



The Number One Wood Floor for Concrete Installation

Myths & Misconceptions

Concrete slabs are one of the most common subfloor systems used today for residential and commercial construction. Unfortunately, it is a common misconception that you cannot install a wood floor on top of a concrete slab. This can be discouraging if you've had your heart set on the look of wide plank floors.

The good news is Carlisle has been installing wide plank floors in conjunction with a concrete slab for over 45 years. Our floors exhibit the highest level of quality in the industry, which means they outperform other wood flooring available on the market. So you can get a floor that looks beautiful, and performs the best when installed with a concrete slab.

Don't compromise the look of your floor because of industry myths and misconceptions. Learn more about what makes Carlisle wood floors more stable and get the look you have been dreaming of for your project.

Hundreds of Floors and Counting

From Texas ranches, luxury retail stores, and boutique hotels, Carlisle floors have been installed direct to a concrete slab in hundreds of projects all over the world. This level of experience gives us complete confidence that Carlisle floors will perform when installed to a concrete slab.

Engineered wood floors are the most stable product you can install to a concrete slab and Carlisle is pleased to offer the highest quality engineered wood flooring in the world. Carlisle's premium engineered wood flooring is 3/4" thick, and constructed with 11-ply* Baltic birch backing and the most beautiful wood available. Your Carlisle engineered floor provides beauty, quality and stability, but most of all value; with an engineered wood floor that wears like a solid wood floor, thanks to our 3/16" wear layer, and lasts for generations.

For your convenience, Carlisle also offers solid wood flooring solutions, which can be installed to a concrete slab. Contact us to speak with a Carlisle Wide Plank Specialist about this option.

*Some Carlisle engineered flooring is 5/8" thick with a 9-ply Baltic birch backing.

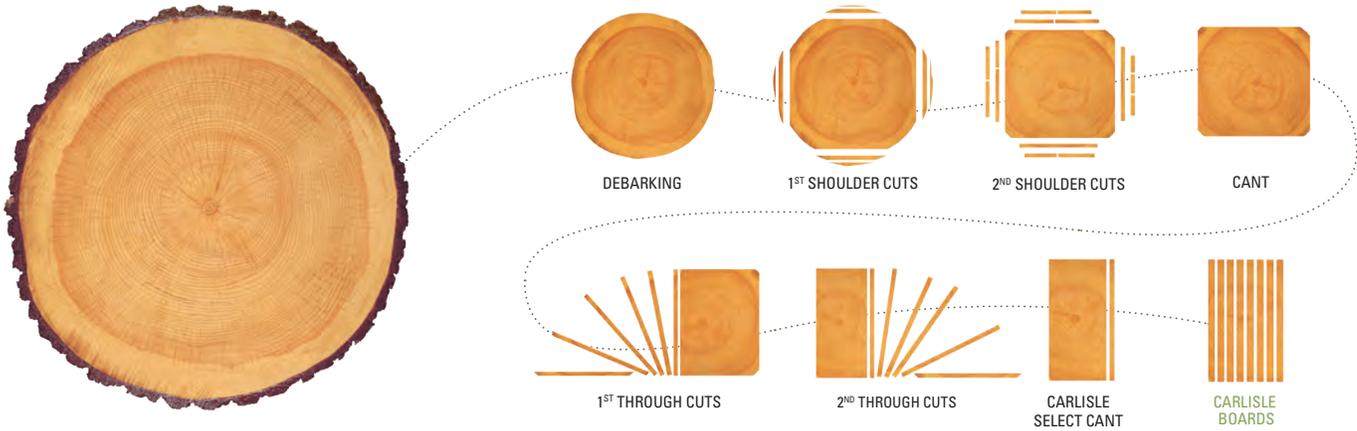
THE TOUGH QUESTIONS

Don't be afraid to ask us or any other flooring provider:

- Can you install your floors direct to a concrete slab?
- Do I have to use a floating floor when installing to a concrete slab?
- Am I limited to a certain species if I install your wood floors on a concrete slab?
- Do I have to use quartersawn wood when I install your wood floors on a concrete slab?
- Do I have to use an engineered floor if I install your wood floors on a concrete slab?
- Can I use a solid wood if I install your wood floors on a concrete slab?
- Am I limited to a certain width when I install your floors on a concrete slab?
- Is the wood air dried and kiln dried?
- What experience do you have installing wide plank floors over a concrete slab?
- Is my floor made to order?
- How will your wood floors perform on a concrete slab?
- What do I need to do with my concrete slab system prior to installing my new floors?

