

Appendix A

Safety Guidelines

Safety First

Safety on the job is the foremost concern for contractors, because accidents with power tools can be critical, even disabling or deadly. No amount of experience or expertise exempts you from safety risks inherent in using the tools required to install hardwood floors. The good news is that these risks are easily managed. Start with these general guidelines:

1. Never work under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication.
2. Work with others nearby, if possible.
3. Do not work on a cluttered floor.
4. Use proper lighting and ventilation.
5. Make sure that the electrical power and wiring at the jobsite is sufficient to operate all machines safely.
6. Know your insurance company's policy on coverage related to accidents or jobsite situations.
7. Wear proper work clothing and shoes. Do not wear loose clothing that could get caught in a machine.
8. Wear NIOSH-approved hearing protection and safety glasses, as well as dust and fume respirators, knee protection and gloves.
9. Have an OSHA-approved first-aid kit on the job site.
10. Read and fully understand the owner's manuals that are supplied with the equipment.
11. Use tools only as intended.
12. Use all tool and machine safety guards.
13. Turn off and unplug electrical tools and machines when making adjustments and attaching accessories.
14. Turn off all sources of ignition when using flammables.
15. Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on electric tools to avoid electric shock.
16. Carry and read MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) for all products.
17. Do not exceed manufacturer's recommended working air pressure for pneumatic systems.