

# Installation Instructions

## LP® TopNotch® 250 Series Sub-Flooring LP® TopNotch® 350 Series Sub-Flooring

### Description

- Single-layer sub-flooring designed for residential and light commercial construction, including manufactured and modular home applications.
- Features a self-spacing tongue and groove system that is specially engineered to fit together with ease.
- Features vertical RainChannel® notches in the tongue profile that allow water to quickly drain from the sub-floor during construction. Also features panel end RainChannel notches that allow trapped water to drain from floor joists.

### Basic Uses

- When fastened over appropriate framing, panels provide a structural floor deck that serves as a suitable surface for additional framing or underlayment. When properly installed, panels will provide a surface that is appropriate for the direct application of carpet over pad, and of thick wood strip or parquet flooring. Some wood flooring manufacturers may require additional underlayment. Consult manufacturer's installation instructions for details.
- Panels may be used in combination with an underlayment approved by the manufacturer to provide a surface that is suitable for the installation of resilient tile, sheet vinyl, or other finish flooring materials. Refer to flooring manufacturer's guidelines for specific information related to **the use of adhesives and proper installation details.**

### Limitations

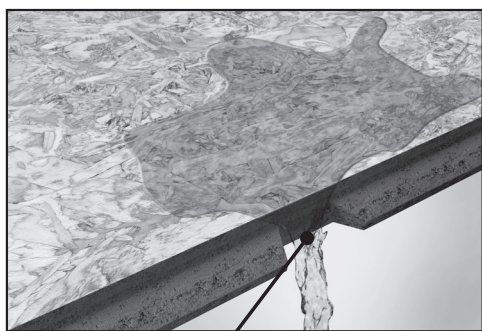
- Not designed for unprotected exterior use. Exposure to reasonable precipitation during normal construction delays will not damage the panels. **ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES MAY BE NECESSARY DURING EXTENDED EXPOSURE OR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.**
- Do not install directly over concrete or masonry.

### Storage and Handling

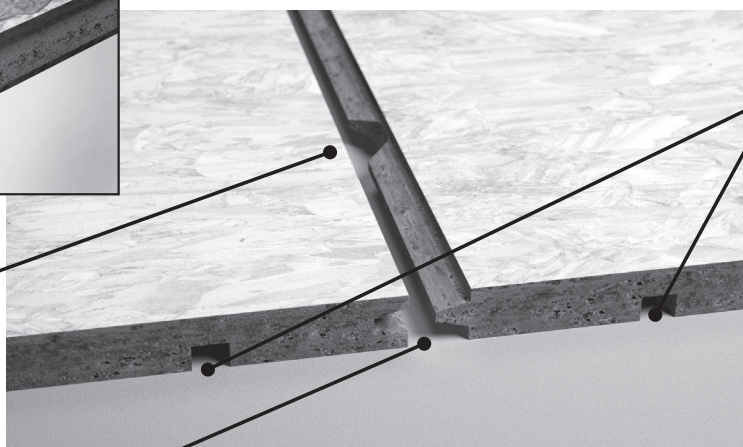
- Store panels in clean, dry areas and off of the ground. If possible, store indoors.
- If stored outside, cover panels with plastic sheets or tarps. Keep cover open and away from the sides and bottom of the panels to allow for air circulation.
- Protect edges to avoid damage to the tongue and groove profile.
- Space units at least 4" on all four sides.

### Before You Begin

- Before installation, allow panels to acclimate to existing job site moisture conditions.
- Be sure to allow wet wood framing to dry before sub-flooring installation.
- Refer to the following LP TopNotch Sub-Flooring installation instructions or the APA's Engineered Wood Construction Guide Form E30U (September 2007) or the current equivalent. To obtain installation information from the APA, call (253) 565-6600 or visit [www.apawood.org](http://www.apawood.org).



