SENECA™
Perfect Fit. Perfect Finish.

HARDWOOD TRANSITIONS INSTALLATION GUIDE

Seneca Millwork has a variety of installation videos available on senecamillwork.com and on YouTube.

Hardwood Transitions Installation Guide

This guide contains instructions for industry-accepted installations of hardwood flooring transitions.

There are a number of ways hardwood flooring can be attached to the subfloor, including nail down, glue down and floating installations. As a result, make sure you choose the appropriate transition profile and installation method for your project.

Please note: These guidelines are not meant to cover every possible scenario. If you need assistance, please contact us—we are here to help.

Contact: 800.228.6671 or sales@senecamillwork.com

How Much Transition Molding Do I Need?

For each type of Seneca Millwork transition you use, we suggest you follow this process to calculate how many pieces you need (based on our standard transition lengths of 6.5 LF/78").

- Calculate the linear feet required for the job.

  [Example: 25 LF needed]

- Add 10% as a waste factor for cutting.

  [25 LF x 1.10 = 27.5 LF needed allowing for waste]

- Divide the total linear feet needed by the length per piece to determine how many pieces you need. Always round up to a whole piece.

  [27.5 LF ÷ 6.5 LF = 4.23 pcs; round up to 5 pcs]

NOTE: For stair nosing, determine how many stair noses you will be able to get from one 78" long trim, and order accordingly (i.e. two 36" pieces from one).

The Nature of Real Wood

No two trees are exactly alike. That's why natural woods vary in color and character—they have different grain patterns, knots and streaks. Wood colors also change over time, darkening and lightening depending on exposure to sources of light.

All of these natural aspects contribute to the unique beauty, warmth and charm found in each piece of hardwood molding.

However, these characteristics also affect how stains are absorbed. They can create differences in color and tone. As a result, authentic wood pieces won't always match exactly, especially if you're adding or replacing trim and molding at a later date.

PRE-MATCHING TRANSITIONS & ADJACENT FLOORING

A little advance planning can make a big difference in the overall aesthetics of the finished room. **By sorting through the flooring before installation, the installer can select pieces of flooring that match up best to the transition in terms of color and grain.** Installing the pre-matched flooring next to the molding is an easy way to ensure the floor and transitions always look great.

How To Do It Right

Here are some helpful tips we've gathered from experienced installers. With their insight, you'll know how to do it right.

How should you use nails or fasteners?

If not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the wood

otherwise it may split. Use delicate surface painter's tape on the surface where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools. Countersink the nails and cover with color-matched wood putty if desired.

How do you avoid splitting the molding?

In addition to the pre-drilling, don't nail too close to the edge or cut end, and use smaller fasteners.

What's the best cut for splicing two pieces of molding together?

Always use miter cuts, not butt cuts.

Which way should you cut the miter?

Make it so the point goes in the same direction as your line of vision when you are entering the room.

What is the best way to saw the moldings?

Installers should cover the wood where the saw cut will be made with delicate surface painter's tape. This helps eliminate end splits and coating tear out. A finish saw blade (60 or more teeth) is recommended to get a clean cut. Remove the tape by pulling it towards the cut at a 45° angle to minimize damage to the coating.

How can I protect the molding after installation?

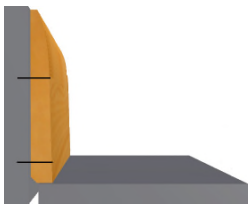
To prevent dirt or debris from getting below the surface of the molding and potentially causing adhesion issues, apply a water-based polyurethane product over nail holes (including any that color-matched putty has been applied), cut edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.

How to Make Hardwood Last

To maximize the performance of your wood floors and transitions, all you need is a little preventative maintenance.

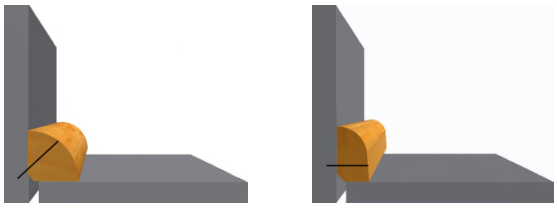
- Keep your floors dry. Wipe up water and spills immediately.
- Keep your floors clean. Sweep regularly. Clean only with products recommended by the flooring manufacturer. Never use ammonia, wax or oil-based products.
- Use rugs and mats to collect dirt and minimize wear.
- Use protectors under furniture, especially when moving heavy objects on wood floors.
- Remove your shoes, especially spikes and high heels.
- Keep animal claws well trimmed and clean.
- Follow all of the flooring manufacturer's recommendations.

