

Stapling Down Engineered Hardwood Flooring

Ever since stapling was introduced as a flooring installation method, customer service has fielded complaints on buckling, gapping and squeaking. Many of these complaints involve Maple Engineered Hardwood Flooring, but certainly any flooring species could have these issues under the right conditions.

These field problems are attributed to Maples relatively large widthwise expansion and contraction with changes in the plank moisture content.

Since on a staple down installation the plank is held in place in less than 1% of the plank area, the flooring can expand and contract much more than a glue down installation where the flooring is held in place with over 80% of the flooring being adhered to the subfloor.

For this reason Nydree Flooring decided to remove the staple down instructions from our standard installation instructions which are provided in every box of flooring. Some other flooring companies have followed suit.

Now if you can take the expansion and contraction of the wood flooring out of the equation by controlling the woods moisture content for the life of the flooring, then every staple down installation would be acceptable providing three key areas are controlled:

1. The moisture moving up through the slab.
2. The moisture being put into the flooring from maintenance.
3. The relative humidity of the space above the flooring.

If all three of these are controlled, then there is no concern for buckling, gapping and squeaking. (Provided the correct number and placement of staples is used).

1. The slab beneath the plywood must be **less than 3 lbs./1000 ft²/24 hrs.** (typically through the use of a moisture retarder).
2. The flooring is **never** damp mopped.
3. The space relative humidity is consistently at 30-55% for the life of the flooring.

If the space where the flooring is being installed meets this criteria, please contact Nydree Flooring, LLC for staple-down installation instructions.