The Carlisle Advantage

To Improve Stability and Performance over Radiant heat, Carlisle floors provide the following benefits:



- All boards are cut from the center of bigger, better trees, maximizing the heartwood and straight, vertical grain, in each board.
- Selectively harvested from climates where each species grows best. For example, Red Oak grows from Maine to Minnesota and from Florida to Texas. Northern Grown Oak is exposed to better soil conditions and slower growing conditions so trees grow slow and get bigger over a longer period of time. This creates more heartwood in the tree, and a tighter grain structure. These boards will be far superior to Southern grown Red Oak which grows faster, so it does not develop any heartwood and minimal vertical grain.
- Each floor made to order using our exclusively Slowcraft™ process, which allows Carlisle craftsmen to interact with every square inch of the floor, and provide the best quality control in the industry.
- All flooring material is air dried 3-12 months, depending on species, and kiln dried by order. This will slowly reduce the moisture in the boards and provide consistent moisture content throughout the entire floor.
- Carlisle has developed proprietary grades which exceed the standards of common lumber grades.
- All flooring is crafted with a tongue and groove edge and the best milling tolerances in the industry for a precise fit.
- Solid wood floors crafted with stress reliefs for added stability.
- Engineered wood floors are constructed in a way that does not require stress reliefs, but are equally stable.

What our customers have to say:

Sarah Abdallah, Finish Designer, Tony Chi Associates – Park Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC:

“Carlisle provided us with a dramatic, artistic look not found in even the most fashionable of inner-city hotels. The direct-to-concrete installation saved us a tremendous amount of time and money. Now, several years later, the floor remains as warm, as inviting, and as flat as when it was installed.”

Brad Christie and Kelly Doody of DC Twin – West Palm Beach, Florida

In Florida, pretty much all our floor installations are directly over concrete. We have over 10 years of nothing but success installing Carlisle floors in one of the highest-humidity regions in the country.”

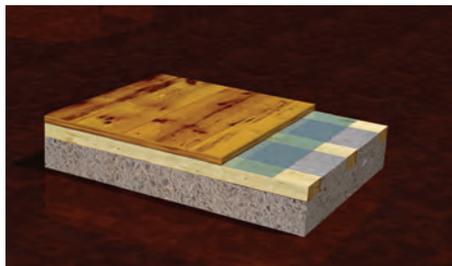
Installing Carlisle Wide Plank Floors over Concrete Slab

There is no single installation method that is used, or required, for installing Carlisle wide plank floors to a concrete slab. The installation will depend on conditions unique to your job site, the condition of your concrete slab, and the Carlisle floors you chose for your home.

The following information can provide you with some general guidelines:

- Your concrete slab must be dry. Your installer or builder should check the moisture with the industry accepted moisture tests available.
- All wood flooring should be properly acclimated to the environment in which it will be installed.
- Your wood floor will be installed direct to the concrete slab, no fasteners are required.
- If you have not already poured your slab, you can install 2x4's in your concrete (every 12-18") this will allow you to blind nail, like you would over a traditional plywood subfloor.
- Gypcrete and concrete are two different materials, you should not install a wide plank floor direct to gypcrete.
- You must factor in a vapor barrier into your concrete slab.
- You must properly acclimate the wood.
- You must check the wood and the subfloor for moisture to ensure it is within industry standards.
- You must use the proper adhesive for glue down installation.
- Direct glue down to concrete will require more time to install, you should factor this in to your project timeline.

The following examples are some of the most common concrete slab subfloor systems. Notice, that with proper planning you may be able to install 2x4 and/or plywood in conjunction with your concrete slab. Anytime you can incorporate a wood subfloor it can help reduce installation costs and time to install.



Sleeps over Concrete



Direct to Concrete



Warmboard over Concrete



VB Plywood over Concrete



Plywood Over Sleeps & Concrete/Gypcrete

To download more information and watch informational and instructional videos about installing Carlisle wood floors over concrete slab, visit us online at wideplankflooring.com/concrete.