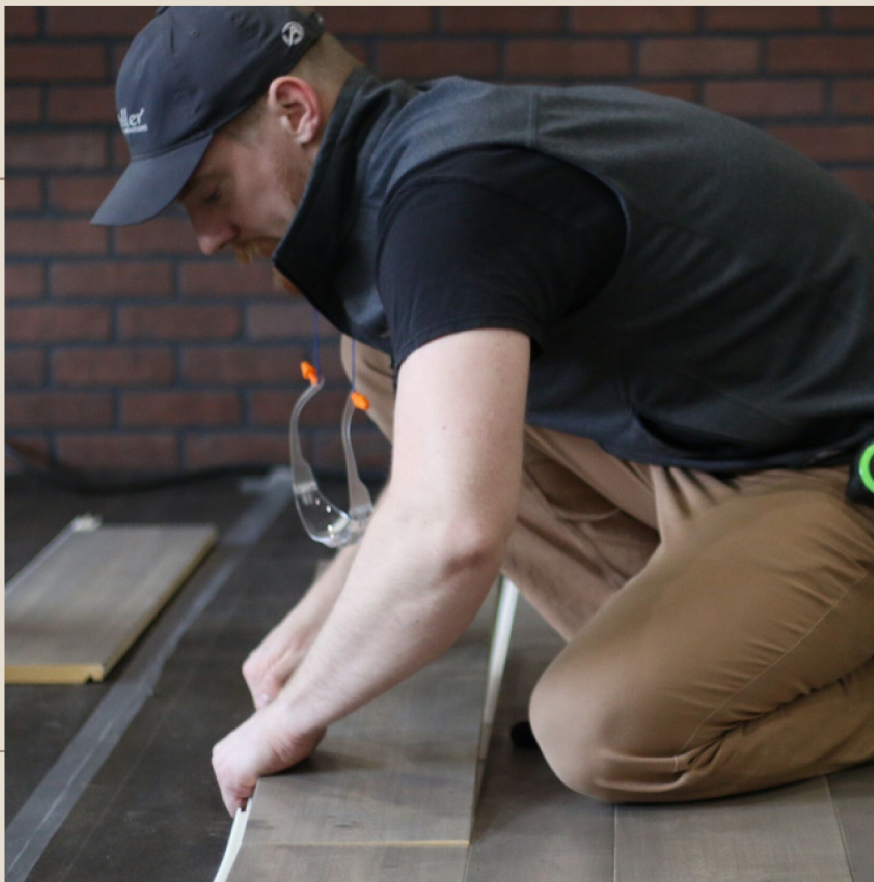




Steller Hardwood  
Floors Assembly  
Guide

# SOLID HARDWOOD FLOORS ASSEMBLY GUIDE



For Detailed Videos Visit Our:

 @StellerFloors

 @stellerfloors

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\*\*When your delivery arrives, move it to a climate- controlled space within 24 hours to maintain the guarantee of workmanship. In the meantime, your order will be protected for a short period of time in shrink-wrap inside of the shipping crate.

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Call 1-800-955-7671 ext. 3 for assembly assistance.

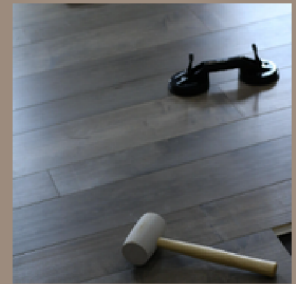
# WHAT COMES WITH YOUR STELLER FLOOR



Steller Flooring  
Planks



Steller Clip



Rubber Mallet  
and Suction Cup



Clip Cutting  
Shears



Rubber Gasket



Additional  
Sealant

Call 1-800-955-7671 for assembly assistance.

# WHAT ELSE WILL YOU NEED?



Prepared Subfloor



Friends!



Circular and Table Saws

# PREPARING YOUR SUBFLOOR

It is important that your subfloor is adequately prepared. Follow these guidelines:

Your subfloor must be a rigid surface like 3/4" OSB or concrete. Foam or carpet won't work.