Wall Base Installation



- Attach the wall base to the vertical surface, not the flooring. This way the wood flooring can expand and contract beneath the wall base.
- Nail the wall base to wall studs when possible for added strength.
- Before cutting the molding, cover the surface with delicate surface painter's tape to help prevent splintering or damage from the saw blade.
- If not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the wall base before fastening to avoid splitting the wood.
- Use delicate surface painter's tape on the surface where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools.
- Nail the molding approximately every 8" to 12" and no closer than 4" from the ends to avoid splitting the wood.
- After nailing, countersink the nails, then remove the tape and apply color-matched wood putty over the nail holes if desired.
- To protect the molding, apply a water-based polyurethane product to all nail holes, cut edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.
- If the expansion joint is wider than the wall base, add base shoe or quarter round molding to cover the gap.

Quarter Round & Base Shoe Installation



- Attach the quarter round or base shoe to the vertical surface, not the flooring. This way the wood flooring can expand and contract beneath the wall base.
- Before cutting the molding, cover the surface with delicate surface painter's tape to help prevent splintering or damage from the saw blade.
- If not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the molding before fastening to avoid splitting the wood.
- Use delicate surface painter's tape on the surface where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools.
- Nail the molding approximately every 8" to 12" and no closer than 4" from the ends to avoid splitting the wood.
- After nailing, countersink the nails, then remove the tape and apply color-matched wood putty over the nail holes if desired.
- To protect the molding, apply a water-based polyurethane product to all nail holes, cut edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.

Threshold Installation

- When installing threshold moldings, do not attach the molding directly to the wood flooring. The flooring has to be able to expand and contract beneath the lip of the molding. The threshold molding needs to overlap the flooring by 1/2" to 3/4".
- Before cutting the molding, cover the surface with delicate surface painter's tape to help prevent splintering or damage from the saw blade.
- Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor. Seat the molding, then tape down with delicate surface painter's tape until the glue sets up.
- If nailing and not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the molding before fastening to avoid splitting the wood. Nail into the subfloor behind the lip. Make sure the fastener is placed so the flooring can still expand and contract.
- Use delicate surface painter's tape on the surface where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools.
- After nailing, countersink the nails, then remove the tape and apply color-matched wood putty over the nail holes if desired.
- To protect the molding, apply a water-based polyurethane product to all nail holes, cut edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.

T-Molding Installation

- Be sure there is enough space between the two adjoining same-level floors to install the t-molding. There has to be room for the wood flooring to expand and contract. Usually you will need approximately 1" between the two floors.
- Before cutting the molding, cover the surface with delicate surface painter's tape to help prevent splintering or damage from the saw blade.
- Always follow the flooring manufacturer's recommendations for adequate spacing.
- **OPTION 1:** If the t-molding stem rests on the subfloor, apply a 1/4" bead of construction adhesive to the bottom of the t-molding stem and adhere to the subfloor. If the stem doesn't reach the subfloor, a shim can be used between the t-molding and the subfloor. Apply adhesive to the subfloor and the top of the shim.
- **OPTION 2:** When installing t-molding between two hardwood floors, apply a 1/4" bead of construction adhesive to the top edge of the

flooring on one side only. Then seat the molding, making sure it overlaps the other piece of flooring by at least 1/4".

- **OPTION 3:** When installing t-molding between ceramic and hardwood floors, apply a 1/4" bead of construction adhesive to the top edge of the ceramic tile only. Then seat the molding, making sure it overlaps the wood flooring by at least 1/4".
- If nailing and not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the t-molding before fastening to avoid splitting the wood. Use delicate surface painter's tape on the surface where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools.
- After nailing, countersink the nails, then remove the tape and apply color-matched wood putty over the nail holes if desired.
- To protect the molding, apply a water-based polyurethane product to all nail holes, cut edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.

