

Sanding End-Grain

Sanding end-grain wood floors requires some special considerations that differ from sanding strip and plank wood floors. Always follow manufacturer recommendations.

Check the moisture content of the wood floor prior to sanding to ensure it is properly acclimated or conditioned. If installed with adhesive, the adhesive must be completely cured.

Make the first cut at a 45° angle to the direction of the installation. Walking speed is slower than normal due to the density of the material. Vacuum between cuts.

Make the second cut on the opposite 45° angle, using the next grit of sandpaper, not skipping any grits between sanding.

Use an edger to sand edges and other places the big machine cannot reach. For the final edger cut, use the same grit as the final cut for the big machine.

Each subsequent cut with the big machine should be at a 45° angle to the direction of the installation. Typically, the final sanding grit for end grain flooring will be finer than for a strip or plank flooring.

Hand scrape corners, around doorjambs and other areas where the edger cannot be used. Apply even pressure, scraping in the direction of the grain where possible. Do not sharpen scrapers on raw wood when using waterborne finishes. The filings may cause rust spots or black spots in the finish.

Use a sanding block with the same grit as the big machine to blend.



Examine for visible imperfections and make repairs as necessary. If the result is not satisfactory, the previous steps must be repeated.

When using random orbital sanders or other sanding machines to remove perimeter scratches, be sure to use the same grit as was used in the final sanding process.

End grain floors should be final sanded using a hard plate attachment on the buffer, a multi-disc sanding machine, or an oscillating sander in order to minimize gouging, dish-out and uneven flooring. These types of sanders will also mask or alleviate any discernible scratch patterns that may otherwise become apparent on the final product.

More-detailed information about sanding end-grain wood flooring is available in the NWFA Wood Flooring Sand and Finish Guidelines publication, or at <http://member.nwfa.org/?page=InstallGuidelines>.