*Vertical notches in tongue profile allow water to quickly drain from the sub-floor during construction*



*Self-spacing tongue and groove system makes installation quick and easy*

*Panel end notches allow trapped water to drain from floor joists*

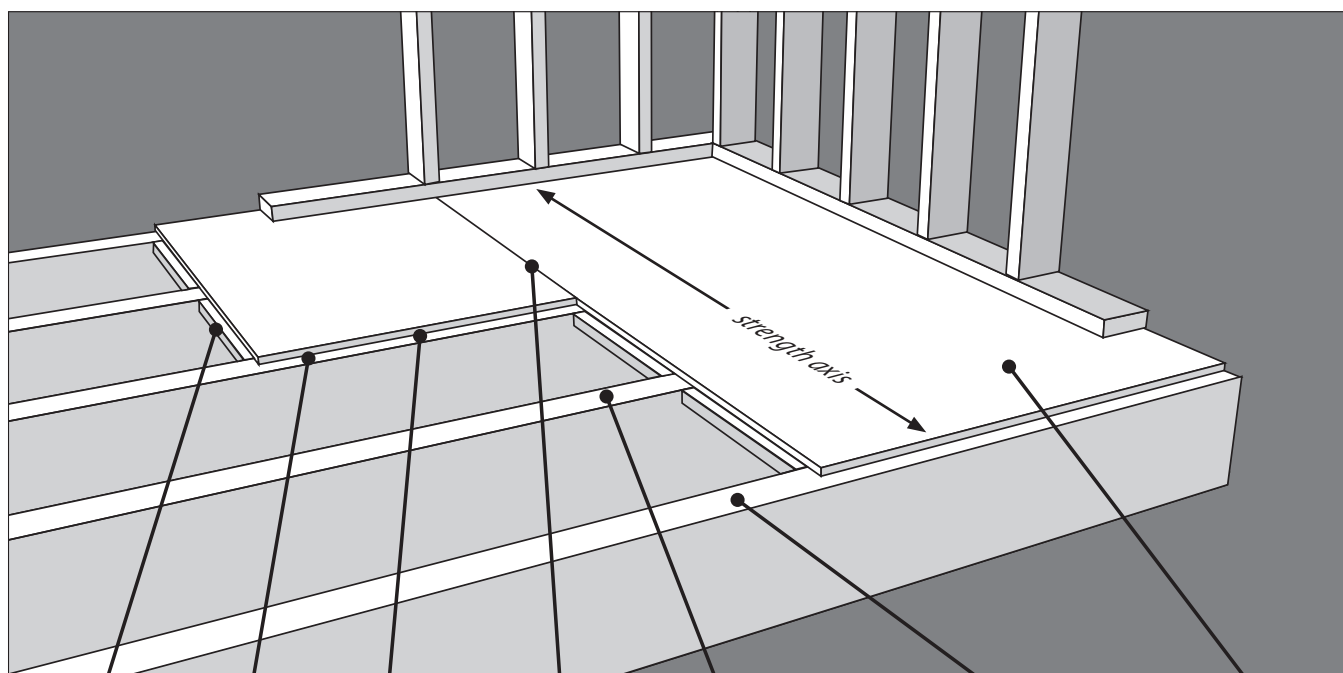
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LP<sup>®</sup> TopNotch<sup>®</sup> 250 Series Sub-Flooring  
 LP<sup>®</sup> TopNotch<sup>®</sup> 350 Series Sub-Flooring  
 (cont.)

## General Information

- Easy to handle, cut and nail. Can be routed and drilled with standard woodworking tools.
- Fasten with conventional nailing and gluing techniques.
- Code-approved screws may be used. Refer to screw manufacturer's installation instructions for sub-floor applications.
- Install panels directly over floor joists. Support joists may be conventional solid sawn lumber, I-joists, or manufactured trusses made of either wood or metal chords. LP I-Joists are recommended; they are available in depths of 9-1/2" to 24" with lengths up to 48'.
- Install panels continuously over two or more spans with long dimension or strength axis across supports.
- Panels must be installed with APA<sup>®</sup> trademark stamp facing down.
- Provide adequate ventilation and use ground cover vapor retarder in crawl spaces.

