



# LL Flooring®

## Solid Wood Moldings Installation Guide For Wood Flooring

Congratulations on the purchase of your high quality, solid wood transition molding to complement your hardwood flooring project.

Following these guidelines closely will help ensure your moldings will be beautiful and problem free for years to come.

### Preparation and Installation guide for all Transition Moldings:

*Please review this section before proceeding to individual molding sections.*

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

### Installation:

Click on Links below for detailed guidelines for placing and attaching the moldings

- [T-Molding](#)
- [Threshold](#)
- [Reducer](#)
- [Stair Nosing](#)
- [Base Board / Quarter Round](#)

### Maintenance:

Plan on providing long term care of your moldings and flooring.

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)



#### **WARNING:**

Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products can expose you to wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection. For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/wood)

# INSTALLATION: Pro Tips for all Transition Moldings

## Measuring and Cutting:

- Using a quality tape measure, obtain the exact width of the doorway between the floors.
- Transfer this measurement to the molding. Lightly draw a line.  
**Always double check your measurement before cutting.**
- The best cuts will be obtained using an electric miter saw with a new cross-cut blade. However, a good mechanical miter saw can provide an equally acceptable cut when used with care.  
**TIP:** In order to provide additional protection against chip-out in the cutting process you can apply Blue painters tape (2080) across the molding at the point where you anticipate making your cut. Then measure and scribe the cut line on the painter's tape.
- Transition moldings are made from natural products and will vary from one section to another. When joining pieces on longer runs of transition, select similar grain and color if possible to blend the appearance.
- Joints should be balanced and consideration made regarding final look. E.g. instead of a joint centered in the middle of a long run, a full length centered with equal cuts on either side may look better.  
**TIP:** Discuss these options with the customer.

## Overlap Transitions and "Floating" Floors:

- When installing the new flooring, ensure that sufficient space is allowed between floor types to allow the insertion of the Molding and allow for the proper expansion and contraction space.
- See recommended *Expansion space details* for each transition below.
- Gaps should be cleaned and all debris / contaminants removed, underlayment / moisture mitigating papers cut removed to allow direct gluing to substrate.
- Care should be taken with adhesive to ensure the floor is still free to move.

