

# Johnson Hardwood Reservoir Series Installation Instructions

## PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

These installation specifications are for **Johnson Hardwood Reservoir Series**. All recommendations are based on the most recent available information.

The information on this sheet provides general guidelines. All instructions and recommendations must be strictly followed for a satisfactory installation.

- The floor covering should be stored and installed in a climate controlled indoor location with an average temperature of between 65°-85°F or 18°-29°C.
- Install product only after the jobsite has been cleaned and cleared of everything that may hinder a fluent installation or may damage the planks.
- **To minimize shade variation, mix and install planks from several cartons.**
- Note that color uniformity of the planks can only be guaranteed for deliveries of the same production lot.
- No claims, in any case, will be accepted for flooring that has been cut to size or installed.
- All necessary subfloor patching must be done with a Portland based compound and must be allowed to dry completely prior to installing flooring.
- A minimum of 24 hours is required to acclimate the product in the room where the installation will take place. Do not open the cartons, but spread them out and protect the corners from damage.
- As a rule: Install all planks parallel to the main source of light in the room. Only in small and long rooms, the product must be installed in a longitudinal direction.

### SUB FLOOR INFORMATION

Note: Roughness or unevenness of the subfloor may telegraph through the new floor covering, resulting in an unsightly surface and excessive wear on high spots.

#### ALL SUB FLOORS MUST BE:

- **CLEAN** – Scraped, sanded, swept or vacuumed, and free of adhesives, and other debris.
- **SMOOTH/FLAT** - Within 1/8" on 6' radius or 3/16" on 10' radius. Sand high areas or joints, fill low areas with a cementitious type compound no less than 3000 p.s.i. Note: Any irregularities may cause hollow spots between the flooring and sub floor in any installation method and are not warranted.
- **STRUCTURALLY SOUND** - Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any delaminated or damaged sub flooring or underlayment. Set any protruding nails and/or screws even with, or just below the sub-floor surface.

#### WOOD SUBFLOORS:

- Do not install material over wood subfloors that lay directly on concrete, over sleeper construction and/or are constructed of 1" X 6" diagonal planks.
- All wood and wood composition panels are suitable for use under material providing that they are smooth, flat, structurally sound and free of deflection. The panels

include plywood, particle board, oriented strand board (OSB), flake board and wafer board. Installation of these panels must follow their manufacturer's recommendations.

- If the surface of the wood subfloor is not smooth, a 1/4" or 6mm underlayment panel must be installed over the subfloor.

#### CONCRETE SUBFLOORS:

- The concrete subfloor must be dry, smooth, and flat to within 3/16" in 10' in all directions.
- New concrete slabs must be thoroughly dry, completely cured, and should meet the guidelines of the latest edition of ASTM F 710, "Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring". The final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer. Note: Ph level of concrete should be from 5-9.
- New concrete slabs must be dry. Maximum moisture emission rate based on the Calcium Chloride test method is 3 lbs or less per 1000 square feet per 24 hours according to ASTM F-1869.
- Although the Reservoir Series is not susceptible to damage from moisture, although excessive subfloor moisture is an ideal breeding ground for mold, mildew and fungus.
- Holes, grooves, expansion joints and other depressions must be filled with a Portland based patching and levelling compound, and trowelled smooth and feathered even with the surrounding surface.
- Concrete floors with a radiant heating system (Hydronic only) are allowed, provided that the temperature of the floor never exceeds 85°F or 29°C. Before installing the flooring, the heating system must be turned on for at least two weeks prior to installation to eliminate residual moisture within the concrete. A few days prior to installation, lower the temperature to 65°F and gradually increase in increments of 5°F to avoid overheating. The use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended.

#### EXISTING FLOOR COVERINGS:

- **The Reservoir Series** can be installed over most existing hard-surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is smooth or can be made smooth, and is free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, paint, solvents, oils, grease, adhesives, including cut-back adhesive.
- Ceramic tiles should be made smooth by applying a cementitious overlay such as patching or levelling compound. Note: Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for proper preparation and application process and procedures.
- When the removal of the existing resilient floor covering is not an option, then it must be covered with a leveller or equivalent in order to adjust it. Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and must consist of only one layer.

**Crawl Space:** Soil in crawl space MUST be covered with "black" 6-mil polyethylene sheeting overlapping the seams a minimum of 12" followed by taping the entire length of the seams by overlapping the seams by 50% using 3" wide clear packing tape. Note: In order to foster proper air flow there MUST be at least 1 1/2 vents per 100 sq. ft. of crawl space, and the distance between the soil and the bottom of the joists MUST have a clearance of 18 to 24 inches.

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## REQUIRED TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

- \* Broom, or Vacuum
- \* Tape Measurer
- \* Black Sharpie Pen
- \* Chalk Line
- \* Chop Saw / Miter Saw
- \* Table Saw
- \* Jig Saw
- \* Under Cut Saw / Jamb Saw
- \* Pull Bar / Pry Bar
- \* Knee Pads
- \* Safety Glasses

**Reservoir Series** is designed to be installed with the floating method and can be installed below grade, on grade or above grade. However the following instructions must be followed:

**Important:** The flooring should be “randomly” installed from 3 to 5 cartons at the same time to insure proper color and shade mix.

