

Installing Hardwood Reducer Moldings

Application - Used to join hardwood floors with floors of different heights such as vinyl, ceramic tile or low pile carpeting.

Installation - Moldings Online manufactures two versions of Reducers. The Standard Reducer, typically used for nail down or glue down floors, can be used on a floating floor installation when you want a smooth, flush transition between floors. The Overlap Reducer is designed specifically for floating floor installations and is quick and easy to install. Moldings Online manufactures reducers to accommodate floors ranging from 1/4 inch in thickness up to 3/4 inch thick. Check the label on the bottom side of the molding to be sure you have the right Reducer for the job.

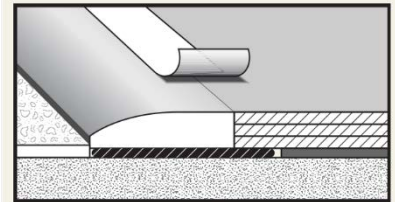
Standard Reducer for flush mount installations - Start the installation by installing shims wherever you plan to install a Standard Reducer. The shim should be placed directly against the edge of the floor to which you are transitioning. Secure the shim in place by either nailing or gluing it down. Install the pad with the edge of the pad placed directly against the shim. Install the floating floor so that it overlaps the shim by approximately 3/4 of an inch. The shim provides a foundation for the Reducer molding and serves to stabilize the floor from compressing under weight. Lay the Reducer molding in place. Apply glue to the front edge of the molding and one or two 1/4 inch beads of construction adhesive to the shim and seat the molding in place. To assure a smooth, flush surface, it is recommended that you apply blue tape (Scotch 3M #2090) to the molding and floor to hold the Reducer in place until the glue is dry (See Fig.L). An alternative installation method to hold the molding flush with the floor is to route the floor and the molding and insert a "spline" to connect the molding to the floor.

When installing Overlap Reducer moldings on a floating floor, it is important not to attach the Overlap Reducer directly to the hardwood floor as the hardwood floor must be able to expand or contract under the lip of the molding per the manufacturer's recommendations.

Overlap Reducer - Start the installation by installing shims wherever you plan to install an overlap reducer. The shim should be placed approximately 1-1/2 inches from the edge of the floor to which you are transitioning. Secure the shim in place by either nailing or gluing it down. Install the pad with the edge of the pad placed directly against the shim. Next, install the floating floor over the shim so that only 1/4 to 3/8 inch of the shim is showing under the floor. The shim serves to stabilize the floor from compressing under weight. Lay the reducer molding in place.

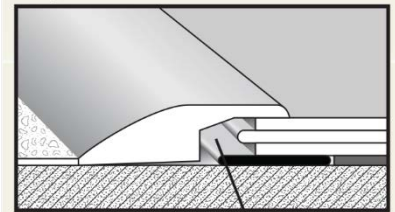
Note: The shim should not extend under the base of the Overlap Reducer (See Fig. M). Lay the Overlap Reducer in place. The Overlap Reducer should overlap the flooring by 1/2 to 3/4 inch, leaving the balance for required expansion or contraction. To attach the molding, apply one or two 1/4 inch beads of construction adhesive to the subfloor and seat the molding in place. If nailing, pre-drill the molding to prevent splitting and nail to the subfloor behind the lip of the molding. Be sure when nailing not to obstruct the floor's expansion space under the molding. - Information via Artistic Finishes

(Fig. L)



Standard Reducer

(Fig. M)



Overlap Reducer

Expansion Space