## Glue-Down Method Typically used over concrete substrates:

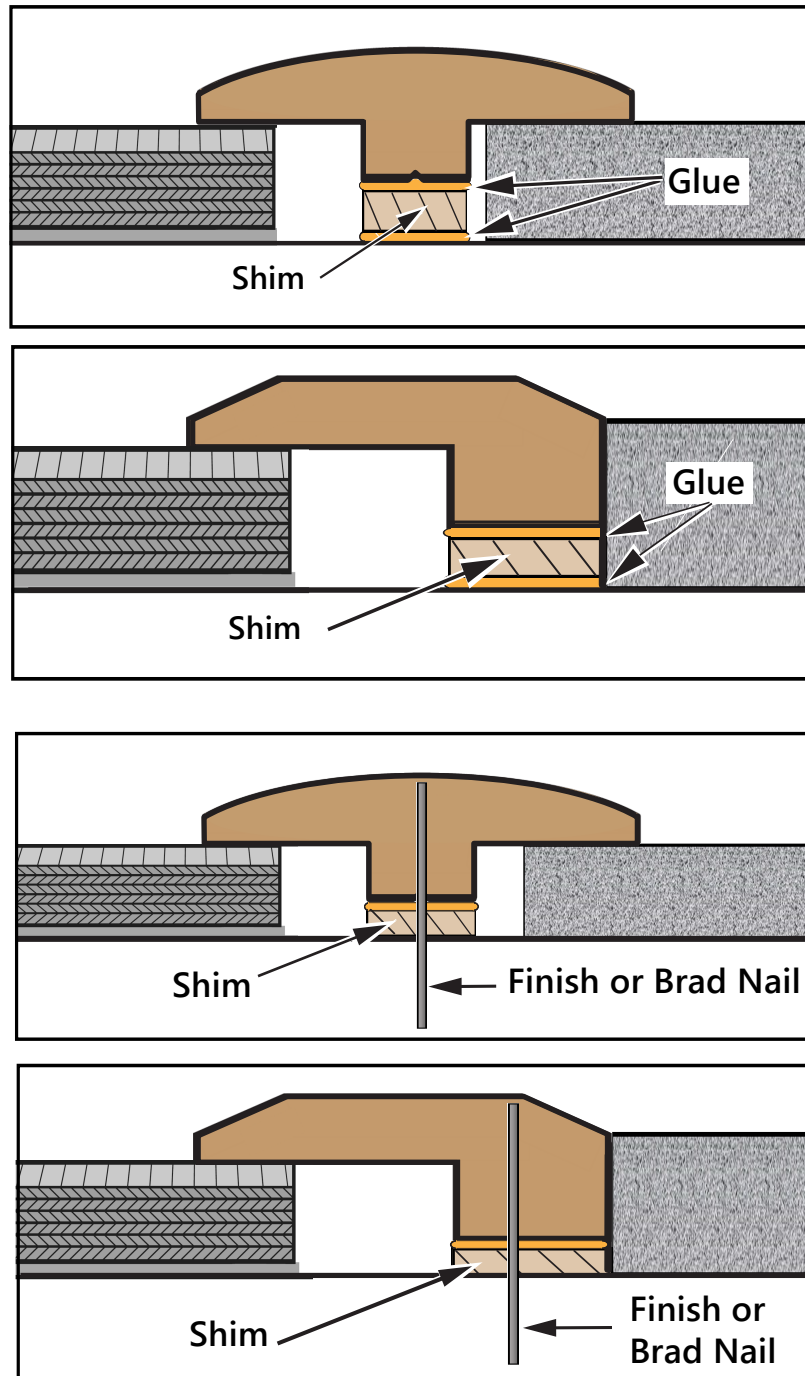
- Use a quality polyurethane based hardwood /construction adhesive E.g. **Bostik Best Adhesive** and a caulking gun applicator.
- Most transitions can be successfully installed using this method.  
Apply ¼" bead on the sub-flooring where underside of molding will be in contact with the adhesive.  
**TIP:** Remember do not apply the glue to any area which will impede the finished wood floor's ability to expand/contract with seasonal changes.
- Set the molding into the gap, pressing firmly so that the molding edge(s) rest firmly to flooring.  
**TIP:** Adhesives have an open time check manufacture instructions before proceeding.
- Apply firm pressure across the entire molding surface to ensure good contact with the adhesive. Wipe off any glue which may have oozed out with a damp cloth.
- Blue painters tape (2080) may be stretched tightly across the molding and onto both floors to hold the molding in finished position until the adhesive is fully cured (Typically 24 hours) or use weights to ensure molding is fully set into the glue until cures.

## Nail-Down Method Typically used over wood substrates:

- For most "domestic species", Use an 18 gauge pneumatic nailer to secure to wood subfloor.  
**TIP:** Test nail gun on an off-cut piece to ensure method is suitable
- For harder "exotic" species, pre-drill holes to avoid splitting moldings especially when nailing near the ends of the moldings. Typically a 6d or 8d hand-driven nail is used, use a drill bit that is slightly smaller than the nail shank.
- **Do not drill into the subfloor.**
- To reduce friction and help avoid bending the nails, use wax e.g. paraffin. Rub the sides of the finishing nails on the paraffin.
- Bostiks Best Adhesive may be used in addition to nailing for continued stability (See "Glue-Down" details above).
- Hammer the nail to just above the surface of the molding to avoid creating hammer dents in the surface of the molding. Use a new nail set to bring the nail to just below the surface of the molding.  
Use a complimenting color putty, wood filler crayon or putty stick to fill nail holes and wipe off excess.