## Floor Construction



Tongue and groove edges (or 2" lumber blocking between supports)

Stagger end joints

Site-applied glue, both joists and tongue and groove joints (or between panels and edge blocking)

LP<sup>®</sup> SolidStart<sup>®</sup> I-Joists , 2X joists or floor trusses

LP<sup>®</sup> TopNotch<sup>®</sup>

1/8" spacing is required at all end joints

Self-spacing tongue and groove (1/16" gap)

**Note:** Provide adequate ventilation and use ground cover vapor retarder in crawl space. Panels must be dry before applying finish flooring

**Note:** For buildings with wood or steel framed walls provide 3/4" expansion joints with separate floor framing members and discontinuous wall plates over the joists, at intervals that limit continuous floor areas to 80 feet maximum in length or width, to allow for accumulated expansion during construction in wet weather conditions.

## Recommended Glue-Nail Application

- Use of the APA Glued Floor System is highly recommended. It ensures greater floor stiffness and helps reduce nail popping and floor noise.
- Snap a chalk line across length of floor 4' in from rim band for panel edge alignment and as a boundary for spreading glue.
- Use only adhesives conforming with Performance Specification AFG-01 developed by APA with the Glue Floor System.
- Wipe any mud, dirt or water from joists before gluing.
- Spread only enough glue to lay one or two panels at a time, or follow specific recommendations of the glue manufacturer.
- Apply a continuous line of glue, about 1/4" diameter, to framing members. Apply glue in a serpentine pattern on wide areas.
- Apply two lines of glue on joists where panel ends butt to ensure proper gluing of each end. Excessive use of glue may interfere with drain notches.
- Spread glue in groove of one or two panels at a time before laying. Apply a continuous line of glue but avoid squeeze-out by applying a thinner line (1/8") than on joists. Lay first panel with tongue side to rim band and align edge with snapped chalk line. Initially nail into place to prevent movement.
- Stagger end joints in each succeeding row. A 1/8" space between all end joints is recommended. Use a spacer tool to assure accurate and consistent spacing.
- On each successive row, slide panels into place. If necessary, tap panels into place using a block to protect groove edges. **Do not force panels together or overdrive;** the tongue and groove profile is self-spacing, allowing for 1/16" gap along the panel edges. The tip of the tongue should touch the back of the groove, but not be overdriven.
- Complete all nailing of each panel before glue sets (See Fastening Schedule). Check the manufacturer's recommendations for allowable time. Keep in mind that warm weather accelerates glue setting.
- Fasteners should penetrate into framing members at least 1". Use 6d ring- or screw-shank nails for panels 3/4" thick or less and 8d ring- or screw-shank nails for thicker panels.
- Fasten panels 3/8" from panel edges; space nails according to Fastening Schedule. Closer nail spacing may be required by some codes or for diaphragm construction. Finished deck may be walked on and will carry construction loads without damage to glue bond.

LP TopNotch Sub-Flooring Fastening Schedule<sup>(a)</sup>

SPAN RATING (MAXIMUM JOIST SPACING) (IN.)	MINIMUM PANEL THICKNESS <sup>(b)</sup> (IN.)	FASTENING: GLUE-NAILED <sup>(c)</sup>			FASTENING: NAILED ONLY		
		NAIL SIZE AND TYPE	MAXIMUM SPACING (IN.)		NAIL SIZE AND TYPE	MAXIMUM SPACING (IN.)	
			SUPPORTED PANEL EDGES	INTERMEDIATE SUPPORTS		SUPPORTED PANEL EDGES	INTERMEDIATE SUPPORTS
16"	19/32"	6d ring- or screw-shank <sup>(b)</sup>	12	12	6d ring- or screw-shank	6	12
20"	19/32"	6d ring- or screw-shank <sup>(b)</sup>	12	12	6d ring- or screw-shank	6	12
24"	23/32"	6d ring- or screw-shank <sup>(b)</sup>	12	12	6d ring- or screw-shank	6	12
32"	7/8"	8d ring- or screw-shank <sup>(b)</sup>	6	12	8d ring- or screw-shank	6	12
32"*	1"	8d ring- or screw-shank <sup>(b)</sup>	6	12	8d ring- or screw-shank	6	12
48"	1-1/8"	8d ring- or screw-shank <sup>(e)</sup>	6	(f)	8d ring- or screw-shank <sup>(e)</sup>	6	(f)

(a) Special conditions may impose heavy traffic and concentrated loads that require construction in excess of the minimums shown. See APA Engineered Wood Construction Guide for heavy duty floor recommendations.

