

The Exotic Collection *Solid Wood Flooring*

WFI's Installation/Finish/Safety Instructions

Specific to Australian Cypress

First, access Wood Flooring International's Installation/Finish/Safety Recommendations from our web site at www.wflooring.com/Technical Info and review them before starting installation. In these instructions, we review in great depth the following steps just outlined here, that must be followed to insure a successful installation of all wood flooring. Then, below we offer Australian Cypress specific tips.

- **Set the Expectations Correctly First** – Always sample the floor to the buyer, with the proposed finish on test pieces. Make sure to get their approval of the full range of graining/color in the specie and its look when finished with the finish you propose to use, prior to installation. Explain the degree to which the specie you are using will change color over time. Then, FOR AUSTRALIAN CYPRESS IN PARTICULAR, make sure you explain and show the buyer that Australian Cypress:
 - Is available in only one grade which we call Aussie Character Grade, (which has less character than that sold in Australia), and that this grade contains:
 - ◆ Numerous knots
 - ◆ Checking and cracking in the knots
 - ◆ Broken knots on the edges and ends
 - ◆ Checking and cracking in the wood itself, which over time may increase as the wood cycles between heating and non-heating seasons
 - ◆ Worm holes
 - ◆ Contrasting cream color sap wood and darker colored heartwood, which varies from honey tones to occasional darker coffee brown tones
 - Finish adhesion and cracking on the knots - over time, as the knots and surrounding wood contract and expand at different rates seasonally, the finish may slightly crack and sometimes may loosen and flake above the knots. This happens with all types of film finishes and is just part of the character that is gained over time when using cypress. Please make sure the buyer is aware that this may occur before installing. If objectionable, do not install and choose another wood to use.
 - Should the buyer find any of these characters of Australian Cypress objectionable, you should not install the floor and choose another specie more to the liking of the buyer. Wood Flooring International is not responsible for claims made after the floor is installed and subsequently rejected should the buyer then decide the floor has too much character for their liking.
 - When installing cypress you then have two choices, to fill or not to fill the open defects and cracks. Many installers choose to fill the cracks using two different colors of fill. One color is a dark brown/black used to fill the knot checks and the other color is a honey/straw color used to fill the cracks in the body of the wood. The choice to fill or not to fill is a matter of preference, decided by the final look the buyer desires once the floor is finished. (On all our engineered and pre-finished solid Australian Cypress offerings, we do extensive filling during the pre-finish process in the factory).

www.wflooring.com/AustralianCypressPhotos

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Please note: there have been several cases in the past where a buyer has made a decision to use Australian Cypress for their floor after having chosen the floor from just a few hand samples. Then, once the floor is installed, they object to how many knots the floor has or to the cracks/checks or the color range/variation. Avoid this by adequately sampling Australian Cypress to the buyer and reviewing exactly what this specie offers. You may use our web site to view photos of installations to get a better idea of what this wood looks like installed:

- **Equalize your Solid Wood Floor** properly to the specific job site conditions.
- Check to make sure the **T & G Meshes Properly** and once nailed, the underside of the tongue is firmly holding down to the sub-floor, the groove side of the adjacent, fitted piece.
- If you encounter **Excessive Splitting Tongues** when nailing the floor down try this:
 - Adjust the angle or height of entry of the nail through trial and error experimentation, by simply attaching some duct tape to the nailer's faceplate, changing the angle or height of the nail's entry.
- **Before Starting to Finish**, always test the finish on test samples – do not make the installed floor your test !

Potential Installation/Finish/Safety Problems Specific to Australian Cypress

- **Nailing:** Australian Cypress is a dense brittle softwood and the tongue is prone to splitting when nailing. Follow tips listed above to lessen the splitting problem.
- **Finish:** As in most softwoods, Australian Cypress contains resins which most of us know as sap. These resins will bleed up through the wood, especially on top of the knots and can adversely affect the finish. Many oil finishes will remain tacky on top of these resinous spots and will not dry. If they do dry, they may still have little adhesion to the wood. We had several major finish manufacturers offer their approved finish solution for Australian Cypress, which we offer below.
- **Cracks/Splits:** Cypress is a naturally dense, brittle wood in which, during the drying process, "star cracks" open up in the knots. In addition, there will be some minor surface checking in the flooring itself. This is part of the natural character of the specie. If any piece or knot has too much checking, simply crosscut out the defect in question when installing the floor and use the remaining good section. Remember, the option to fill or not to fill the cracks/checks should have to be made with the buyer depending on the look they want in the finished floor.
- **Safety – Allergic Reaction Potential:** Australian Cypress contains aromatic resins, which gives this wood its pleasant "piney" scent. This smell, on freshly cut and sanded flooring, can be quite strong. The scent quickly abates over time. Please be aware there are reports of respiratory reactions to the scent and allergic skin reactions when coming in contact with the dust. In the event any visible signs of skin reddening occur or if excessive sneezing or eye/throat irritation occurs, precautionary measures such as increased ventilation/use of respirators and dust avoidance should be taken. Please see Wood Flooring International's Safety Section on our web site at www.wflooring.com/TechnicalInfo.com for complete details.

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General Floor Preparation Instructions Specific to Australian Cypress

- Sand the floors with fresh sand paper, which cuts the wood and does not burnish the wood with its own resins. Change your sand paper frequently and do not allow it to gum up and heat the resins.
- Do not sand with too fine a grit of sandpaper – we recommend a maximum of 100 grit.
- If you decide to fill the cracks & checks in the floor prior to finishing, we recommend you use two colors, a dark one on the knots and the other matching the wood itself.
- Finish the floor immediately after sanding, before the resins work their way back to the surface.

Manufacturer Specific Finish Recommendations Specific to Australian Cypress

- Basic Coatings
 - Hydroline Sealer for 1st coat and Catalyzed Easy Street for top coats.
- Berger Seidel
 - Omni Gold – for all coats.
 - L 81 Sealer for 1st coat and Omni Gold for top coats.
- Bona Kemi
 - Stain not Recommended.
 - Finish with Waterbourne System such as:
 - ◆ BonaSeal Sealer 1st coat with BonaTech Traffic for top coats.
 - ◆ High Build Sealer 1st coat with choice of Mega, Pacific Strong or Pacific Ultra for top coats.

Wood Flooring International is partial to the look the Berger Seidel L-81 Sealer imparts to Australian Cypress, (but this is merely a matter of taste, so choose the look you want by sampling various finishes first).

Please be sure to follow the finish manufacturer's instructions, which can be obtained from their web sites:

- ◆ <http://www.basiccoatings.com>
- ◆ <http://www.berger-seidel.com>
- ◆ <http://www.boankemi.com>