## IMPORTANT:

- Ensure the "leg" of the transition molding will sit securely on the floor while the overlap portion touches the surface and sits flat on the flooring.
- If you cannot purchase the precise fit required, you can use a table saw or plane to adjust the thickness of the transition that sits on the subfloor.
- If the "leg" of the transition is too short, you can "build-up" the thickness by using stock wood material ripped to appropriate thickness to shim it up.
- See examples below:



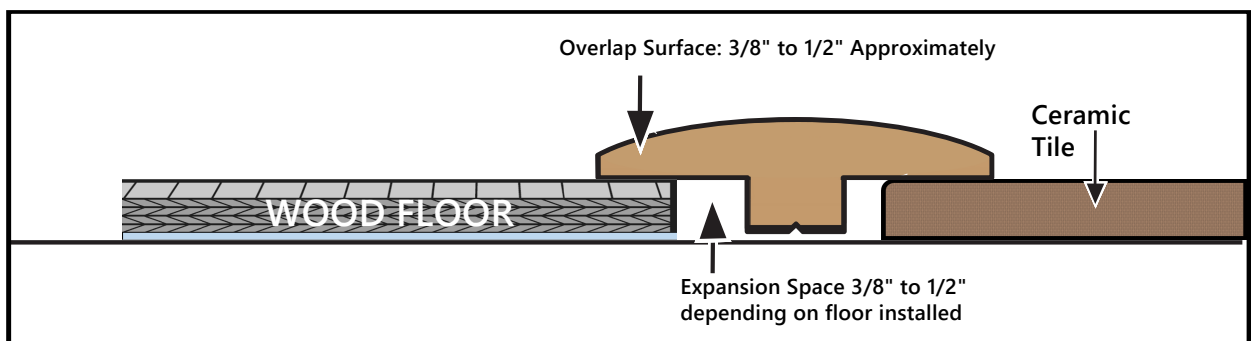
**Tip:** For best results, pre-glue shim to bottom of transition before installing.

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# Molding Descriptions: Uses and installation Tips

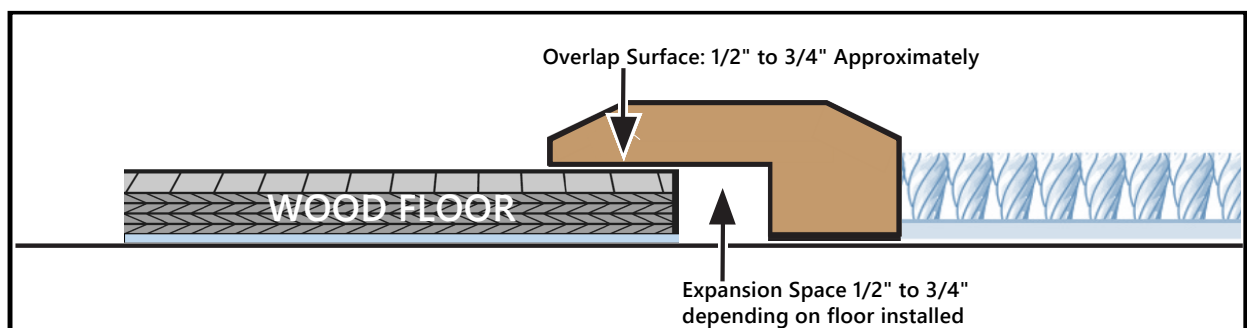
## T-molding:

- **T-Molding:** cover expansion spaces at doorways, and they transition from your new floor to other hard surfaces of similar height.
- Ensure there is room for the width of the center extension on the T-molding and clearance between this center extension and the flooring on both sides.
- It is important not to obstruct the space for free expansion/contraction recommended by the flooring manufacturers.
- You will need a space between the two adjoining floors of 1 -1/4" to properly install the T-molding.
- Determine if you are gluing or nailing the molding and refer to the instructions in the installation Section of this guide.
- T-moldings may be used for nail down, glue down and floating floor applications.



