Ready Step Installation Instruction Guide

Tools Required:

- Tablesaw
- Carpenter’s Square
- Caulking Gun
- ¾” wide, 2mm thick, Foam Back Double sided tape
- Color matched Caulk (colorriteinc.com or similar product) optional
- PL400/PL Premium adhesive (1 - 300 ml tube for every 3 steps)
- Tape Measure
- Ready Step Stair Jig (recommended)
- Pencil
- Utility knife
- Color matched wax stick (optional)
- Sliding Miter saw with 12” cutting capacity (recommended)
- 18 Gauge Nailer, compressor and nails (optional)
- Sanding Block or Belt sander (120 grit)

Thank you for purchasing the Ready Step stair system. Properly installed, they will add value to your home, look fantastic and provide years of service.

Please read all the instructions carefully before starting an installation.

1. Prepare the stairs for installation by removing all foreign material from the surface of the stair. All stairs must be free from old fasteners, dirt and oils to insure proper bonding. (Fig. 1)

2. If installing Ready Stringers (or stringer covering), they must be installed prior to the installation of Ready Steps. Please see Ready Stringer instructions for details. (page 3)
3. After inspecting the Ready Riser, start at the bottom of the staircase with the riser that meets the floor. Measure the distance between the stringers and, using a miter saw, trim the Riser to length. Next, measure the depth of the rise on the stair, and, using a tablesaw, cut the Riser to fit. (Fig. 3) When measuring the depth, refer to option 1 or option 2 in Fig. 2 to observe the correct installation procedure for the style of staircase that the Ready Steps are being installed on.

4. Dry fit the Ready Riser to insure the riser has been cut to the correct measurements. Note: Because of the nosing that covers 1½” (3.8 cm) of the riser, the riser can be cut 1/8” (3 mm) narrower than the rise on the next step.

5. Flip the back side up, apply double sided tape to the top and bottom of the Ready Riser. With the tape in place, apply the flooring adhesive (PL400) in a serpentine pattern. (Fig. 4) Carefully place the riser on the stair wall and apply even pressure throughout the riser’s surface until it has bonded. Alternative Method: Using an 18 gauge nailer, shoot 4 nails across the top of the riser, and 2 nails in the bottom corners of the riser. (Fig. 5) Always use flooring adhesive in conjunction with mechanical fasteners.

6. Now to the Treads. Check the sides of the stair with a square to make sure that the stringer is square with the front edge of the tread. If the tread is not square with the stringer, adjust accordingly. It is highly recommended that the Ready Step Stair Gauge is used in the installation of Ready Steps because of its ability to transfer the exact size and angle of the existing stair. (Fig. 6) Please see page 5 for instructions.
7. After inspecting the Ready Step, measure and cut the length of the step, making sure that the good side is up when cutting on the miter saw to prevent tear-out. Remember, Measure TWICE - cut ONCE. Tip: Using a knife to mark the cross-cut will score the fibers of the wood to minimize the break out. There should not be any more than 1/16” gap to the stringer when the ready step is installed.

8. Measure the depth of the existing stair PLUS riser to find the proper measurement. Note: The critical dimension for the depth is up to the inside of the nosing. When cutting on the table saw, COMPENSATE for this by adding 1” (2.5 cm) to the width of the cut. Doing this will avoid cutting a tread that is too narrow. (Fig. 7) Cut the stair to size and dry fit to insure a proper fit. A properly fit stair will have a ¼” gap between the Ready Riser and nosing.

9. Apply adhesives to the existing stair in the same manner as the riser, using double sided tape and flooring adhesive. (Fig. 8)

Alternative Method: using an 18 gauge nailer, secure the step with appropriately placed nails in place of double sided tape. (Fig. 9) When nailing across the back, stay with in ¾”, (1.9 cm) from the edge in order for the riser to cover the nail holes. The exposed nail holes should be filled with a color match fill stick or caulk. Note: the nails are not an alternative for flooring adhesive, always use PL400. One 300ml tube will glue approximately 3 stairs.