Reducer Installation

FLUSH REDUCERS FOR NAIL/GLUE DOWN FLOORS

Seneca offers flush reducers in a range of sizes to accommodate transitioning from one flooring thickness to another. It is important to make sure you have the proper size reducer before installation.

- Before cutting the molding, cover the surface with delicate surface painter's tape to help prevent splintering or damage from the saw blade.
- Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the bottom of the flush reducer or to the subfloor. Seat the molding, then tape it down with delicate surface painter's tape until the glue sets up.
- If nailing and not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the reducer before fastening to avoid splitting the wood.
- Use delicate surface painter's tape on the surface where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools.
- After nailing, countersink the nails, then remove the tape and apply color-matched wood putty over the nail holes if desired.
- To protect the molding, apply a water-based polyurethane product to all nail holes, cut edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.
- If butting vinyl tile up to the low end of the reducer, run a bead of silicone between the flooring and reducer to prevent moisture from mopping going under the reducer.

OVERLAP REDUCERS FOR FLOATING FLOORS

- When installing overlap reducers on floating floors, do not attach the molding directly to the flooring. Leave space between the wood flooring and the reducer to the flooring can expand and contract beneath the lip of the molding.
- Always follow the flooring manufacturer's recommendations for adequate clearance.
- Before cutting the molding, cover the surface with delicate surface painter's tape to help prevent splintering or damage from the saw blade.
- Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor. Seat the molding, then tape down with delicate surface painter's tape until the glue sets up.
- If nailing and not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the reducer before fastening to avoid splitting the wood.
- Use delicate surface painter's tape on the surface where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools.
- After nailing, countersink the nails, then remove the tape and apply color-matched wood putty over the nail holes if desired.
- To protect the molding, apply a water-based polyurethane product to all nail holes, cut

edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.

- If butting vinyl tile up to the low end of the reducer, run a bead of silicone between the flooring and reducer to prevent moisture from mopping going under the reducer.

Stair Nosing Installation

FLUSH STAIR NOSING FOR NAIL/GLUE DOWN FLOORS

Seneca offers flush stair nose moldings in a range of sizes to accommodate various flooring thicknesses. It is important to make sure you have the proper size stair nosing before installation.

- Before cutting the molding, cover the surface with delicate surface painter's tape to help prevent splintering or damage from the saw blade.
- On ascending steps, the stair nosing should cover and overlap the riser. Apply a bead of glue to the edge of the molding. Seat the molding, then tape down with delicate surface painter's tape until the glue sets up.
- On a top step, the stair nosing should be installed before the flooring. Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor. Seat the molding, then tape down with delicate surface painter's tape until the glue sets up.
- If nailing and not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the stair nosing before fastening to avoid splitting the wood.
- Use delicate surface painter's tape where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools.
- After nailing, countersink the nails, then remove the tape and apply color-matched wood putty over the nail holes if desired.
- To protect the molding, apply a water-based polyurethane product to all nail holes, cut edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.

OVERLAP STAIR NOSING FOR FLOATING FLOORS

- When installing overlap stair nosing on floating floors, do not attach the molding directly to the wood flooring. The flooring needs to able to expand and contract beneath the lip of the molding.
- Before cutting the molding, cover the surface with delicate surface painter's tape to help prevent splintering or damage from the saw blade.
- On a top step, the stair nosing should be installed before the flooring. Apply one or two 1/4" beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor. Seat the molding, then tape down with delicate surface painter's tape until the glue sets up.
- If nailing and not using a brad nailer, pre-drill the stair nosing before fastening to avoid splitting the wood.
- Nail into the subfloor behind the lip. Make sure the fastener is placed so the flooring can still expand and contract.
- Use delicate surface painter's tape on the surface where the nail will be placed to minimize damage to the coating caused by tools.
- After nailing, countersink the nails, then remove the tape and apply color-matched wood putty over the nail holes if desired.
- To protect the molding, apply a water-based polyurethane product to all nail holes, cut edges or any break in the molding's surface coating.

SENECA MILLWORK DOES NOT WARRANT INSTALLATION DAMAGE TO WOOD MOLDINGS AND/OR THEIR FINISH CAUSED BY NAIL GUNS OR FAULTY TOOLS.