environmental conditions, which means that the temperature of the place is maintained for 7 days at about 22°C and the relative humidity is between 40% (minimum) and 50% (Maximum) to obtain a maximum yield of the dimensional stability of the boards.
Parquets Alexandra floors meet strict quality standards and comply with the standards of the wood flooring industry. A margin of 5% for natural imperfections, manufacturing defects and grade selection is allowed.
If the installer has a doubt about the grade, manufacturing quality and/or finish of any board and cannot place the board in a less visible location, the board should not be installed. Once the board is installed, it is considered to have been accepted by the installer and the owner.
When ordering your floor, a waste factor of 3% to 5% (depending on the location and type of installation) must be calculated for the loss caused by cuts.

WARRANTY HARDWOOD FLOORS

Parquets Alexandra warrants to the original purchaser that the prefinished or preoiled hardwood floor meets the quality standards of Parquets Alexandra and the industry. This warranty applies only if the floor is installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and applies only to residential and light commercial installations - no warranty is provided for heavy commercial use. This warranty applies to the original purchaser and proof of purchase must be provided for the application of the guarantee. This warranty is not transferable.

Lifetime Structural warranty

Parquets Alexandra Lifetime Structural warranty in the Intemporel, Expression and Signé Alexandra collections applies to all profiling defects. However, a margin not exceeding 5% is acceptable and does not constitute a structural defect applicable to this guarantee. The validity of the structural warranty is based on compliance with environmental requirements and to maintaining relative humidity between 40 and 50%.

Warranty against finish wear- Expression & Signé Alexandra (Prefinished)

Parquets Alexandra guarantees to the original purchaser of a prefinished floor against peeling, chipping and/or wear of the finish. However, the wear of the finish must be obvious and represent at least 10% of the total floor area.

- 35 years from the date of purchase for residential level and under normal conditions of use.
- 3 years from the date of purchase for commercial level, for projects with low traffic such as: office, shop, clinic. Also, the project must be registered with the manufacturer who will authorize the installation.

Warranty against finish wear- Intemporel (Prefinished)

No finish warranty applies to the oiled finish because the oil becomes part of the wood. It is therefore normal that the wear of wood also causes wear of the oil. This applies to both residential and commercial use.

Warranty Exclusions

Parquets Alexandra assumes no responsibility and shall not pay any compensation for the following issues, but not limited to these:

- Installation not in accordance with the recommendations of the Installation Guide.
- Improper storage or transportation.
- Different environmental conditions than those required.
- Excessive exposure to sunlight.
- Deformation caused during installation by tools.
- Damage caused by misuse, falling or friction of objects, abrasives (salt, sand and other), high heeled or spiked shoes, domestic animals claws and/or other scratches.
- Inadequate protection under the legs of chairs, tables or other furniture.
- When the floor is installed in the basement, with the exception of engineered wood and 3/4" solid hardwood in the Intemporel collection (Except Hard Maple not guaranteed).
- Maintenance does not comply with maintenance recommendations from our maintenance flyer. Parquets Alexandra has developed a range of specific products for maintenance and repair of our oiled floors and is not liable for the use of products other than those distributed under the brand INTEMPOREL. Maintenance procedure will begin 21 days after the date of production of the wood.
 - Use of a different mop than sponge mop or string mop.
 - Use of a mop that has been contaminated with any soap than Intemporel products of Parquets Alexandra.
 - Mop washed with another product than water.
 - Non-pressed mop.

Exclusion of warranty due to natural physical properties of wood

The following natural phenomena are excluded from the warranty:

- Depending of humidity variations the wood expands or contracts and can create thin gaps between the boards.
- Exposure to light and to air alters the color of all wood species.

Parquets Alexandra obligations

Parquets Alexandra responsibility is limited to the repair or replacement of the defect boards and does not cover any costs of labor or other disadvantage connected to replacement of a floor defect.

Claims Process

For filing a claim, you need first to contact your authorized Parquets Alexandra retailers. The written complaint must reach Parquets Alexandra within six months after the problem occurred. Failing an agreement with your retailer send all documents submitted to your retailer by mail to: Parquets Alexandra
945 rue Jean Marchand, Lévis, QC
G6V 9G5
Or by email at:
info@parquetsalexandra.com

Warranty Registration

The registration form of the guarantee is on our website at www.parquetsalexandra.com.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

1. Vacuum or broom
2. Pneumatic nail gun
3. Levelling compound [if needed]
4. Straight Edge
5. Wood Moisture Meter [and concrete if necessary]
6. 15 lbs felt paper or wax paper
7. Brad Nail Gun
8. Measuring tape
9. Chalk line
10. Square
11. Mitre saw
12. Knocking Block
13. Flat bar
14. Putty Knife 4" or 5"
15. Handsaw
16. Drill and bit of 3/32" [2 mm]
17. Hammer
18. Finish nails - approximately 2-1/2" [63 mm]
19. Nail set
20. Parquets Alexandra Repair Kit
21. Parquets Alexandra maintenance kit

Recommended Nail guns and staplers

- Primatex (800)-363-1962 www.primatex.ca
P250 - Pneumatic nailer and nails of 2"
- P240 - Pneumatic nailer with Trackedge and nails of 2"
- Bostitch (800)-556-6696 www.bostitch.com
MIHFN - Pneumatic nailer with nails of 1-3/4"
- MIHFS - Pneumatic stapler with hooks of 1-3/4" x 2"

Note: Parquets Alexandra is not responsible for damage caused by the use of inadequate tools.

