

Am I installing hardwood correctly?



Shell Busey
HouseSmart Corner

Q: Our eavestroughs were installed approximately six years ago and started leaking two years after installation. I have tried several different types of caulking and talked to many so-called experts. After following their advice each time, removing and cleaning the eaves, the same result happens – leaking within a few months. What is your method of repairing leaky eaves?

Bill

A: To repair eaves (gutters) properly you need to use a rubber membrane product. First make sure your gutters are clean and dry on the inside. To make the membrane stick better you may want to use some sandpaper and roughen the surface a bit around the joint area. Wipe the eaves down and allow to dry. Purchase a peel and stick rubber membrane product i.e. Red Zone by Resisto available at Rona.

Apply the membrane over the joint making sure you have at least 6 inches on each side of

the joint. It is best if you run the membrane both ways across the joint in the eaves (gutter). You can use a hair dryer to warm the membrane to make it more flexible for applying it.

This will give you an excellent seal.

Q: I want to install about 420 square feet of prefinished three-quarter-inch oak flooring in some of my bedrooms in my 33-year-old home. The subfloors consist of three-and-one-quarter by three-quarter-inch tongue and groove (I think it is fir) placed diagonally on 16-inch centres. This is overlaid with half-inch particle board (in good condition). Is my subfloor adequate as it is?

Jonathon

A. Hardwood flooring of your quality should not be installed over particle

board, for reasons of expansion and contraction of particle board. Remove all particle board and if the transition of the floor thickness requires build up, using one-half plywood sheathing grade is adequate. If no transition is required, apply light weight tar paper in place.

Note: If you use plywood, screw it down and follow with the tar paper or wax paper, before nailing your hardwood in place. "It's Just That Easy."

E-mail your questions to askshell@housesmartcentre.com and he'll answer as many as he can. Please provide your name, city and phone number.

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