## Threshold molding:

- **Threshold moldings (Baby Threshold):** are used to allow floor expansion at exterior doors, raised hearths, tiled floors and where carpet abuts new flooring.
- When installing the new flooring, ensure there will be sufficient expansion space for the installed transition.
- It is important not to obstruct the space for free expansion/contraction recommended by the flooring manufacturers.
- Threshold moldings may be used for nail down, glue down and floating floor applications.

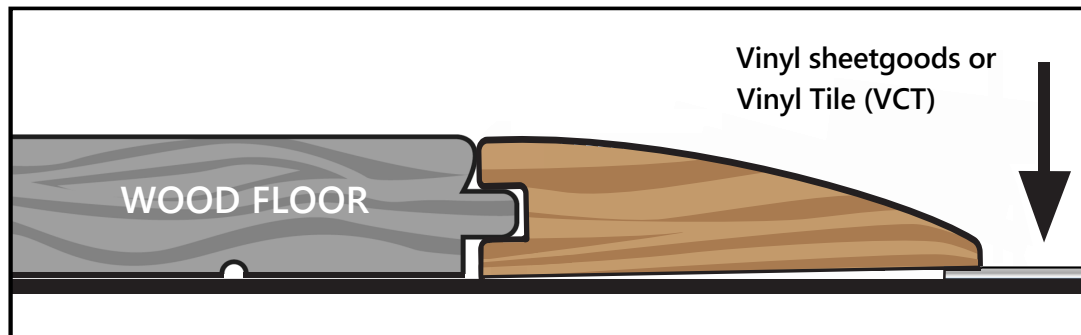


## Reducer Transition Moldings

### Reducer Molding:

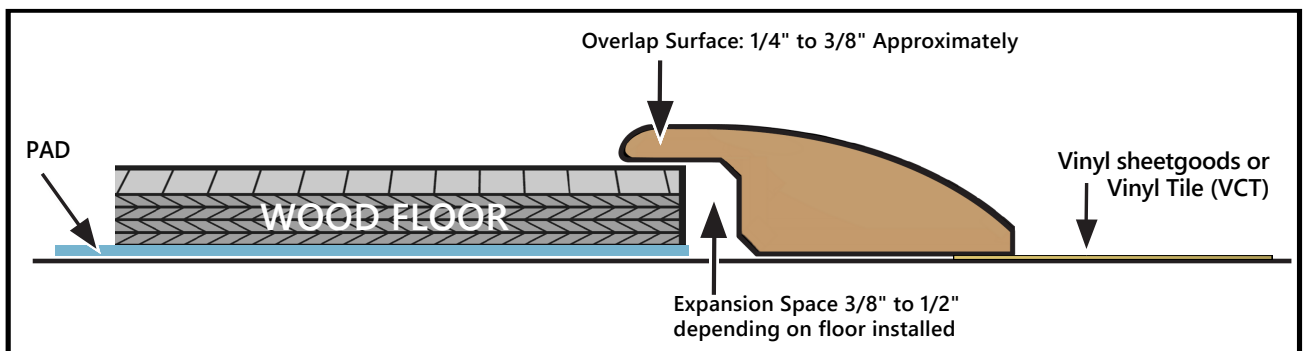
Smoothly and safely joins two floors of different heights with a gentle sloping surface providing an attractive appearance and eliminating trip hazards. (e.g. between hardwood flooring and vinyl or vinyl composition tile (VCT)).

- Reducer moldings are used for nail down and glue down floor applications.



