

# Installation/Finish/Safety Instructions

## Specific to Australian Cypress

First, access WFI's [Installation/Finish/Safety Recommendations](http://www.wflooring.com) from our web site at [www.wflooring.com](http://www.wflooring.com) and review them before starting installation. In this complete set of instructions we review, in great depth the following steps, which we have only just outlined here, that must be followed in order to insure a successful installation of wood flooring.

### Outline of steps to take when installing wood flooring:

1. **Set the Expectations Correctly First** – Always sample the floor to the buyer, with the proposed finish on test pieces, making 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.
2. **Equalize your Solid Wood Floor** properly to the specific job site conditions.
3. Check to make sure the **T & G Meshes Properly** and once nailed, that the underside of the tongue is firmly holding down to the sub-floor, the groove side of the adjacent fitted piece. If it does not, stop and call WFI.
4. If you encounter **Excessive Splitting Tongues** when nailing the floor down try to 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 thereby changing the angle or height of the nail's entry which will reduce the splitting.
5. **Before Starting to Finish**, always test the finish on test samples – do not make the entire installed floor your test !

### Potential Installation/Finish/Safety Issues Specific to Australian Cypress

**Nailing:** Australian Cypress is a dense brittle softwood and the tongue is prone to splitting when nailing. Follow the tips listed in #4 above to lessen the splitting problem.

**Finish:** As in most softwoods, Australian Cypress contains resins also known 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 only tack 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 recap below. Also, we do not recommend high gloss finishes as they may reveal "washboarding" near the knots from the sanding. See sanding instructions on reverse side.

**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.

## Potential Installation/Finish/Safety Problems Specific to Australian Cypress – cont'd.

**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 WFI’s [Safety Section](#) on our web site at [www.wflooring.com](http://www.wflooring.com) for complete details.

## General Floor Preparation Instructions Specific to Australian Cypress:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Sanding – As the knots are much harder than the surrounding clear wood it is suggested that you cut the floor at a 45° angle. Then you need to walk up the sanding grits and then finally screen the floor smooth. Use of a high gloss finish is not recommended as the finished floor may show “washboarding” from the sanding in the clear wood around the knots when viewed under a high gloss finish.
- 3) Do not sand with too fine a grit of sandpaper – we recommend a maximum of 120 grit.
- 4) 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:

- 1) Hydroline Sealer for 1st coat & Catalyzed Easy Street for top coats

### Berger Seidle:

- 1) Omni Gold – for all coats, or
- 2) L 81 Sealer for 1st coat and Omni Gold for top coats

### Bona Kemi:

- 1) Stain not Recommended
- 2) Finish with Waterborne System such as:
  - a) BonaSeal Sealer 1st coat with BonaTech Traffic for top coats, or
  - b) High Build Sealer 1st coat with choice of Mega, Pacific Strong or Pacific Ultra for top coats

WFI is partial to the rich look the Berger Seidle L-81 Sealer imparts to Australian Cypress, (but this is merely a matter of taste so choose the look you like by sampling the various finishes first).

Please be sure to follow the finish manufacturer’s specific instructions, which can be obtained from their web sites listed below:

[www.basiccoatings.com](http://www.basiccoatings.com)

[www.berger-seidle.com](http://www.berger-seidle.com)

[www.bonakemi.com](http://www.bonakemi.com)