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If your subfloor deviates more than an 1/8" over 10 feet, you will need to level your subfloor

- For a quick test, see if you can fit a quarter under a 4' long level placed on the floor
  - Check out this resource to learn how to level your floor:  
<https://www.bobvila.com/articles/leveling-a-floor/>
- 

Lay down a moisture barrier

- We recommend 6 mil polyethylene at a minimum as a moisture barrier unless an expert recommends otherwise.
- 

Tape down a smoothing underlayment if you are concerned about any deviations that are thinner than a quarter

- We recommend feltpaper, Ramboard, or similar because they have minimal compliance ("squishiness").
- 

Shims

- If you are surprised by any small irregularities in subfloor leveling, you can fold firm underlayment and use it as a shim for the clips.
- 

You may also be able to assemble a section of flooring in another location and later attach it to the rest of the flooring if desired

- Use a friend to carry over the assembled section

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# QUICK START GUIDE

## Step 1: Attaching the Steller Clip



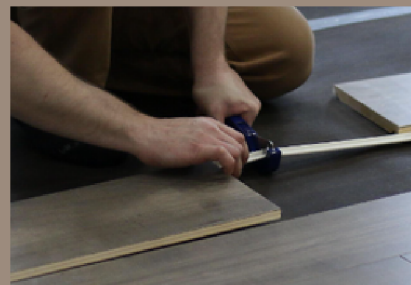
Attach the Steller clip by tucking it into the groove, and pulling it up and towards you



If the board is already on the floor, you can attach the clip by tucking it under the board, pressing the outside arm of the clip down and under the board with your thumb or the end of the mallet



Adjacent boards should be connected by one continuous clip. Make sure to leave a small expansion gap between each of the clip sections used



Cut your clip using pvc shears to create a smaller overhang (recommended length pictured here) Limit overhang of clip to 3-6 inches so that it is easier to snap the next board into place

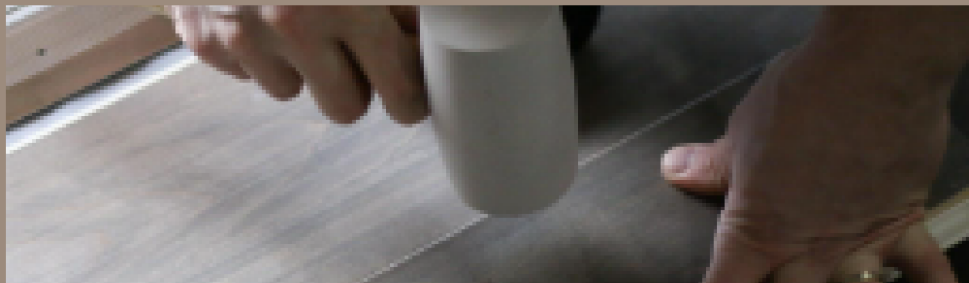
## Step 2: Joining Boards



Once the first row is in place, lay out the next row of boards with the clip attached to the non-interlocking side



Set new boards over the already-installed clip of the assembled row. You should make sure that this overlap is maintained as you install the board. At the end of a room, use a circular saw to cut boards to length. Use sealant provided to finish fresh-cut ends

