



Wood Floor Fitting & Maintenance Instructions

Congratulations on the purchase of your new hardwood floor. We have taken all possible steps to ensure that you receive a durable and quality product.

BEFORE INSTALLATION OF FLOORING

Please do not sign for unchecked/unexamined goods. Any damage to flooring or other goods delivered, shortages in quantity or perceived defects should be reported to the Company within 24 hours of delivery. Once laying has commenced the flooring shall be deemed to have been accepted by the customer.

The wood flooring should never be stored outdoors or directly onto concrete for a long period of time, in a garage or in any damp conditions. Care should be taken to store the wood flat; packs should never be leant against a wall. Recommended acclimatisation period for the wood flooring is 14 days. The flooring should be stacked in piles of 10-15m² or have bearers inserted between packs of flooring to allow for air circulation at ambient room temperature. We strongly advise against storage or installation of wood flooring in buildings with recently plastered or screeded areas.

The principal enemy of timber floors is excess exposure to moisture or dryness. Having left our premises, we have no control over the conditions to which they are subjected. Wood is a naturally hygroscopic material and will always be prone to small movement depending on climatic conditions. If suitable care and treatment is not taken, inherent stresses in wood may be released, resulting in movement or distortion such as swelling, warping, splitting or even discolouration. No liability will be accepted when problems are moisture related.

Prior to installation moisture and humidity readings should be taken from the area to be fitted. The relative humidity should be between 45% and 60%. The moisture content of the sub-floor should ideally be below 5%. In new buildings, the property should be fully enclosed to outside elements (roof, doors and windows installed). All wet trades (plumbing, plastering, painting etc) should be completed and dried out.

INSTALLATION OF FLOORING

A solid wood floor should be laid by secret nailing to a suitable plywood or similar sub-floor, or to joists or battens. On level and dry concrete it can be directly fixed to the floor using an appropriate elasticated adhesive (maximum width of flooring 140mm). Please note on concrete or screeded sub-floors UK Wood Floors' Fastrack DPM and MS Polymer adhesive must be used to guarantee our flooring. An engineered wood floor can be similarly adhered to a concrete sub-floor, or fixed by secret nailing to a suitable sub-floor, or laid as a floating floor over an appropriate underlay (glued in t&g only with PVA adhesive). Engineered boards may initially display a bow when unpacked however this is normal and will be removed during the staggered-joint laying process.

PROCEDURE

Leave a minimum 15mm expansion gap around the perimeter of all laid areas. The gap will be hidden by skirting boards or appropriate edging trim.

The first row of planks must be absolutely straight from one end of the room to the other. To achieve this use a chalk line to mark a line the width of the board you are using plus minimum 15mm away from and parallel to the wall that you are starting from. Fix a temporary straight edge along the chalk line and lay the tongue edge of the plank adjacent to this. Measure and cut the required length to finish the first row. The plank selected to finish the end of the first row must be long enough to allow a cut piece long enough to start the next row (minimum length 150mm) and also making sure that there is a distance of at least 150mm from the joins in adjacent rows.

The last two to three rows cannot be fixed using a hardwood floor nailer since they are too close to the wall. They must be glued (where appropriate) or nailed manually. The last row will have to be glued or face-fixed, with any nail holes hidden by skirting boards or concealed with appropriate filler.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

All of our engineered & solid wood flooring has been double kiln-dried and has a moisture content of 8% +/- 2% when it leaves our mill, making it suitable for underfloor heating, subject to correct acclimatisation, fitting and adhesives being used. Please note the following important guidelines:

- Use a maximum width of 140mm solid wood flooring. If a wider plank is desired we recommend to use an

Engineered board for greater stability.

- Solid wood flooring should be fully adhered to cement based sub-floors using a recommended elasticated MS Polymer adhesive; for other sub-floor types flooring should be fully secured by secret-nailing method or similar.
- Engineered flooring can additionally be laid as a floating system over a suitable low-tog underlay such as Thermaflow.
- After the underfloor heating has been commissioned the heating must run for approximately 2 –3 weeks to assist the evaporation of moisture in cement-based sub-floors. Ensure that any patching or leveling of the sub-floor is complete prior to installation. The heating should still be run with other sub-floor compositions such as ply or chipboard.
- Prior to installation moisture and humidity readings should be taken from the area to be fitted (see above for recommended levels). The underfloor heating should be turned off for 2 days beforehand to ensure readings are accurate. Once the sub-floor moisture levels are suitable for installation the heating can be turned on at low level and once installation is complete the heating should then be built up in stages to room temperature over a period of 10 days. Any sanding and finishing should be carried out approximately 3 days after heating has been turned back on.

AFTER INSTALLATION

It is important to maintain a stable humidity level all year round in order to preserve the wood's form and appearance. Wood is a hygroscopic material and due to its natural movement characteristics, slight cupping or crowning is sometimes unavoidable. The optimal humidity range for hardwood flooring is between 45 and 60%. Temperature should be maintained at about 18 - 24 degrees Celsius. If underfloor heating is used a maximum sub-floor temperature of 26 degrees should be observed. Temperatures in excess of this may cause excessive movement and can lead to delamination of engineered boards and/or splits appearing in the surface of the wood. Gaps appearing between the boards indicate a drying out of the wood and insufficient degree of humidity. Temperature variations can also lead to some 'creaking' being heard from the flooring. The installation of a humidifier or air exchange system can prove indispensable in controlling humidity.

Above all, don't forget that wood is a living material and that we must look after it for life. A proper care programme should always be observed. By following these simple guidelines you will maintain the natural beauty of your floor.

MAINTENANCE 'DO'S'

- If the flooring is to be covered after laying for any period of time (for example while final decorating takes place) then Breathershield or similar breathable sheeting should be used, along with Correx or similar protective sheeting. If underfloor heating is present this should be left off or at very low level whilst the floor is covered as the build up of heat can otherwise damage the flooring and finish.
- Regularly sweep or vacuum the floor using a soft flooring attachment to prevent grit or abrasive dust from accumulating and scratching the surface
- Use protective pads under all furniture legs and castor wheels
- Use barrier mats inside and outside of all external doorways to help prevent the transfer of mud, grit, moisture and abrasive particles
- A suitable spray cleaner or mop rinsed in a recommended wood floor cleaning solution should be used for cleaning, with the mop squeezed damp beforehand. A Bona wood floor spray mop is recommended
- At regular intervals after cleaning a coat of Maintenance Oil should be applied to protect the floor and maintain its appearance
- Keep the ambient temperature to 18-24 degree Celsius and the relative humidity at 45-60% throughout the year. This will prevent any excessive expansion and/or contraction of the flooring.

MAINTENANCE 'DON'TS'

- Never allow any liquids or detergents to remain on the floor, these should be wiped and cleaned immediately
- Never leave a wood floor covered with floor protection for longer than two weeks, no adhesive tape of any description should be applied directly to the floor surface. If an underfloor heating system is in place it should be turned off whilst the flooring is covered.
- Where underfloor heating is used beware of leaving low-level furniture in one position for any length of time. If the flooring is 'capped' in this way, trapping heat, this will lead to cupping and/or gapping, from which the floor may not be able to recover
- The use of rugs is not recommended, as they trap heat which can lead to swelling, distortion, cupping, and in the case of an engineered floor, delamination
- Never use wax, oil-based detergent, steel wool or any household cleaners. These may dull or damage the finish, leaving a greasy film, making the floor more difficult to clean
- Never use a steam cleaner because moisture can be forced into the wood, causing cupping and damage to the finish
- Do not use a vacuum with rotating brushes.