

## INSTALLATION & PRECAUTIONS

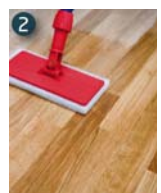
Tate Hardwood engineered wood tiles are a natural wood laminate bonded to a Versacore wood backer material. It is manufactured from natural wood. The surface is sanded smooth and finished with a high solids air cured oil coating that penetrates deep into the wood, providing a long lasting durable finish. Prefinished Tate Hardwood tile is laminated directly to the floor panels. Panels laminated with Tate Hardwood must be installed on bolted stringer understructure systems.

Since this panel has a factory applied finish, care should be taken during shipping, installation and during the construction cycle to prevent damage. Important points to pay attention to are:

1. Schedule delivery and installation as late in the construction process as possible to minimize the chance of damage due to ongoing construction activity.
2. Inspect material on receipt. Look for any damage that may have occurred during shipment. If there is any evidence of damage to the packaging or panels, notify Tate immediately.
3. Use care in handling material. Move skids one at a time. Avoid any bumping or rough handling.
4. Use recommended saw and blade for cutting Tate Hardwood panels. Tate recommends a bandsaw or reciprocating saw with a bi-metal 14 tooth blade, ½" wide x .034" thick. If cutting across the grain of the wood take extra care to avoid splintering the wood. The exposed cut edge of the Hardwood should be oiled with Fuse Maintenance Oil, available through Tate. When cutting panels follow appropriate safe working practices and use the proper personal protective equipment.
5. Do not force panels into position, keep the module controlled and square. Panels should be lifted straight up with the suction cup lifter when removing and replaced the same way.
6. Tate Hardwood tile is a natural product. You should expect to see some variances between tiles with regard to grain, shading and/or color. Avoid placing contrasting panels next to each other and keep an eye toward a blended installation. You should also expect to see gaps between the installed panels particularly if two panels with steel exposure are placed side by side. It will be necessary to move some panels in order to maintain a blended appearance and minimize gapping. Different lighting conditions can also influence the appearance of the tiles. Tate Hardwood tile may be installed in a straight or quarter turn pattern, but it is directional. If installing in a straight pattern, you must install the tiles in a consistent manner. This will help to minimize variations in appearance. For steel panels, make sure the side of the panel with the 2 fill hole plugs is always installed in the same direction. For wood core panels, one side of the panel is marked indicating the direction it is to be installed.

7. Important: As the installation progresses, the wood surface must be protected with masonite and taped seams to guard against scratches and other damage that may occur during the construction process. Once the installation and construction activity on the floor is complete, it is now ready for its final cleaning. Although panels laminated with Tate Hardwood Tile are pre-oiled at the factory, it must be cleaned, oiled and buffed before final turnover. In order to honor the 1 year factory warranty, Tate requires this final process to be conducted by a professional that is skilled in natural wood cleaning & sealing. The initial field oiling of the floor is a 3 step process:

- Sweep the floor to remove all dirt, debris and particulates. Do not wet mop to remove fine particulates.
- Clean the entire floor using Fuse Wood Cleaner mixed with lukewarm water. Always wipe a second time to ensure as little water as possible remains on the floor. Repeat cleaning procedure if necessary. Once the floor is clean, allow it to dry for approximately 8 hours.



- When the floor is completely dry, buff with Fuse Maintenance Oil, polishing well into the surface. This ensures full saturation of the wood. For large areas, buff the floor in sections. Polish the floor with clean, dry cotton cloths or pads when finished or before proceeding to the next section. No excess oil should be left on the floor. Allow the floor to dry for 6 to 8 hours before walking on it. The surface will be fully hardened after 48 hours at 70° F. Do not expose the floor to water during the hardening time.



For a list of qualified maintenance professionals in your area please contact:

**Brian Greenberg**

Phone: 212-353-3370

[briangreenberg@floorworks.ca](mailto:briangreenberg@floorworks.ca)

For regular cleaning and maintenance use Fuse Natural Oil Soap, floor soap developed for high frequency commercial cleaning.

Your Tate Hardwood floor will require “rejuvenation” periodically. This consists of cleaning, re-oiling and buffing the floor with Fuse Wood Cleaner and Fuse Maintenance Oil as indicated above. Typical frequency is 6 months to a year, but may vary depending on the degree of traffic.

Refer to Tate’s Oiled Floor Care and Maintenance Guide for complete information on ongoing care and maintenance to obtain the maximum life from your Tate Hardwood floor.