

Stair Installation Guide

INSTALLATION FOR STAIR TREADS AND RISERS

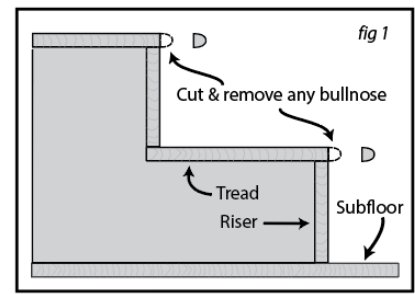
When installing stairs, there is no need to have an expansion joint. The floor will not float, it will be glued down. The installation of engineered wood flooring on stairs is a fully adhered system. Under no circumstances should foam underlayment be placed on stair steps or risers. This can result in an unsafe condition.

Also, Mohawk Home uses what is referred to as an “overlap” stairnose. The lip of the stairnose reaches over the tread and adds “*surface texture*” to the stair tread, giving a superior grip and reducing the slip potential when someone is descending the stairs in stocking feet.

Mohawk Home stairnose length per piece is 84" (213 cm).

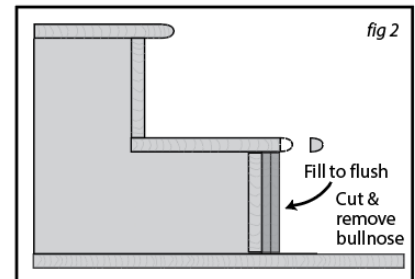
A. Use the correct adhesive

The proper adhesive for gluing down engineered wood flooring is generally a construction-type, urethane-based adhesive. These come in caulking tubes and go by trade names such as “Franklin Fast Set Polyurethane”. Do not track this adhesive onto the surface of the flooring as it is very difficult to remove. Urethane-based adhesive may be difficult to find but is available from Mohawk Home customer service at 1-888-459-9220.



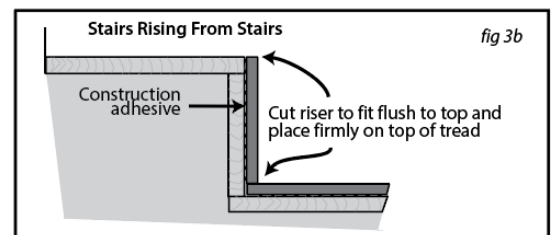
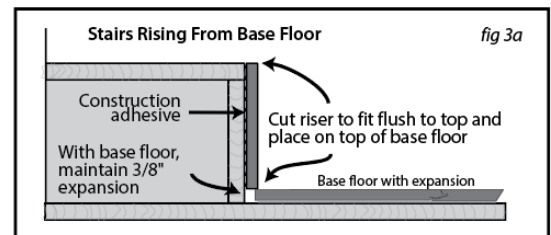
B. Preparation of the existing stairs

1. Treads and risers should be structurally sound, flat, dry, clean, smooth, and free from paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, and other foreign matter.
2. Cut off any existing bullnose flush with the riser of the stair. (fig 1)
3. If the bullnose substantially protrudes, trimming it off may make the stair tread too narrow and unsafe. If this is the case, trim just the end of the bullnose and use appropriately sized flooring panels to fill the space below until it is flush. (fig 2)
4. Check local building codes for any stair requirements before modifying the dimensions of the tread.



C. Installation of 1st riser

1. Beginning with the bottom riser, measure and cut a piece of Mohawk Home plank to fit vertically from the top of the main floor to ***flush with the top*** of the existing stair tread. If laying on a Mohawk Home floor, place on top of the floor, being sure to leave a 3/8" expansion gap in the main floor. (fig 3a) If on a glued tread, no space is needed. (fig 3b)
2. Vertically glue the cut Mohawk Home plank in place by applying polyurethane construction



adhesive to the back of the cut Mohawk Home plank in an “S” pattern and pressing it firmly into place. (fig 4)

3. Optional: Install a small piece of quarter round in the corner of the step where the floor meets the riser.

D. Installation of treads

1. Measure and cut stairnose to the proper length.
2. Place the stairnose on the edge of the first tread (without adhesive) with the stairnose overlapping the vertical plank on the riser below as shown in figures 5a and 5b.
3. Measure the width from the inside edge of the stairnose to the tread and reduce it by 1/8” if the tread is glued (fig 5a), and by 3/8” if it is a landing (fig 5b).
4. Cut a piece of plank for the stair tread using your measurements. If the plank is not wide enough to cover the depth of the tread, you will need to cut a second thinner plank to fill the space. Peel off the pad affixed to the back of the planks and click planks together. Place planks against the back of the step and double-check fit.
5. Apply polyurethane adhesive to the tread of the existing stair in an “S” pattern and press the cut plank firmly into place. Be sure to apply enough adhesive to lift the tread into a tight fit with the stair nose.

E. Installation of stairnose

1. Mohawk Home requires that both glue and screws (or nails) be used to fasten the stairnose. A safe, secure stairnose is worth the extra effort.
2. Apply a bead of polyurethane adhesive in an “S” pattern to the top of the tread and press the pieces firmly into place. (fig 6)
3. Next, in the installed stairnose, drill appropriate sized holes 2 inches in from each end and a maximum of 8 inches apart along the length. (figs 7a & 7b)
4. **If using screws:** Pre-drill the stairnose with holes that are just big enough for the screws to pass through and countersink the hole 1/8” to allow for the head of the screw. Then pre-drill the original tread (subfloor) with a smaller, appropriately sized drill bit. Drive a #8 or #10 x 1 1/2” flat-head wood screw into the hole until secure. **NOTE: test drilling and countersinking in a scrap piece of the stairnose.**
5. **If using nails:** Pre-drill the stairnose and the tread with a small, appropriately-sized drill bit. Drive 6d finish nails through the holes and set nails using a nail punch.

F. Finishing up

1. Repeat sections C through E until finished. (fig 8)
2. Fill screw and nail holes in stair nose with ChipCure® or similar putty. **Allow 24 hours adhesive curing time before exposing stairs to light traffic. If using “Franklin Fast Set Polyurethane”, lightuse is allowed after 12 hours.**

Warning: Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products generates wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a respirator or other safeguards for personal protection.

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