(b) Panels in a given thickness may be manufactured in more than one Span Rating. Panels with a Span Rating greater than the joist spacing may be substituted for panels of the same thickness with a Span Rating matching the actual joist spacing. For example, 19/32" thick Sturd-I-Floor 20 oc may be substituted for 19/32" thick Sturd-I-Floor 16 oc over joists 16" on center.

(c) Use only adhesives conforming to APA Specification AFG-01, applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

(d) 8d common nails may be substituted if ring- or screw-shank nails are not available.

(e) 10d common nails may be substituted with 1-1/8" panels if supports are well seasoned.

(f) Space nails maximum 6" for 48" spans and 12" for 32" spans.

(g) Fasten panels 3/8" from panel edges.

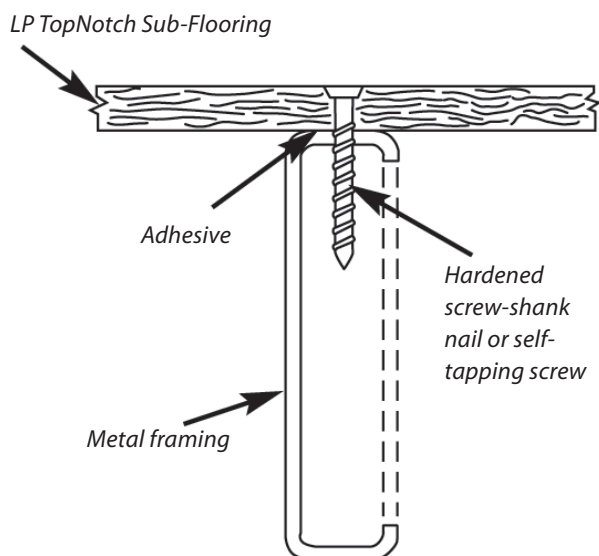
\*Either Sturd-I-Floor or Span Rated panels available.

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## LP TopNotch Sub-Flooring Over Metal Framing

- For metal framing application, fasten panels with screw-shank nails or with self-drilling, self-tapping screws plus adhesive. Consult metal framing manufacturer for recommended procedure, fasteners and adhesive products.
- Fasten the panel to the metal framing system following the fastening schedule required for wood framing applications.



**Customer Service:** 800-648-6893  
**Sales Office:** 800-964-6310  
**Email:** customer.support@lpcorp.com  
**LPCorp.com**

**For a copy of the warranty or for installation and technical support visit:** [LPCorp.com/TopNotch](http://LPCorp.com/TopNotch)  
**Phone:** 888.820.0325  
**Email:** [customer.support@lpcorp.com](mailto:customer.support@lpcorp.com)

Cal. Prop 65 Warning: Use of this product may result in exposure to wood dust, known to the State of California to cause cancer.

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## Lightweight Concrete Over LP TopNotch Sub-Flooring

- For gypsum concrete recommendations, contact manufacturer of floor topping.
- Panels must be installed continuous over two or more spans with the long dimension across supports.
- Use moisture barrier when recommended.
- Refer to concrete manufacturer's recommendations for installation and treatment.

## Finish Flooring

- If panels have become wet during construction, they should be allowed to dry before application of finish flooring, including carpet, underlayment, hardwood, flooring, ceramic tile, etc. When panels are dry, check the floor for flatness, especially at joints.
- When floor members are dry (and just prior to installation of floor coverings), ensure that fasteners are flush with or slightly below the panel surface to help prevent nail popping upon drying.
- Do not fill nail holes. Sand edge joints, if needed. Fill any panel voids or depressions with wood putty, and sand all surface roughness. This step may not be necessary under some carpet and structural flooring products. Check flooring manufacturer's recommendations.
- LP TopNotch Sub-Flooring is a suitable substrate for carpet installed with pad, thick wood strip or parquet flooring. Some wood flooring manufacturers may require additional underlayment. Consult manufacturer's recommendations and installation instructions.
- LP recommends a suitable underlayment over LP TopNotch Sub-Flooring with ceramic tile, sheet vinyl flooring, resilient tile flooring or other resilient non-textile flooring installations. Consult flooring manufacturer's directions on flooring underlayment recommendations, adhesive products and installation techniques.