Installation Guide

For qualified installers of Valencia engineered hardwood with tongue and groove profiles. This is not a click-lock installation guide. Read the complete guide and related warranty and care documents before delivery. Verify product suitability and installation method before work begins; stop if any requirement cannot be met.

Inspection and responsibility

The installer and Buyer must confirm the product, grade, colour, quantity, profile and site suitability. Inspect every board under adequate lighting before fastening or gluing it. Blend boards from several cartons for a balanced appearance. Do not install damaged joints, visibly defective boards or unacceptable appearance. Set suspect material aside and notify the dealer before proceeding. Installation accepts reasonably visible characteristics, without waiving hidden manufacturing defects.

The Limited Warranty permits a combined 5% allowance for natural characteristics outside the selected grade and minor manufacturing imperfections. Select, cut out or set aside such material. Cutting and layout waste is additional; order according to layout complexity. Report material exceeding the allowance before installation, and retain spare boards and carton labels.

Jobsite preparation and climate

Maintain indoor relative humidity at 35–55% and room temperature at 60–80°F (approximately 16–27°C) before, during and after installation, year-round, including periods when the property is unoccupied.

The building must be fully enclosed and weather-tight. Wet trades, plastering, painting and masonry must be complete and dry. Correct leaks, drainage and crawl-space moisture before delivery. Permanent HVAC must operate at the required conditions for at least 7 days before delivery and remain in use throughout acclimation, installation and occupancy. Temporary construction heating is not a substitute for stable in-service conditions.

Use only in dry, climate-controlled residential interiors. Do not install outdoors, in wet rooms, saunas, steam rooms, pool surrounds or areas subject to standing water. Below-grade installation requires written Valencia approval for the product and moisture-control system. Radiant heat, floating installation and installation over existing hard surfaces also require prior written product-specific approval.

Acclimation and storage

Acclimate flooring in the installation rooms for at least 7 full days after the jobsite meets the required conditions. Seven days is a minimum, not proof of readiness; extend acclimation until representative moisture readings are stable and compatible with expected in-service conditions and the Installation Guide.

Store cartons flat on dry supports in the actual installation rooms, away from exterior walls, direct sunlight and heat sources. Do not store in garages or uncontrolled areas. Distribute stacks to permit air circulation. Open carton ends and remove wrapping as needed to permit conditioning; keep boards supported flat and protected from dirt and liquid. Do not spread boards on a damp slab.

Record room conditions and representative flooring moisture readings at delivery, during acclimation and immediately before installation, using a meter suitable for the engineered construction. Use the correct material setting or correction method. Readiness depends on stable readings appropriate to the required indoor conditions, not the calendar alone. If readings do not stabilize or appear unsuitable, stop and obtain written Valencia guidance.

Subfloors and moisture testing

The subfloor must be clean, dry, flat, rigid and structurally sound. Meet local code and the current applicable NWFA installation guidance in addition to this guide. Repair movement and squeaks and remove bond-inhibiting contaminants. Do not disturb suspect asbestos-containing flooring or adhesives; arrange appropriate assessment before removal or preparation.

Wood subfloors. Use structural wood panels or an engineered assembly with sufficient thickness, support and fastening for the span, loading and installation method. Meet applicable code and accepted wood flooring installation requirements. Nail-down requires a subfloor capable of holding the selected flooring fasteners securely. Do not fasten into unsuitable underlayments or concealed services.

Concrete. Use sound, fully cured concrete with effective control of moisture from below. Age or appearance alone does not prove dryness. Existing tile, terrazzo or resilient hard surfaces are acceptable only with written Valencia approval for the entire assembly, substrate preparation and installation method. Do not install over carpet, cushioned vinyl, loose or floating existing floors.

Flatness. Check the entire installation area with an appropriate straightedge and meet the tolerances required for the selected flooring and installation system, using applicable NWFA guidance where no stricter requirement applies. Correct high and low areas with compatible methods and fully cured materials. Flatness is separate from levelness; underlayment does not correct an uneven subfloor.

