

Protecting Newly Installed Hardwood Floor During Construction

1. Timing – SITE-FINISHED & PREFINISHED WOOD FLOORS

- **Site-finished hardwood floors** can be covered after **48 hours** since installation and finish has been applied.
- **Prefinished hardwood floors** may be covered right after installation is complete.
- Floor must be inspected and approved prior to covering.
- Floor must be clean, debris and dust free prior to covering.

2. Approved Protection Materials (in this order)

Required Breathable Floor Protection (base layer):

- UltraKraft Paper
- Brown Paper

Additional (second layer for construction traffic):

- 1/8" Masonite Hardboard
- 1/4" Plywood

✗ Prohibited:

- Red Rosin Builders Paper
- Plastic sheeting
- Non-breathable vapor barriers
- Rubber-backed mats or foam underlays
- Adhesive films



3. Installation Method

- Vacuum and wash floor thoroughly before covering; allow to fully dry.
- Lay protection flat, edge to edge.
- Tape paper-to-paper seams only.
- Do not tape directly to the hardwood surface except where unavoidable at seams (see Paragraph #4 for tape specification).

4. Tape Specification (Critical)

- **Only approved tape:** Scotch Delicate Surface Painter's Tape – 2080
- **Maximum tape duration: 3 weeks, only if:**
 - Taped areas are **not exposed to direct sunlight**
 - Not installed over **radiant-heated surfaces**
 - Not located above or adjacent to **active HVAC vents**, especially during winter months.



⚠ Heat or Sun Exposure

- If tape is exposed to **direct sunlight or heat**, it **must be removed and replaced every 7 days**.
- Failure to replace tape under these conditions may result in **adhesive transfer into the floor finish**.
- Use of unapproved tapes may cause permanent damage and will void finish warranty.





5. Heavy Traffic, Rolling Loads & Scaffolding

- Install Masonite Hardboard **over base layer**
- Tape boards to each other only — **never to the floor**.
- No metal wheels or sharp edges permitted.
- **Scaffolding:**
 - Use of **any size scaffold is not permitted** directly over protected site-finished and prefinished hardwood floors.
 - If scaffolding is required, **¾" plywood must be installed continuously over the entire area** where the scaffold will be used, fully covering and distributing the load before scaffold placement.

6. Moisture Control

- No wet trades over exposed or protected hardwood.
- If moisture, paint, or chemicals contact the floor:
 - Stop work immediately
 - Remove protection
 - Dry area completely
- No standing water or condensation permitted.

7. Maintenance During Construction

- Protection must be inspected daily.
- Replace torn, wet, dirty, or loose materials immediately.
- Remove trapped debris as needed.

8. Removal & Final Cleaning

- Remove protection only after construction is complete.
- Lift materials — do not drag.
- Clean floor using approved cleaner only (Wash & Care Floor Soap).

9. Responsibility

- All Trades must comply with this protocol.
- Any damage to the hardwood floor is the responsibility of the Trade causing it.
- Use of any unapproved floor protection materials, including masking tape, will void the finish warranty.

You can always find product instructions in **Guidelines** on our [Downloads Page](#)

Need Help?

Call Us: 866.554.4252

Email: sales@signaturehardwoods.com

Visit: www.signatureinnovations.com/downloads



Rev. 1/27/2026



Signature Innovations LLC | 1171 Landmeier Road, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 | 847.758.9600 | toll free 866.554.4252

www.signatureinnovations.com | sales@signaturehardwoods.com