

KEMBER
**E3Plank Installation
Instruction**

2025-2026

Recommended Tools and Materials

- Vacuum cleaner or broom
- Measuring tape
- Claw hammer
- Scraper
- Miter saw or circular saw
- Handsaw
- Wood and/or concrete moisture meter
- Nail Punch
- Pry bar
- Square 16"x24"
- Chalk line
- Finishing nails 2-1/2"(63mm)
- Flooring screws
- Power drill and 3/32"(2mm) bit
- Leveling compound (optional)
- #20 grit sand paper (optional)

Recommended Nailers and Stapler

- P120 pneumatic Primatech or H 300 manual, 2"(50mm) cleats and rubber mallet
- Info: 1 800 363 1962
- 200 pneumatic Powernail or 45 manual, 2"(50mm) cleats and rubber mallet
- Info: 1 800 323 1653
- MIIIFN pneumatic Bostitch or MFN 200, 2"(50mm) cleats and rubber mallet
- Info: 1 800 556 6696
- MIIIFN pneumatic Bostitch stapler, 2"(50mm) staples

Note Kember Kreative Floors™ will not be held responsible for damages caused by the use of inadequate tools.

Caution To avoid damaging strips during installation

- Make sure nailer base plate remains clean and undamaged. Check regularly throughout installation process.
- Never place nailer directly on hardwood floor.
- Check that the nailer base is properly positioned before nailing.
- Adjust air pressure according to hardwood species.

Pre-Installation Requirements During installation

- Pre-finished hardwood floors need to be handled with care to avoid damaging the flooring surface and finish. In any construction or renovation project, installation of hardwood floors should be the very last step.

Environmental Conditions

- Room temperature must be maintained between 65-72°F (18-22°C) for one week prior, during and after installation.
- Subfloor must be dry and basement well ventilated to avoid any moisture-related damages.
- At all time the relative humidity must be maintained between 25 and 50%.
- The maximum moisture level reading for wooden subfloors is 12%, with no more than a 4% differential between the subfloor and wooden planks. If installing over concrete the moisture level must be below 3 lbs/1000ft² in 24hrs. Raise heat and increase ventilation if moisture reading is too high. Postpone installation of wood floor until moisture readings have lowered to an acceptable percentage.
- If installing over radiant heat, the system must have been tested and in operation for 3 weeks. The surface temperature of the subfloor must never exceed 85°F (29°C).
- Acclimatization: Prior to installation, wood planks must be kept indoors at the recommended temperature and humidity level for a minimum of 24hrs (during dry winter months should be longer). This allows the wood to acclimatize to the recommended indoor conditions.

Subfloor Conditions

- A minimum 5/8"(16mm) plywood, or 3/4"(19mm) approved OSB chipboard subfloor, installed over 16"(400mm) center-to-center floor joist is the minimum requirement for KemberEplank™ hardwood flooring.
- Subfloor must be securely fastened to joists to prevent any movement or squeaks. If movement or squeaks are evident, additional screws should be added to subfloor, until this problem is eliminated.
- The maximum subfloor level tolerance is 1/4"(6mm) per 10'(3m). If the subfloor is outside of these tolerances, it is essential to level out any intolerances using a leveling compound. If necessary, use #20 grit sandpaper to sand off any highpoints of a wood subfloor. If concrete, use a concrete grinder to remove the high points.
- Finally, before installation of flooring, vacuum the subfloor and remove any debris or obstacles.

Room Conditions

1. Select a starting point or wall.
2. Choose a layout angle.
3. Undercut or remove any baseboards if necessary.
4. Undercut doorjamb and doorstop to allow flooring to be inserted underneath.
5. Pre-select and reserve strips of flooring that are color matched to transition moldings.
(Transition moldings to be installed at end of project)

Nailed Down Installation Instructions

Step 1: Creating guideline

- Using a chalk line, create a line parallel to the starting wall and perpendicular to the adjacent one. When creating the guideline, add 3/4"(19mm) to the plank width to account for expansion gap required. For example, if installing 4"(102mm) planks, trace the guideline at 4-3/4"(121mm) away from the starting wall.

Step 2: Plank laying

- Carefully choose planks, removing any imperfections and reserving planks with high color variation for less conspicuous locations such as closets.
- Line up the first row of flooring against the guideline, tongue side facing away from starting wall. Leave a 1/4"(6mm) gap between the end of the plank and the wall perpendicular to the guideline. Drill and nail through the plank, as close to the wall as possible so that nail heads will be hidden by baseboards and quarter rounds when they are in place (this applies only to the first row).
- Ensure to select a plank long enough for row end, so that the piece trimmed off can be used to start the following row. Make sure to leave 1/4" (6mm) gap at the end of each row between the plank and wall.
- To prevent the effect of end-joint alignment, planks should differentiate at least 4" (101mm) in length than that of the row beside it.
- Due to the narrow width of planks, flooring nailers often cannot be used for the first and last few rows of flooring. Instead, drill and nail above the plank tongue, every 4" (100mm). Ensure to keep at least 2" (50mm) away from the end of each plank
- Following rows must be installed similarly, using the nailer; nail or staple planks every 8-10" (200-250mm), but at least 2" (50mm) from each plank end.
- Often times, the last row must be rip sawed to allow for the required 1/2" (12mm) gap alongside the finishing wall.
- Carefully store extra planks, in the event that future repairs are needed.

Step 3: Accessories installation

- If applicable, install transition moldings, stair nosing, and reducers.
- Install baseboards and quarter rounds, ensuring that they are nailed only to the wall and not the floor [allowing for floor movement].

Supplemental Adhesive

- For the nail-down installations, Kember requires use of adhesive along with nailing down the planks
- Thin bead should be applied in a wave pattern across the width and length of the planks making sure that the adhesive material is kept 1" from the edge of the planks.

Glue Down Installation Instructions

- Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instructions for subfloor moisture content test. Choose the appropriate adhesive and if needed, moisture barrier system for specific conditions. Kember is not responsible for moisture damage of the wood flooring caused by a subfloor
- If the glue has to be removed, please follow the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines

Radiant Heat Installations

Caution: Prior to installation of Kember E3Plank wood flooring, the radiant heat system must have been tested and in operation for three [3] weeks. The surface temperature of the subfloor must never exceed 85°F (29°C). Proper relative humidity levels must be maintained consistently throughout the year. Use humidifiers and/or dehumidifiers as necessary to maintain suggested humidity level. Never change the temperature of a subfloor radiant heat system by more than 5°F (2.8°C) per day when switching the system on and off.