

Oriented Strand Board - OSB



Whereas plywood subfloors have been, and are, chiefly used for construction below hardwood athletic floor surfaces, oriented strand board (OSB) has sometimes been specified or accepted for subfloor assemblies such as double panel layers over resilient components.

The Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association recent revision to the MFMA guide specification for basic panel subfloor assemblies' states: "Subfloor shall be 15/32" x 4' x 8', minimum 4 ply, (or flooring manufacturers approved rated equivalent)". The inclusion of "flooring manufacturers approved rated equivalent" refers to sheathing such as OSB.

Although plywood is the most preferred panel type for athletic subfloor sheathing, the successful use of OSB by other MFMA members and the recent revision to MFMA guide specifications allows for the inclusion of OSB when described in the project specification or accepted by the owner and/or architect.

Providing OSB in lieu of plywood sheathing requires equivalent thickness to the standard thickness specified and must incorporate the same installation procedures and fastening methods. Subfloor panel moisture content should be at a level compatible to the wood flooring.

As always, recommended installation practices must be followed regarding environmental conditions, concrete dryness and flatness, wood moisture content, floor loads, and other procedures that ensure a quality installation.

Aacer Sports Flooring will provide our standard joint warranty with the installing flooring contractor for generic double panel systems when installed with OSB constructed subfloors based on the above, and by following our floor care requirements as usual.