10. Repeat steps 3-11 for the rest of the staircase. Note: The Ready Riser always sits on top of the Ready Step.

11. To give the staircase a professional finished look, use color matched flexible caulk to fill all gaps that are 1/8”, (3 mm) and smaller along the joints where the stringer meets the tread and riser.
Stringer Kit Installation Instructions

Tools Required:

- Carpenters Square
- Pencil
- 18 gauge Nailer/compressor and nails
- Jigsaw
- Chisel
- Handsaw
- PL400/PL Premium
- Hammer/mallet

If the stairs have a carpet nosing, it needs to be notched to provide ease of install for the stringer kit. If the stairs do not have a carpet nosing, please skip ahead to # 4.

1. Using a hand saw, make 2 cuts in the carpet nosing. One cut is made flush with the stringer and the other cut 1” (2.5 cm) in from the stringer. Keep cutting until the cut is flush with the rise of the stair below.

2. With a chisel, remove the section of nosing that is in contact with the existing stringer. (Fig. 10)

3. Use this process on all stairs where the carpet nosing interferes with the installation of Ready Stringers. (Fig. 11)

Lay the Ready Stringer on edge along the staircase, beside the existing stringer. Drive several screws in the area that will cut out by the saw. This will keep the Ready Stringer secure while you are transferring your cut out lines. Then place a carpenters square up against the Ready Stringer.

Using a pencil, trace out the rise and run of each stair. (Fig. 12) After it is traced out, simply remove the screws and do your cutting. (The holes will be cut out on the stringer cover.)

4. Cut along the pencil lines with a jigsaw. Remember that the stringer cover does not need to fit tightly because there is approx. ¾” (1.9 cm) allowance due to the thickness of the Ready Step material. (Fig. 13)
5. Dry fit all Ready Stringers on the staircase, making sure that they fit properly.


7. With the Stringers in place, the Ready Steps can now be installed using the Ready Step instructions.

Fig. 12

Fig. 13

A Ready Step installation from beginning to end. Fig. 14
Ready Step Installation Jig Instructions
The Ready Step Installation Jig is an invaluable tool for the installation of Ready Step hardwood stairs. Using this Jig will help the installer get a faster, more precise template of each individual stair, making the installation exponentially easier. The Ready Step Installation Jig takes the measuring tape and guess work out of the equation, giving you a quick and accurate template every time.

1. GET AN ACCURATE TEMPLATE.
Place the Jig on top of the existing step with the ends of the gauges against the riser. Loosen the wingnuts on the track and push the gauges against the stringers, so that they are tight against them. (Fig. 16) After the gauges are in place tighten all four wingnuts. Before removing the Jig, take note of any cupping that is taking place along the stringer.

2. TRACE AND CUT.
Place Ready Step on a work table and clamp the Jig on top of the Ready Step. Using a sharp pencil, mark the step according to the template. (Fig. 17) To compensate for any cupping that could be occurring, roll the pencil as you trace the line as to make a slight curve in the direction of the cup. After the step is marked, cut along the line with a slight back-cut (as much as 25°). DO NOT cut nosing with the back-cut. Set the saw to 90° to cut the nosing. This back-cut is done so the tread will drop down into the stair easily. If a cut along a curve is required, make 3 back-cuts along the curve. (Fig. 18)
After back-cuts along the curve are completed, use a block sander or belt sander and smooth out the curve. Note: The larger the back-cut, the less material that will need to be removed by sanding to smooth out the curve.

3. **FIT AND TRIM.**

Place the Ready Step on the existing Tread. Depending on the specific tread, it might require a variety of techniques to install the ReadyStep. The back-cuts on either side of the Ready Step will help greatly with the installation process - the greater the back cut the easier it is to slip one side in before the other. If the Step does not fit, dress the edge with a beltsander in the appropriate areas to insure a tight installation. (Fig. 19) It is possible that each stair might require custom cutting and fitting, do not assume that the all the stairs on the staircase are the same.