Required moisture checks

Wood. Test representative flooring and multiple subfloor locations, including exterior walls, plumbing and suspect areas. Confirm that both materials are dry and at moisture levels suitable for the required indoor conditions. Meet the acceptable flooring-to-subfloor moisture difference for the construction supplied under the applicable installation guidance. Use a calibrated meter and the correct material settings; do not apply solid wood readings or settings to engineered construction without verification. Keep dated readings and test locations. If suitable limits cannot be established, stop and obtain written Valencia guidance.

Concrete. Test all installation areas using in-situ relative humidity testing to ASTM F2170, or calcium chloride moisture emission testing to ASTM F1869 where accepted by the adhesive or approved system. Follow the test standard for locations, quantity, conditioning and duration. A handheld concrete meter is for screening and does not replace these tests.

Use the test methods and acceptance limits required by the compatible adhesive, moisture-control system and flooring installation instructions. Relative humidity and moisture emission tests measure different properties and are not interchangeable conversions. All required results must pass, including any pH requirements. If limits are exceeded, use an appropriate moisture-mitigation system accepted in writing by Valencia, or delay installation until conditions are suitable. Do not rely on a generic adhesive label as proof that the complete assembly is protected.

Moisture protection

For approved floating floors over concrete, use compatible underlayment with a continuous approved vapour barrier, sealed seams and perimeter treatment according to the system instructions. For glue-down over concrete, use a compatible hardwood adhesive and the moisture-control system required by measured conditions. Adhesive alone is not automatically a vapour barrier; moisture protection depends on the documented rating and correct application. Do not put loose polyethylene beneath a direct glue-down installation.

For nail-down over wood, use an appropriate vapour retarder where required by site conditions and the approved assembly. Do not trap moisture between impermeable layers. Moisture tests show conditions at the time of testing and do not guarantee against future moisture intrusion.

Layout and installation methods

Select the method for the actual plank thickness, width, construction and subfloor. Obtain written Valencia specifications if fastener compatibility or a method is uncertain. Accessory approval must cover the specific flooring, substrate and system; compatibility cannot be assumed from a generic hardwood label.

Layout and movement space

Plan the layout before fixing the first row. Over wood framing, follow the direction supported by the structural assembly and applicable installation guidance. Stagger adjacent end joints according to the board lengths and approved installation

method, avoid repeating H joints and very short end pieces, and blend boards for an even appearance. Maintain straight starting rows and engage joints fully without forcing damaged profiles.

Provide expansion clearance at every wall and fixed obstruction, including pipes, columns, thresholds, cabinets and door frames. Determine the required clearance from the flooring construction, room dimensions, expected movement and approved installation method before starting. Maintain clearance beneath undercut jambs. Do not fill movement gaps with rigid grout, adhesive or hard filler. Fix trim to the wall or subfloor, never through a floating floor.

For approved floating floors, provide movement transitions at doorways, narrow connections and between independently controlled rooms. Establish permissible continuous runs and transition locations for the approved assembly before installation. Other methods also require movement joints appropriate to the layout. Carry structural movement joints through the floor; do not bridge them rigidly. Obtain written Valencia guidance where movement allowances or layout limits are unclear.

Full spread glue down

Use an adhesive approved for the specific engineered flooring, substrate and moisture conditions. Prepare the substrate and apply the exact trowel, coverage, working time and cure schedule required by the adhesive manufacturer. Verify adhesive transfer regularly by lifting a board during installation. Do not spot-glue or use construction adhesive as a substitute for full-spread flooring adhesive.

Engage tongues and grooves without forcing them and prevent movement during cure using the approved method. Remove fresh adhesive immediately by the adhesive manufacturer’s finish-safe method; do not let it cure on the finish. Do not tape the finished surface or use aggressive solvents. Do not glue tongue and groove joints in a full-spread installation unless the approved product instructions require it.

Nail down and glue assist

Use compatible flooring fasteners and tools selected for the board construction, tongue profile and subfloor. Confirm the fastener type, length, spacing, end distances and penetration before installation; no single fastening schedule suits all engineered floors. Test on a sacrificial board and adjust the tool to prevent split tongues, surface dimpling or insufficient seating. Do not penetrate concealed services or heating components.

