

Congratulations on purchasing your new Solid Wood Flooring!

It is recommended that you use the services of a professional flooring fitter, and that he reads the following instructions carefully. These instructions are intended as a helpful guide only, and should not be used as a substitute for the experience of the fitter.

The floor fitter is the most important person to the final customer. He is the person who finally decides how the finished floor will look overall. Therefore it is important he works from several boxes at the same time (four-five boxes are recommended). This enables him to decide on a correct colour and grain structure mix, and so achieve the best looking floor possible. Discoloured or imperfect boards must be discarded at the fitter's discretion.

General

Changes in moisture levels (humidity) will cause natural expansion and contraction. The result will be seen as small gaps appearing during winter (low in-house humidity levels) or boards tightening in summer (higher humidity levels). To help maintain correct humidity levels (45%-60%) you may consider investing in a humidifier. This machine can also have health benefits for the people who live or work in the same environment as the flooring.

PREPARATION

Acclimatise

Your Solid Wood Flooring has been specially kiln-dried to 8-10% moisture; 10-12% at delivery which is the ideal level for most European countries. Therefore, your Solid Wood Flooring should be stocked horizontally, in the packaging, at least 72 hours before installation, in the room where your floor will be laid. Make sure that you have a room climate of about 18°C and relative humidity between 45-60%.

In winter, especially when the temperature is 0°C or below, and the air is dry outside, we recommend the use of a humidifier, especially when the room temperature is high.

Take care of the following:

Wood lives and breathes changes in humidity cause natural expansion and contraction of the flooring.

Therefore make sure that:

- All the painting and wallpapering is done.
- All the plaster is dry.
- Floor and wall tiles have been installed for at least 3 weeks.
- Windows are in place.
- Make sure radiators have been bled.
- No rehumidification takes place in the room where the floor will be installed.
- Open several packs of flooring to allow you to mix the planks when laying, taking into consideration the texture of the wood and its colour variation.

A NOTE OF CAUTION

Wood is a beautiful product of nature, but due to the intrinsic volatility of most species, it is always a possibility that up to 5% of the product may not be usable for its intended purpose.



The sub-floor

Most modern homes have a concrete floor. Older homes tend to have a structure of battens on which the flooring can be nailed; renovations may have a wooden floor. It is important for the base floor to be dry, clean (no glue or residue), firm and level.

Concrete floor

Your concrete floor must be sufficiently dry. This means maximum moisture of 3% full depth of screed for concrete sub-floors with anhydrit. Your concrete floor must also be level; this means no unevenness of more than 2mm over any 1M length. If so, you should make your concrete floor smooth with a proprietary leveling compound. Your concrete floor also has to be firm.

Structure of battens

Wooden battens are the most traditional sub-floor for the installation of your Solid Wood Flooring. Make sure they are strongly fixed and that they are level, and that distance between the batten's centre is maximum 40cm to perfect support.

Wooden floor

These sub-floors tend to be softwood with tongue and groove. The new flooring has to be laid at right angles to the existing floor. Make sure that all loose boards are nailed down with no protruding railheads, and that uneven boards are sanded or smoothed. Old paint or lacquer has to be removed to allow good adhesion of the glue.

INSTALLATION

There are 2 methods to install your Solid Wood Flooring:

Gluing (directly onto concrete floor)

You must use a waterfree, alcohol-glue, specially designed for wood, and follow the instructions of the manufacturer. You don't need to glue tongue and groove. Always be aware that wood lives, so provide an expansion gap of 15mm between the wall and flooring. This also applies to door thresholds, pipes and stairs, up against fireplaces or stone floors. Please note, with large areas (width in excess of 10m) the floor must be divided with an expansion gap. On completion, this gap is covered by a profile that is not fixed to the floor.

Nailing on to battens

This is the most traditional method of installing your floor. Boards to be secret nailed at an angle of 45° through the top of the tongue. Use lost head machine nails of 50mm and a pneumatic nailing-machine (to avoid damage to the tongue). Don't forget expansion gap (15mm) everywhere.



WOODCARE GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Lacquered flooring

For ongoing maintenance, make sure you use the appropriate products as advised by your retailer.

When manufacturing your floor we advise the following:

- Protect chair and furniture legs using felt or other suitable products.
- Avoid the introduction of sand and dirt from outside by placing a floor mat at the door.
- Daily maintenance is done by wiping or vacuuming. Surplus water must be avoided.
- Remove dirt and stains with a gentle detergent and damp (not wet) sponge.

NEVER USE AGGRESSIVE DETERGENTS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING AMMONIA OR SILICONES.

Your Online Timber Supplier

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