

## Installing your own hardwood floor is now quick and easy

People used to think that to get a hardwood floor, your home had to come with one, but that isn't true today. Now you can install an elegant wood plank floor over almost any subfloor — old hardwood, vinyl, even concrete. It's quick and easy with the new do-it-yourself glue-down plank hardwood floors.

Bruce Hardwood Floors, manufacturers of hardwood floors for over 100 years, recently introduced "Hampton Plank" with the Bruce 13-Step Penetrating Stain and Wax Finish, called "Dura-Satin™" in a special size of 3" x 48" (equal to 1 square foot) and very easy to install.

They feature a milled tongue and groove on the sides and ends of the planks that lock the planks together for a tight, durable and professional looking installation. The experts at Bruce have this advice for do-it-yourselfers: Prior to starting, always read the detailed instructions in the carton.

Then simply follow these four easy steps:

1. Remove the moldings from around the floor. Then, to insure a square installation, measure 3" out from the longest wall at 2 different points and mark point 1 and point 2.

2. Snap a chalkline the length of the

room across points 1 and 2.

3. Spread the adhesive in the largest section of the room, working back to the chalkline. Do not cover the chalkline. Be sure you read the instructions on the adhesive label.

4. Install a row of planks, tongue side on the chalkline. Continue adding rows of planks working towards the far wall. Walk in or roll the floor to seat the planks in the adhesive. Now repeat steps 3 and 4 on the remaining area. Replace the moldings.

Glue-down installation is easy, and so is the floor care on this new generation of hardwood floors, once the floor is laid.

Bruce's "Hampton Plank" has a penetrating seal and wax finish, and is so durable that just vacuuming or sweeping regularly is all that is needed.

Then, once or twice a year, wax with either Lite 'n' Brite for the Desert color, or Dark 'n' Rich for the Chestnut color. The Dura-Satin finish can be enhanced between waxings by simply buffing.

Wood warms a room twice — once with installation and again with style. Bring both to your home with a plank hardwood floor.

## Use a "multi-level" approach to solve a deck-design problem, experts advise

If a sloping yard has stunted your thinking about adding the "live-ability" of an outdoor deck to your home, maybe you should take a multi-level approach to the problem.

For years, architects have designed dramatic buildings on irregular properties. The answer lies in using several different levels to allow the space to "flow" up or down with the property grade.

### Levels increase versatility

According to the experts at Georgia-Pacific Corp., the nation's leading manufacturer and distributor of building materials, decks especially lend themselves to multiple levels, with steps and different deck sizes and shapes that define spaces for specific purposes.

For example, if you have a large deck space on one level, you might want to "step-up" to a smaller, more intimate space.

If your property slopes down, a smaller, lower deck area might be perfect for your barbecue grill — allowing the "chef" to do the cooking without really leaving the party.

The concept of multiple level decks might sound complicated, but they often are no more difficult to build than single-level decks. And the results can be even more appealing.

All you need is a little imagination, some professional assistance on any grading that might be necessary, and helpful, "how-to" ideas and directions.

### Start by stepping back

Start by stepping back from your home and looking at the slope of your property. (Hint: Use a stepladder to give you the proper perspective.)

Look at the floor level of your home to determine where your property slopes up or down. Remember that you need at least one level of the deck at the same level as your access door.

If your property slopes across the house, you might want to consider a three-level deck, following the grade, with the main deck at the same level as



MULTI-LEVEL deck is a practical and stunning solution for varying property grades. Each level can serve a different purpose — for a barbecue, umbrella table with chairs, flower garden, etc.

your door. A yard that slopes down and away is a natural for a two-level deck, with the access door level being smaller and the lower deck a little larger.

Once you've determined the levels, it's time to consider how you will use the deck. Do you want a large area for dining and entertaining, or a series of smaller spaces for relaxing, talking or napping?

Placement of such popular deck amenities as a hot tub and barbecue grill also should be considered. Their use often determines the size (square footage) you want for each level.

### Re-grading may be necessary

If there is not a sufficient level area of the property to hold the deck size you want, you may have to call in a professional contractor to re-grade the property. Explain and diagram your plan, and ask for his suggestions.

When you are ready to build, resist the temptation to start digging post holes right away. Instead, use stakes and twine

to outline the deck spaces on each level. This is important because you need to consider the location of such things as steps, planters and benches before you start.

These are the little extras that will make a big difference in your finished deck. For example, you can turn a corner of one level into an intimate conversation nook by adding a corner bench and planters for shrubbery. Steps, too, can add drama or be simply functional.

### Ideas and plans available

Ideas, plans and step-by-step building directions to help make your deck go from simple to super are contained in "Decks and Outdoor Projects" — a 36-page, full-color booklet published by Georgia-Pacific, the nation's largest manufacturer of building products.

To obtain a copy, plus a \$3 rebate coupon for G-P building products, send \$3 to Georgia-Pacific Corporation, "Decks and Outdoor Projects," Dept. MT010, P.O. Box 2808, Norcross, GA 30071.

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