- Undercut all doorjamb and casings if necessary. Use a piece of flooring as a guide as to how much to saw. Put the floor panel faced down as a guide, saw off the bottom of the door frame to allow the floor panel to slide under it.
  - Before you start with the installation, it is important to determine the layout of the flooring. Proper planning and layout will prevent having narrow plank widths at wall junctures or very short length pieces at the end of rows.
  - Before starting, first measure the width of the room, and then divide the room’s width by the width of the plank. If this means that the last row of planks will be narrower than 2”, then you will need to cut the first row of planks to make it narrower. Cut in such a way that both rows of planks (the first and last to be installed in the room) will have the same approximate width for an overall continuous look.
  - Even if the first row of planks does not need to be trimmed in width, it will be necessary to cut off the unsupported tongue so that a clean, solid edge shows towards the wall.
  - Installation of the product must start from the left side to the right of the room. Begin the installation by snapping a chalk line the entire length of the room, measuring away from the wall the width of the plank plus 5/16”. The additional 5/16” is for the required expansion space. Next, begin the installation starting in the left hand corner of the room with the long direction parallel to the incoming sunlight source or to the longest wall of the room. **Be sure to install the first row of boards with the tongue side facing the wall.**
  - Install the second plank in the row by angling the end tongue into the end groove of the first plank. Be careful not to bend the corner of the plank.
  - Use 5/16” (5mm) expansion spacers to provide a gap for the seasonal expansion of the flooring along the walls of the entire room. Always place expansion spacers against the wall where the two boards meet. This will make maintaining a good layout easier.
- Start the second row with cutting a plank to the desired length. Keep in mind that the plank must not be shorter than 6” (150mm) to receive the best looking appearance.
  - Install the first plank in the second row by inserting the long side tongue into the groove of the plank in the first row. This is best done with a low angle of the plank.
  - Install the second plank in the second row by inserting the short end tongue into the previously installed plank groove. Align the plank so that the long side tongue tip is positioned just over the groove lip of the plank in the first row. Working from the end seam, at a low angle, insert the long tongue into the groove of the adjoining plank. Very little force is required to seat the tongue into the groove. You should feel the tongue lock into the groove.
  - Work across the length of the room installing planks along the wall in the first row and then aligning the planks in the second row. It is critical to keep these two rows straight and square, as they are the “foundation” for the rest of the installation. Check squareness and straightness often.
  - Cut the last plank in the first row and leave an expansion gap of around 5/16” (5mm).
  - The leftover of this plank may be used to start the third row if it is a minimum of 6” (150mm) long.
  - Continue installing planks and make sure to achieve a random appearance with end pieces of minimum 6” (150mm). Check that all planks are fully engaged; if a slight gapping is noted, the gap can be tapped together by using a tapping block which is made from a piece of flooring, measuring approximately 8” to 10” long.
  - Most often the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space. When this occurs, follow this simple procedure:
    1. Lay a row of boards with the tongue toward the wall, directly on top of the last row installed.
    2. Take a full width scrap piece of the product that is being installed with the face down and the tongue side against the wall. Use 5/16” ( 8mm) spacers against the wall to ensure the proper expansion space.
    3. Draw a line along the row moving down the wall. The line gives the proper width for the last row which, when cut, can then be wedged into place using the pull bar.
  - All doorways 48” to 60” must have a T-molding installed.
  - When fitting under door casings, etc., the flexibility and convenient connection of the material becomes evident. If necessary, a flat pull bar may be used to assist in locking the planks.
  - When fitting around pipes, obstacles or into irregular spaces, it is often beneficial to make a cardboard template of the area and transfer this pattern to the plank. There should be a 5/16” (5mm) expansion gap.
  - Make sure when the installation is complete that the expansion spacers are removed and the expansion space is covered with the appropriate molding and/or transition strips. Do not nail moldings into the planks; nail moldings into the wall.

**Note:** Larger rooms require additional expansion space. Add 1/16” to the width of the spacers for every 3’ the room extends beyond 25’. Dimensions exceeding 40’ **requires** the use of a T-molding for expansion.

**The Reservoir Collection** is designed to be installed with the floating method. Note: The material can be installed below grade, on grade or above grade. Always follow manufacturers guidelines for process and procedures required for a successful installation.

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## PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE GUIDE

- Use doormats outside each entrance to your home to prevent dirt, sand, grit and other substances from being tracked onto your floor. Use non-staining mats on your floor. Do not put rubber-backed, latex-backed or coco fiber mats on your floor because they will stain or damage the surface
- Protect the finished installation from exposure to direct sunlight. Close curtains and/or blinds where extreme sunlight hits the floor. A combination of heat and sunlight can/will result in fading, shrinking, gapping, warping, distortion, and/or cracking/checking/splitting of the wear-layer. Note: It is "HIGHLY" recommended to have UV protective film with heat shield technology applied to all windows where sun light enters the room and shines onto the floors surface.
- **Protective Glides:** Place protective glides on the bottom of all chairs and furniture legs. Protective glides come in a variety of sizes and shapes and can be purchased at you local home improvement center. For really large furniture such as China cabinets, hutches, etc., you will need to use protectors that are designed to cover a larger area so as to better protect the flooring from damage caused by excessive weight, which can cause dings, dents and scratches. For pianos, use piano coasters. Note: When moving large appliances such as refridgerators, ranges and/or stoves, place a layer or two of Ram Board on top of the floors surface.
- **Cleaning:** During routine maintenance, DO NOT clean your floors surface with oil soaps, spays of any kind, silicone oil, wax, water, Windex and water, vinegar and water, conditioners, renovators, surface refreshers, solvents of any kind, non-recommended flooring cleaners such as Swifter Wet Jet, steam cleaners, or any other like type cleaning products. **Only use cleaning products that are specifically recommended and/or approved by Johnson Hardwood. Bona Hardwood Cleaner and/or Basic Coatings "Squeaky Clean" are approved cleaners.**
- Prevent stains by wiping up spills promptly.