

# Livingetc

Advice

## How to Lay Engineered Wood Flooring — 3 Tactics Experts Swear by for the Very Best Finish

If you're looking for advice on how to lay engineered wood flooring, we asked experts for their best tips

Engineered wood is a great option for flooring. It's made up of a plywood base with a hardwood layer on top and is every bit as natural and beautiful as a full hardwood floor.

'It's often less expensive than the comparable solid wood alternative,' Rebekah Zaveloff, co-founder and creative director of Chicago-based Imparfait Design Studio, says about this [floor type](#). 'The best thing is that the industry has really improved the look over the years. I used to be able to tell from a mile away if a floor was engineered, but with the popularity of matte finishes and character-grade, it looks like the real thing.'

So what are the ways you can install engineered wood flooring? According to the experts, there are three main methods. What you pick will depend on your sub-floor. We ask the flooring experts to share their secrets.

## 1. THE GLUE-DOWN METHOD

Gluing down your engineered wood flooring is one option for application. 'The glue-down method is best over concrete,' says [Rebekah Zaveloff](#), co-founder and creative director of Chicago-based, Imparfait Design Studio.

Decide which direction to run the planks. Stand back and examine your layout so you are happy with it before gluing. Spread just enough glue to cover a few planks and resist the urge to add glue to the whole floor as it could be quick drying and might make your work difficult. Start by firmly placing down the first plank in the right corner and connect the second plank at the end joint. Continue this process until you reach the end of the first row.

You might need to cut the end of your first plank to fit, but don't forget that all-important expansion space. Make sure you maintain an expansion space of half an inch of the perimeter of the whole room including walls and other obstacles. You can buy and use [flooring spacers](#) to help you be consistent.

Hold the trowel at a 45-degree angle to ensure the proper spread of [engineered wood flooring adhesive](#). Place the tongue of the board in and press down. As you work, remove the adhesive from the surface. A damp rag with water or mineral spirits will help. Once the adhesive has set, you can install the [door trim](#) and moldings.

## 2. THE STAPLE-DOWN METHOD

Stapling down your engineered flooring is another reliable method. 'Another method is staple-down which works over a subfloor,' says Rebekah. 'Glued-down and stapled are the most durable and long-lasting for high-traffic areas.'

In this method, use spacers again around the room to leave that expansion gap between the walls and the planks.

### 3. THE FLOATING METHOD

Floating is the easiest method out of the three. It works great over vinyl and doesn't require any adhesive or nails. The floating method works with the planks locking together almost like a puzzle. To start, be sure you've prepped the floor. '

An underlayment is also recommended, as a moisture barrier and/or to reduce noise or squeaks,' says Rebekah. 'Underlayments such as rubber or cork, or a mix of the two are the most common.'

Remember to place your spacers, allowing for a half inch and begin laying your planks. If you have a [tapping block](#), this can help you make sure pieces are definitely locked together.

Keep going across your rows, and cut any pieces that are too long - making sure to factor in the half-inch expansion space.