PREPARATION OF PLACES

- The installation of a wood floor should be the last stage of your project. Here are points to confirm before proceeding to the delivery and to the installation of your wood:
- The heating system must be functional and the temperature of the room must have been maintained at 22°C for a whole week.
 - The relative humidity must be between 40 % and 50 % otherwise delay the installation and the delivery of your wood (never store the wood boxes in an inadequate place such as a shed, an unheated garage or a basement).
 - The content of the plywood must not exceed 11 % and the differential between the sub-floor and the wood boards must not be over 4 %. If the humidity level is too high, warm, ventilate and dehumidify the location more. The gap between the boards humidity of 4 1/4" wide and more, and the plywood must not be up to 2 %.

- The sub-floor must be dry and the basement well ventilated to avoid damage caused by this potential source of humidity.

Acclimatization

Store boxes in the room where the floor will be installed at least 48 hours before the installation by respecting the standards of humidity mentioned above. It will allow the wood to take the same environmental conditions as the room.

SUBFLOOR STRUCTURE

To assure an excellent stability to our products of hardwood recovery, it is very important that our products are installed on plywood substrate and that the nailing or stapling is made following the N.W.F.A. norm which applies to each width of boards.
A flooring product of 3/4" (19mm) in thickness, from our society, installed on a <<OSB>> substrate type which was not glued in addition of being nailed or stapled, automatically loses any form of guarantee. Before proceeding to the installation of any type of flooring, the installer must imperatively be assured that the substrate humidity is not over the percentage pre determined by Parquets Alexandra Inc.

TRADITIONAL WOOD STRUCTURE (beams and joists)

Parquets Alexandra recommends that the sub-floor consists of plywood of a minimum thickness of 5/8" or oriented strand board (OSB) of 3/4" of thickness, if the structure has joists centered at 16". The sub-floor Advantech is not recommended nor guaranteed. The stability of the existing sub-floor is a guarantor for the quality of the installation of your floor.

Preparation and correction of the sub-floor Structural state:

The sub-floor must be solidly fixed to joists with screws to prevent the movement of the plywood panels which could lead to squeaks. Replace a sub-floor that has been damaged by the water.

Leveling:

The surface should be flat, it should not have irregularities of more than 1/8" on a distance of 6 feet or 3/16" over a distance of 10 feet. You can correct irregularities in the subfloor by planing high ridges and/or filling low areas with a leveling compound approved for nail down installations.

Humidity and cleanliness:

The moisture content of the plywood must not exceed 11% and the differential between the subfloor and the wood boards must not exceed 4%. If humidity levels are too high, heat, ventilate and dehumidify the location more. The surface must be clean and it must be cleared of debris, staples, adhesives and exposed nails.

For 3/4" solid Expression or Signé Alexandra installations of 4 1/4" or 5" widths we recommend that the butt seams of each board be supported by a bead of glue to ensure an installation that remains stable over the long term. For 3/4" solid Intemporel installations of 5" widths we recommend the same procedure be used.

SUGGESTED TIPS AND WORKING METHOD

Advice on the use of a pneumatic nail gun

- Clean and inspect the tray under the nail gun several times to avoid damage to boards.
 - Make sure that the nail gun is square to the tongue and firmly engaged in the nailing groove on the tongue before nailing a board.
 - Assure that the pressure of the air is adjusted according to the hardness of the wood specie and the type of sub-floor (Maximum 90 Lbs)
- Preparation**
- Prepare a sketch of the installation.
 - Remove the old floor as well as all the moldings and the baseboards.
 - Install the felt paper on the entire subfloor.

Suggested working method

- Boards must be installed in the opposite direction (perpendicularly 90°) or at an angle of 45° to the joists.
- Regularly use a vacuum cleaner during the installation to eliminate sawdust/wood chips.
- Always use a 'knocking' block to strike the boards (if that is necessary) - never use a hammer directly on floor boards.
- Never put down your working tools directly on the wood floor: it could damage the wood boards.
- To assure the uniformity of your floor, make a selection of boards from at least 3 boxes at the same time.

EXPANSION GAPS

The expansion gap allows the wood to be responsive to humidity changes. These gaps will be hidden by the baseboards and/or quarter-round that will be fixed to the walls at the end of the installation. It will be very important not to fix the baseboards or moldings to the flooring boards but to the walls. If your baseboards don't have the exact size to cover the expansion gap required, then it is possible to remove a strip of drywall at the bottom of the wall the same thickness as the flooring boards in order to allow the floor to expand under the wall.