### Overlap Reducer Transition Molding:

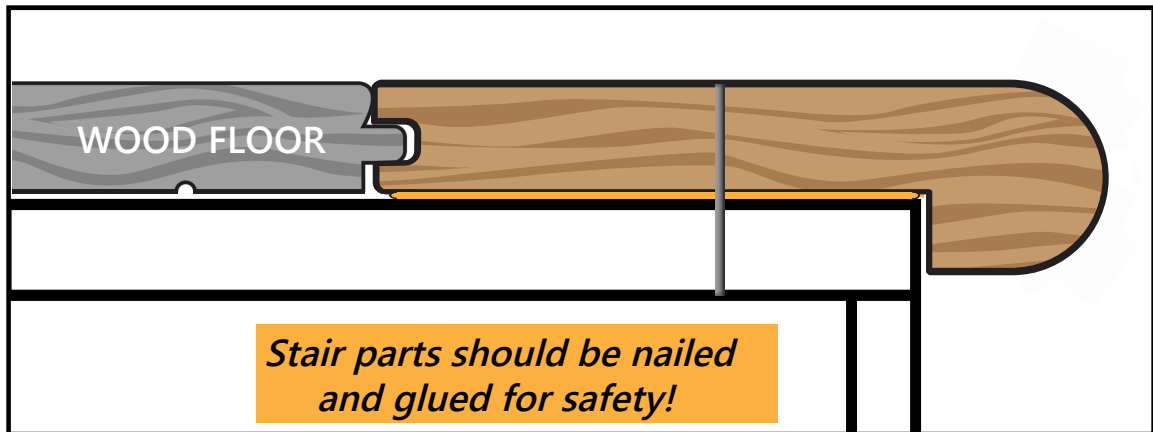
- Overlap Reducer moldings serve as a finishing transition for floating hardwood floor for a gradual transition to hard surfaces that are lower, such as hardwood, vinyl or VCT tile.
- It is important that the depth of thickness of the floor very closely mates with the finished installation height of the molding.
- The molding should sit squarely on the lower floor and have minimum clearance under the tongue with the wood flooring to prevent breakage after the molding is installed.
- If you are reducing the wood flooring to ceramic tile, then the molding can be glued directly to the tile.
- Overlap Reducer moldings are used for "Floating" floor applications.



# Stair Nose Moldings

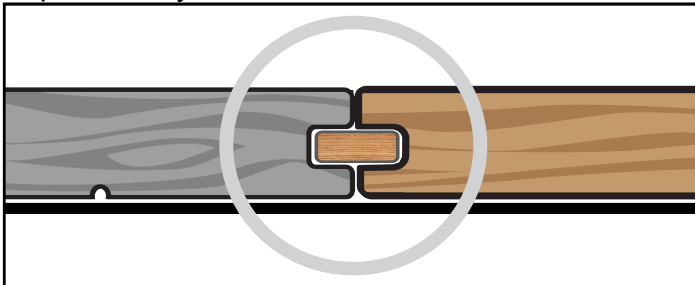
**Stair Nose** moldings are designed to create a clean transition from a step to a hardwood floor. Also used around steps, stair landing trims, and to elevate floor perimeters. E.g.: when the flooring meets at the top of a stairway or at a step-down to a lower level. Grooved Stair Nosings are used for "Nail Down and Glue Down" applications.

**TIP:** To clarify code or existing stair discrepancies; before making any changes to the existing stair case, and record existing dimensions of each step with customer acknowledgement.



## SPLINES:

Splines may be used to reverse the direction of the flooring.