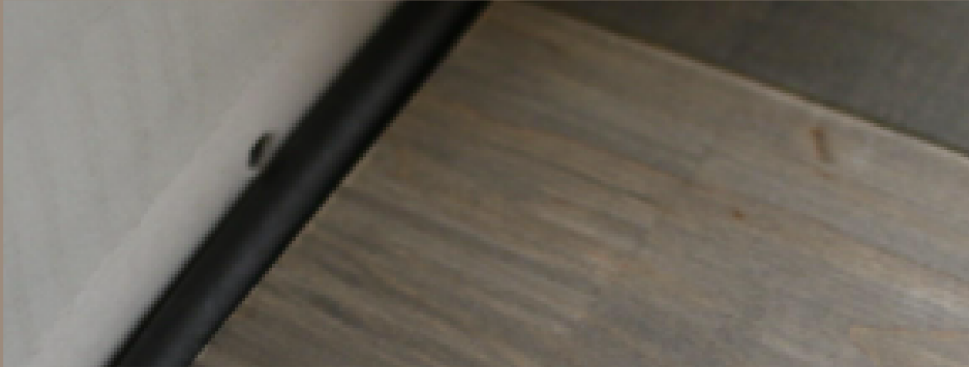


Place weight down on the assembled portion beside the new board. Start at one end of the board and continue along its length like a ziplock bag.

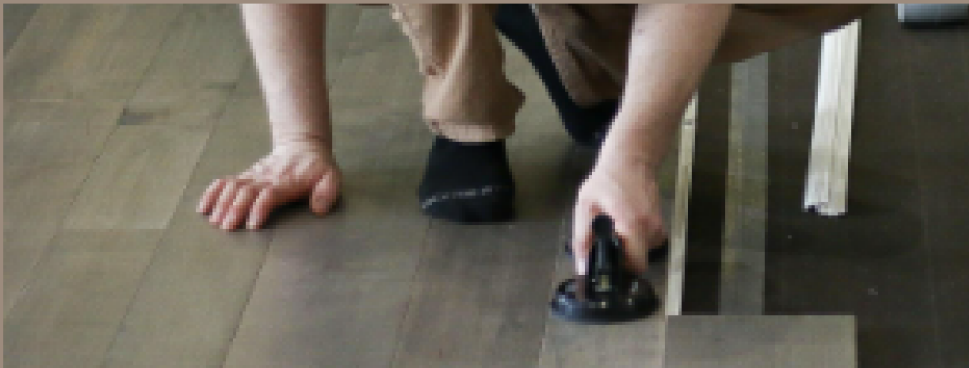
Grip the mallet close to the head. Swing downward forcefully without allowing it to bounce back towards you. You can also join boards by stomping with your heel (using socks) along the length of the board while placing your weight on the board beside it. Keep in mind that repetitive motions can cause stress injury, and the mallet is often the best choice.

Call 1-800-955-7671 ext. 3 for assembly assistance.

## Step 3: Closing Gaps



Each row will butt up against the gasket along the walls



Any gaps between installed boards may be removed by using a suction cup to pull the boards together, or attach the suction cup and tap it with the mallet to move the boards together. You can also close any gaps as you install a row by tapping the end of the last exposed board in the row when a partner stands on the opposite end of the room.



## Step 4: Removal



Place suction cup at the end of the board you want to remove, and use a wide stance.



Start by gently pulling up so that the floor lifts, and then yank up and towards you.

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# PRO TIPS

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**First, PRACTICE the installation steps** with small sections of flooring (in particular attaching clips and attaching new boards)

Choose your starting location, which will be one of two places

- In the middle of a room
  - Strategically useful for doorways or other high-wear areas
- At a wall
  - Remember to use a shim to reserve a space for the gasket once installation is complete, or place the gasket as you go

Moving fast?

- Always install a whole length of planks at a time, avoiding starting new rows until the prior row is complete. This approach avoids dog-ear clip overlaps that slow down the assembly process.
- Lay out and length sort your boards as you bring them in the room
  - You can bring them in a stack of planks at a time using a dolly or cart
  - Don't forget that the first row will require clip on each side of the board
  - Lay out each subsequent row and install each whole row at once
- Vary your board lengths
  - Different board lengths will be needed at the start of each row, so that butt ends won't be aligned
  - You will likely need to cut boards when you reach a wall using a circular saw or chop saw.

If required, you may use butt-end clips to attach the floor to the subfloor under the guidance of an expert because butt-end clips will not hinder natural plank expansion.

- Make sure to seal any fresh-cut ends with the provided sealant.
- Standard transitions from a hardware store will be just fine, or you can site mill Steller planks and sand them into needed transitions.