Follow the fastening schedule appropriate to the flooring and approved method, including secure support of short boards and starting and finishing rows. Use suitable predrilling where needed. Use glue assist where required by the board construction or approved installation method. Confirm adhesive compatibility and vapour control before work; do not apply adhesive over an incompatible retarder. Stop if a reliable fastening or bonding arrangement cannot be established.

Floating tongue and groove installation

Use this method only with prior written Valencia approval for the product and system. Tongue and groove joints are not self-locking. Apply the specified tongue and groove wood adhesive continuously to long-side and end joints in the approved position, and assemble tight joints without damage. Use the approved underlayment and obey joint-glue cure times. Do not nail or glue the floating assembly to the subfloor. Install cabinets, islands and other fixed units first; do not pin the floor beneath them or with trim, tracks or fasteners.

Radiant heat approval and commissioning

Obtain written Valencia approval for the flooring, installation method and complete heating assembly before installation. Suitability depends on the flooring construction, finish, installation materials and heat distribution. This guide does not approve any heating technology or assembly by itself. General references to engineered flooring compatibility do not constitute Valencia approval.

Have the heating contractor commission the system and provide operating and commissioning records. Dry and test the substrate before delivery. Operate and condition the system according to its commissioning protocol; heating does not

replace moisture testing. Meet this guide's moisture limits and any stricter approved system requirements. Locate pipes before fastening; do not puncture the system.

During installation and adhesive cure, maintain the approved system temperature required by the flooring and adhesive instructions while keeping room conditions within the specified range. Use floor sensors and a temperature-limiting control. The finished wood surface must never exceed 80°F (approximately 27°C), including beneath rugs and furniture. Avoid local heat buildup.

After the adhesive has fully cured, change operating temperature gradually by no more than 3°F (approximately 1.7°C) in 24 hours, or a slower rate required by the heating or adhesive manufacturer. Apply the same limit when reducing temperature or restarting seasonally. Provide these operating limits to the owner.

Maintain indoor relative humidity at 35–55% and room temperature at 60–80°F (approximately 16–27°C) before, during and after installation, year-round, including periods when the property is unoccupied.

Completion and owner handover

- Remove spacers after the installation is secure and fit trim without blocking movement. Inspect the finished floor and document any concerns before handover.
- Observe all adhesive and joint-glue cure times before traffic, cleaning, rugs or furniture. Do not accelerate cure with excessive heat. Lift heavy items using suitable load-spreading protection.
- Remove dust with a hardwood-safe vacuum or soft dry mop. Follow the Care and Maintenance Guide for any necessary cleaning. Never wet mop or steam clean; do not pour or spray cleaner directly on the floor.
- If further trades will work in the area, use clean, breathable, non-staining protection after cure. Tape coverings to themselves, never to the finish, and prevent trapped grit or moisture.
- Give the Buyer all three Valencia documents, purchase and product details, installation date, test results, acclimation records, accessory specifications and written approvals. Explain climate control, radiant limits, spill cleanup, felt pads and prompt reporting of concerns.

Records and warranty

Retain dated site temperature and humidity readings, moisture readings and locations, flatness checks, photographs, subfloor details, product lot labels, adhesive and fastener details, and any system approvals. Records support verification of correct installation and assessment of later concerns.

The Limited Warranty provides 25-year residential structural and original factory-finish coverage on its stated terms; installation work, site suitability and accessory performance are not warranted by this guide. Damage caused or contributed to by failure to follow the requirements is excluded as described in the Limited Warranty. Report suspected defects promptly to the dealer, wherever reasonably possible within 30 days of discovery, and permit inspection before non-urgent removal or repairs.

Read the Valencia Limited Warranty, Installation Guide and Care and Maintenance Guide together. The Limited Warranty governs coverage and remedies, the Installation Guide governs installation, and the Care and Maintenance Guide governs care. Written Valencia product-specific instructions take precedence over general installation guidance. Follow applicable codes and compatible accessory instructions. If requirements conflict, stop and obtain written Valencia clarification before proceeding.