Splines should always be glued into place using a Tongue and Groove adhesive



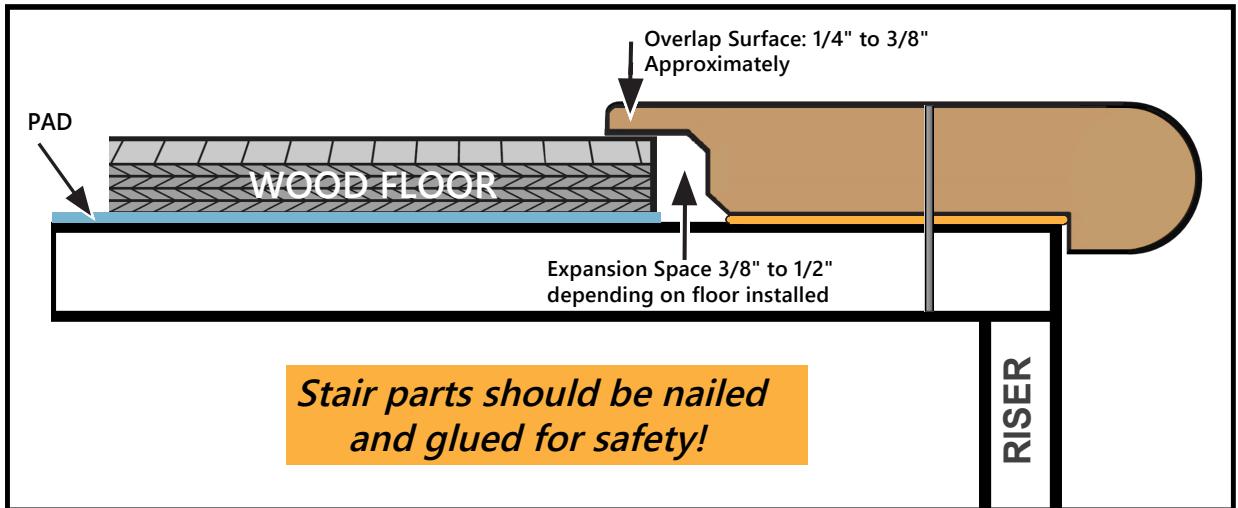
And then nailed to secure in place.



## Overlap Stair Nose Molding:

**Overlap Stair Nose** moldings are milled to allow the overlap portion (lip) to ride over the top of the flooring; used primarily with floating floor applications and is at the top of stair-ways or at step-downs to a lower level.

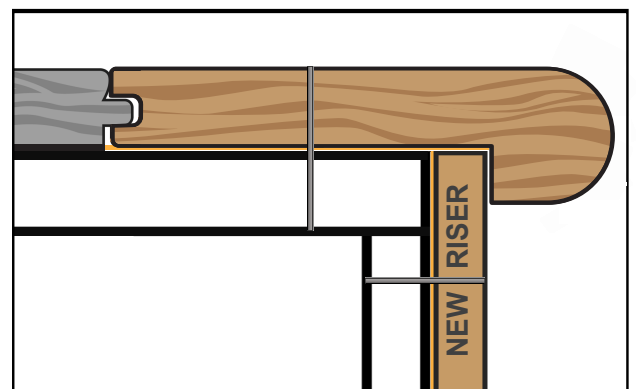
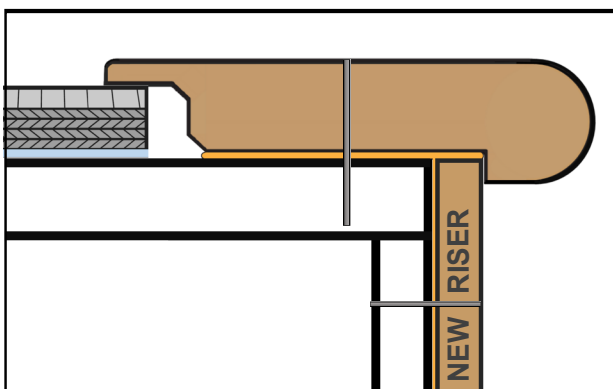
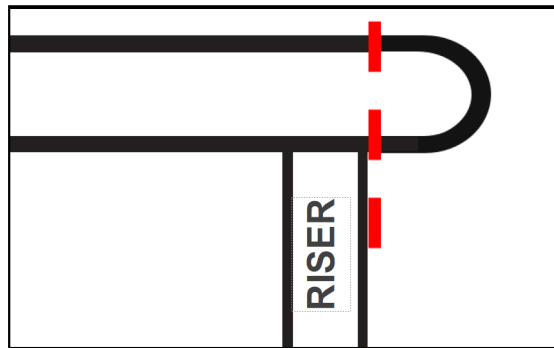
**TIP:** To clarify code or existing stair discrepancies; before making any changes to the existing stair case, measure and record existing dimensions of each step with customer acknowledgement.



