



End Joint Spacing in Random Length Strip and Finger-Jointed Strip Floors

End-joints are the point at which the ends of two individual MFMA Flooring Boards meet in a continuous end to end row of flooring. MFMA Flooring Boards are designed with opposing end-tongues and end-grooves that serve to align the ends of individual adjoining boards that offer very limited structural integrity.

Note, in this discussion of 'End-Joint Spacing it is important not to confuse end-joints (end of flooring boards) with internal seams between segments within MFMA finger-jointed strip flooring.

End-joint spacing serves a very important structural function in athletic flooring systems that have non-continuous subfloor designs. Examples of such designs are "Sleeper" and "Fixed Sleeper" flooring systems without continuous subfloors, e.g., without APA rated sheathing subfloors. When end-joints are installed too closely together in adjoining rows, such concentrations of end-joints constitute weak spots in the system construction. Such weak areas can be problematic when a floor system is subjected to heavy concentrated loads, e.g., portable backstops, bleachers or other heavy equipment. MFMA Guideline recommends maintaining a minimum of 4 inches between end-joints in adjoining rows when non-continuous subfloor designs are specified for athletic flooring installations.

End-joint spacing does not serve a significant structural function with respect to heavy loads in athletic flooring systems with continuous subfloor designs. However, proper spacing of end-joints in adjoining rows of a maple athletic flooring system is important in order to maintain consistent athletic performance characteristics across the playing surface. For this reason, MFMA guidelines recommends maintaining the traditional minimum of 4 inches between end-joints in adjoining rows when continuous subfloor designs are specified for athletic flooring installations.

Given the above recommendations, MFMA acknowledges that even the most conscientious installer may occasionally install flooring strips with end-joints spaced less than 4 inches in adjoining rows on a typical flooring installation. An occasional end-joint installed closer than 4 inches does not constitute a structural or performance issue, thus it is not a valid reason for rejection of an athletic flooring surface.

Recommendations in this MFMA position statement do not apply to installations comprising MFMA Parquet (MFMA-PQ) flooring as the surface material.

If you have additional questions, please contact MFMA's Technical Director at 888/480-9138.

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