
Acclimatisation:

The packs should be stored in the room they are to be laid unopened for a minimum of 48 hours to acclimatise.

Fitting Instructions:

Engineered wood floors can be laid as a floating floor over a good quality underlay or fully bonded to the sub-floor. If you have under-floor heating we recommend the floor be fully bonded to the sub-floor or floated over a 3mm foam underlay. We would also advise the floor be laid by a professional floor fitter for a perfect finish.

Timber is a living substance that reacts to changes in relative humidity. Wood gains and loses moisture before and after installation as surrounding conditions fluctuate, indeed wood expands in the summer when the humidity level is high and contracts in the winter when the humidity level is much lower. To minimise the expansion or contraction of your floor we recommend that the building should be well ventilated and the relative humidity level maintained to at least 45% all year. Any building work, plastering etc. should be completed and thoroughly dry. We recommend the wood be left, unopened, in the room it is to be fitted at its normal temperature to acclimatise for at least 48 hours before fitting.

N.B: Engineered boards made of Beech or Birch on their top layer should NOT be used over under-floor heating.

Preparation for Under-Floor Heating Installation:

The following instructions for the starting of the central heating should be followed closely in both summer and winter. The heating layer of the cement should be allowed to dry out for approximately 21 days prior to starting. Beginning at 25 degrees for 24 hours and increase by 5 degrees daily until maximum temperature has been achieved. Run at this temperature for a few days or at least for 24 hours for each centimetre of the heating layer, then reducing by 5 degrees every 24 hours down to 15 degrees at which time the floor can be acclimatised and then laid.

Preparation for a Floating Floor Installation for both solid sub-floors and over Under-floor Heating:

If the sub-floor is concrete the level of moisture should be tested using a professional concrete moisture meter calibrated to give a percentage reading. The moisture content reading should be no higher than 2%, if a higher percentage reading is measured the floor should not be laid. The concrete should be level (maximum of 3mm difference over 2m) clean and dust free.

The existing structural floor boards should be screwed down flat, clean and dust free.

If over joists, 18mm structural plywood should be laid and screwed down first.

An expansion gap of 10-15mm is required between all stable building elements such as walls, doors, thresholds, pillars and pipes. You will need special expansion joints for doorways without thresholds, passageways between rooms, long corridors, rooms with nooks and crannies, or floor surfaces which exceed 12m in length and 8m in width. Cover the floor with the underlay. Start in the corner where the two longest straight walls come together and preferably lay your floor in the direction of the incoming light. If you are laying your floor directly over floor boards they should be laid in the opposite direction. Without gluing lay the first two rows of boards exactly together and parallel to the walls using spacing wedges (10 to 15mm). The off cut from the first row should be used to start the beginning of the second row (for stability the off cut should not be less than 50 cms). When you are happy with the fit remove the second row, apply the PVA glue to the tongue on the long side and the head joints and re-position. You can now continue laying and gluing the floor using a damp cloth to remove excess glue. Allow the adhesive to dry for at least 12 hours before you remove the spacing wedges and put any weight on the floor.

The boards can be floated over under floor heating using the method as described above and a 3mm foam underlay.

The under floor heating system needs to be up and running for at least 3 weeks before fitting which allows:

- (a) All snagging with the system to be completed
- (b) That the sub floor is dry

Preparation for Gluing Method and over Under-floor Heating:

Start in the corner where the two longest straight walls come together and preferably lay your floor in the direction of the incoming light. Without gluing lay the first two rows of boards exactly together and parallel to the walls using spacing wedges (10 to 15mm). The off cut from the first row should be used to start the beginning of the second row (for stability the off cut should not be less than 50cms). When you are happy remove the boards and wedges and apply the recommended adhesive with a trowel (toothed at 3mm) over that area and re-fit the wedges and boards.

Continue to apply glue to the floor and fitting the boards but work in areas of 1m² at a time removing any excess glue with a damp cloth. To ensure overall adhesion cover the floors with weights which can be removed after 12 hours along with the wedges.

Three days after installation is complete the temperature of the under-floor heating should be increased by 5 degrees daily to a maximum floor temperature of 27 degrees. When the full temperature is reached it can then be reduced by 10 degrees.

The under-floor heating can now be used normally to a maximum floor temperature of 27 degrees; however, we recommend that the room temperature be between 18-22 degrees with a relative humidity of 50-60% the ideal for timber floors.

If these guidelines are not followed the wood may swell, contract or split and any defects resulting cannot be blamed on the retailer or the manufacturer.

IMPORTANT BASIC RULES:

Never use too much water for cleaning. Use a product such as Treatex Floor Care for oiled floors or Velurex Star Cleaner for lacquered floors. (Products from supermarket shelves often contain detergents which will strip the floor of their finishes.)

Protect your floor from Dirt, Stones and Water by installing a large dirt attracting mat at all entrances.

Felt pads under furniture legs reduce scratching.

Regular cleaning increase the durability of the finish. (Please see the Care & Maintenance Instructions).

Remove any sticky residue or soil by wiping with a damp cloth and all spillages should be mopped up immediately.

Ladies high heels will dent any wood flooring.

On the natural oiled products two further coats of oil should be applied once the floor has been laid.
U.V. Oiled products are pre-finished and do not require any further oil.