If there is an existing "overhanging" stair nosing, you must cut it off before installing the overlap stair nosing. Trim off to the riser line as shown below:

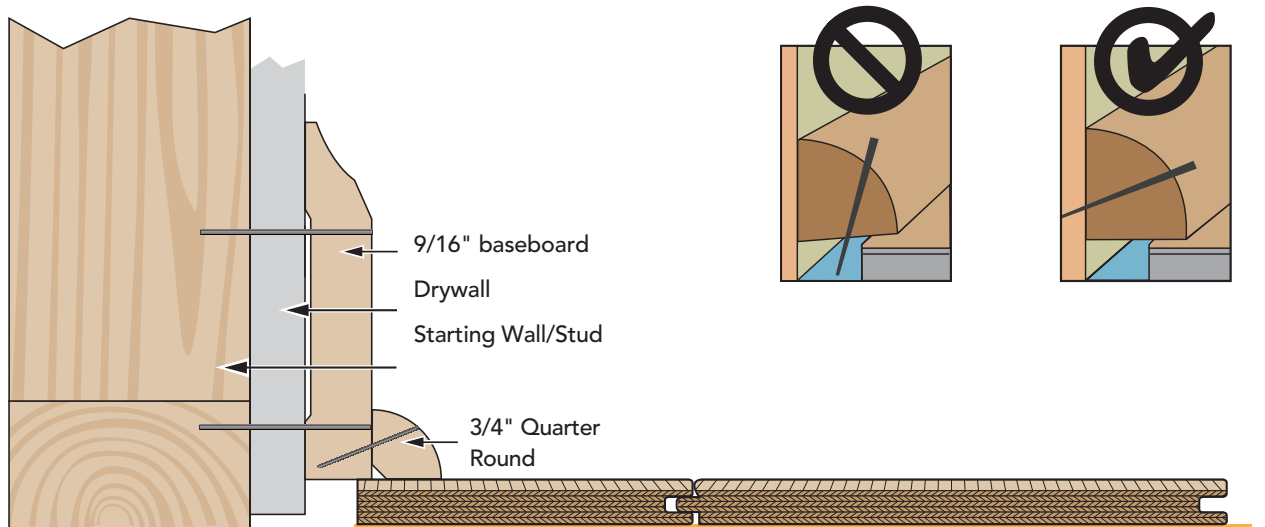
To cover the cut-off edge, install new riser:

Glue and nail the riser in place. Apply a 1/2" serpentine bead of Bostiks Best Adhesive to the back (For best results; dry-fit and adjust riser before applying adhesives). Press riser into place. Alternatively you can use existing carpet or "scotia" molding to cover.



## Baseboard and Quarter Round Moldings:

- Baseboard molding covers the expansion gap that is needed to allow the wood flooring to expand and contract freely. any unevenness between the edge of the wood flooring installation and the wall.
- The baseboard molding should sit squarely on the flooring but not inhibit its movement.
- Always nail baseboard and quarter round moldings to the walls, never into the flooring to allow the flooring to expand/contract freely.
- Measure the distance you will require the molding to cover.  
*Double check your measurement before cutting.*
- Trim the piece of molding to this exact length.
- Always “dry-fit” any molding to determine if you have made the correct cut.



## MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Hardwood moldings are designed to be durable and have finishes which meet or exceed all Major Flooring Manufacturer's specifications.

However, wood is a natural product and is susceptible to structural damage when handled in a negligent manner.

Common sense guidelines would be:

- Use of area rugs and runners in high traffic areas where damaging dirt and gravel may be tracked into the house.
- Sweep and vacuum regularly to help limit the likelihood of damage from stray abrasive particles like sand.
- Follow the flooring manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning products.
- Limit the floor's exposure to water and harsh chemical cleaners.
- Shoes with spikes or damaged heels can quickly damage an otherwise beautiful floor and moldings.
- When moving furniture, use the appropriate padding and coasters under all legs. Do not count on casters to provide all the protection for flooring.
- When navigating room dividing moldings, ease the furniture over the molding or lift and move when possible.