Space required for expansion	Maximum width of the room	Maximum length of the room
1/4 inch (13 mm)	Up to 26 feet (8 meters)	Up to 52 feet (16 meters)
3/4 inch (19 mm)	From 26 to 40 feet (7 to 12 m)	From 52 to 80 feet (14 to 24 meters)

* For installation on a concrete slab in the basement, the expansion gap will be doubled, 1 1/2" instead of 3/4".

INSTALLATION

* It is recommended to use the services of a certified and professional installer.

Step 1 - CREATING THE STARTING LINE

Parallel to the wall and at a distance from the wall (established by adding the width of flooring boards to your expansion gap) snap a starting line with your Chalk line. To maintain the expansion gap during installation, use spacing blocks or shims

between your floor boards and the wall (remove these after the installation is complete).

Step 2 - INSTALLING THE BOARDS

Important note: Ensure the first row is straight by confirming this with an 8" straight edge before proceeding to the subsequent rows.

Make the selection of your boards, those that have imperfections will have to have the imperfection cut out (these boards can be used to start or finish rows) while those who have colors variation too obvious can be relocated (e.g. closets).

FIRST ROW(S) - Make the installation of the first board along the starting line, the side of the tongue (male) facing outward and the groove (female) facing the starting wall. Top nail the board (the molding will often hide nails if not; use a putty/wax stick to fill nail holes). The first row(s) (before using the nail gun) must also be glued down by removing the layer of felt paper in this area. Ensure that glue is not left on the boards, if this happens use some mineral spirits (Prefinished) or Stain Remover (Preoiled) to remove - rub carefully with a cloth. Note that PL glue must not be used for this procedure

There should be an expansion gap of 3/4" at the extremities of each row. The first few rows need to be nailed by hand or brad nail gun due to insufficient space to use the nail gun. Boards must be nailed every 8 to 10". Every board must be nailed with a minimum of 2 nails. Make sure to nail more than 2" from the ends of the boards to avoid the splitting of the tongue.

The last board of the row must be cut. The remaining piece can be used to begin a subsequent row to minimize waste. Ensure that the remaining piece is at least 6" longer or shorter than the board used in the previous row. The gap of the transverse joints from a row to row has to be at least 6" (see figure below).

SUBSEQUENT ROWS - use the same steps as above, except use the nail gun

LAST ROWS - must be installed by hand or with a brad nail gun because of the closeness of the wall. The final row usually requires ripping of the boards to ensure that the expansion gap is maintained (this includes the tongue on the final row - it usually must be removed by ripping). In the last rows make sure to make a selection of your boards that the colors will match with your moldings to avoid color variation between both.

Pay particular attention to cracked or broken tongues - they can cause crackles/squeaking. Also too high a pressure on the compressor can cause this type of damage.

Be sure to always nailed the male part and not the female part

Step 3 - MOLDINGS INSTALLATION

It is possible that you have to install moldings such as nosing, T-Molding, quarter round and reducers. They are available in the same species and the colors as your floor. You can order these moldings directly from your retailer at the same time as the wood.

Pre-drill your moldings to avoid cracking them when they will be nailed. Nail the moldings to walls and not to the boards, this will allow the natural movement of the floor.

Step 4 - MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of a prefinished floor (EXPRESSION and SIGNÉ ALEXANDRA)

Vacuum the floor and clean it with the use of Parquets Alexandra spray cleaner for prefinished floors. It is recommended to keep an extra box of flooring to allow repairs to be made in the event of serious damage occurring. If you have any small defects on your floor such as holes left by nails, use your Parquets Alexandra stain and finish pencils.

Maintenance of a preoiled floor (INTEMPOREL)

Vacuum the floor and clean it with the use of the Intemporel Woodsoap. It is recommended to keep an extra box of flooring to allow repairs to be made in the event of serious damage occurring. If your floor contains small defects, such as holes left by nails, use the Intemporel repair kit

REGULAR MAINTENANCE	
Sweep, vacuum or damp mop.	If necessary to remove dust and light dirt.
Wood Soap	Add 1 capful (10ml) per 1 liter of warm water. Mop with a well wrung out mop. Do not rinse. Let dry 30 minutes. Frequency: Ideally all washes
Revitaliser (spray)	Spray on the floor. Apply in the direction of the boards with a well wrung out mop. Let dry 30 minutes. Contains natural waxes soluble in water. Frequency: Ideally every four washes

For regular maintenance of preoiled floors refer to Intemporel maintenance sheet on our website at www.parquetsalexandra.com



Parquets Alexandra recommend to use a string mop for the maintenance of the floor. Do not try other types of mop, such as steam mps, which open the wood pores and let penetrate water in the floor. Furthermore, flat mop (mop with reusable pad) must be washed in the machine with water only. Do not wash it with detergent and/or softener. These products affect the fiber and leave a greasy substance on the floor.



WARNING!

Never clean a hardwood floor with lots of water.