# CARING FOR YOUR STELLER FLOOR

**Steller Hardwood floors offer many advantages & are built to last over 100 years. To prolong the life of your floor:**

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**Climate Considerations:** Hardwood flooring always responds to climate, including Steller Floors

- **Temperature & Humidity**

- Our floors are made to match with the human comfort zone: humidity of 35% to 50% RH at a temperature between 65 and 85 degrees F
- If your space is too wet or too dry, small humidifiers and dehumidifiers are easily available to improve the climate (for your floors and for you!).

- **Vacations**

- For long-term vacations at relatively low or high temperature beyond the recommended specifications contact an expert for acclimation recommendations.

- **Long-term adjustment**

- For rustic or historic homes, or homes in very dry or very wet conditions, long-term acclimation of flooring to room conditions may be required. Contact an expert for details.

- **Addressing subfloor imperfections**

- No subfloor is perfect, if you find an area that makes loud, problematic noises, it is always due to an unlevel subfloor. You can always remove planks and shim the clips to reduce movement and noise.

- **Addressing adjustment noises**

- New floors, and floors adjusting to drastic changes in humidity, are known to make light “snap, crackle, pop” noises as they adjust. Adding weight to the floor and activity will encourage the materials to relax and will reduce these subtle noises over time.

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## **Subfloor heating recommendations**

- Our flooring matches NWFA guidelines, and our recommendations match those of other solid hardwood flooring suppliers for hydronic (e.g. Warmboard) and concrete-set heating types.
  - Subfloor heating elements should not exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit
- We DO NOT recommend exposed electric subfloor heating elements for use with Steller Hardwood Floors due to risk of fire.

## **Cleaning and Refinishing**

- Cleaning your Steller Solid Hardwood Floor is the same as other kinds of solid hardwoods
  - Use a damp mop (not dripping wet), and products specifically designed for solid hardwood floors (e.g. Bona)
- Remove planks using a suction cup and dry boards and subfloors when more than 1 cup of water is spilled. Dents and scratches are normal in solid hardwood floors and add to the authenticity of your space. Only refinish solid hardwood floors when the protective polyurethane surface is removed and raw wood is exposed.
  - Refinish individual planks by removing them from the floor and using standard polyurethane in the gloss of your choice
  - Sand using 220 grit sandpaper or plane the board first to remove scratches and dents, and then follow the directions on the container of finish to apply the new polyurethane coat
  - Always test a small area before refinishing more broadly
  - Don't forget! It is sometimes easier and more practical to remove a board from under the couch and install it in a high wear area -- and move damaged boards under the couch -- before refinishing the whole floor
  - We are always happy to provide individual planks at the current per square foot price of the flooring. Call us for details!

# GUARANTEES & WARRANTIES

**Steller Hardwood Floors are so versatile that folks assemble them in their homes, commercial spaces, tiny homes, mobile homes, and more! To supply solid hardwood flooring with the most value, we:**

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## **1. Guarantee workmanship of wood and plastic components upon delivery and for 30 days following delivery.**

- Hardwood flooring planks will arrive in a condition meeting or exceeding National Hardwood Flooring Association Guidelines for hardwood flooring.
  - Planks will be completely finished with polyurethane on the wear surface according to the quote/purchase order.
  - Flooring will be made at 6-10% moisture content and planks will be sealed on the additional sides to resist changes due to moisture.
  - Planks will be flat and straight within +/- 0.015". Planks will meet width and thickness specs within +/- 0.010".
- Plastic flooring clips are guaranteed to be homogenous in shape and function.
- We will replace any planks or clips not meeting these standards free of charge, but defective parts must be returned to the manufacturer by the buyer.

## **2. Warranty plastic clips for 20 years**

- Under climate conditions consistent with the Human Comfort Zone (described above), Steller Flooring Clips will maintain shape and function including plank removal and reinstallation for 20 years, and we will replace them free of charge if they do not.

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