

Installation Guides

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Tongue & Groove Engineered Wood

Engineered floors are very dimensionally stable allowing them to be installed over all types of subfloor. They are suitable for all areas of the house, except bathrooms and wet areas, and can be used with underfloor heating and in conservatories.

Due to their stability they can be fitted in a minimum of 48 hours after correctly being acclimatized. To correctly acclimatize your engineered floor, it should be left in the room it is going to be fitted in at normal room temperature and relative humidity (RH). Please refer to the manufacturer's guides contained within the packaging for accurate advice on your chosen product.

All floating flooring installations must use the correct underlay. Over a concrete subfloor you will need to use a superior underlay which has a built-in damp proof membrane (DPM) such as Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay. Over a wooden subfloor you can use the Essential Plus Cushion White Underlay or Cushion Ultra Silver Wood Underlay. Alternatively Essential Cushion White Underlay, dependent on subfloor construction.

Also, for improved noise reduction we recommend the Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay, bringing peace and quiet to the room, by reducing impact sound. Using the correct underlay can give better support to your new flooring, which in turn prolongs the life and also aids installation by removing some minor imperfections from the subfloor.

Each board has a tongue and grooved machined profile on all four sides, to join the boards together simply insert the tongue into the groove on a flat surface after running a bead of glue along the top inside of the groove on the board you are next fixing. You will need to leave a minimum 15mm

expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. To maintain this gap during installation, spacers are provided in our installation kit (purchased separately).

After you have installed the floor you can cover this expansion gap with scotia beading or replace you old skirting boards with new ones, this gives a much more professional finish. An expansion gap also needs to be left in doorways where the floor follows through from one room to another. We have a full range of door profiles available to match your floor.

Engineered Tongue and Grooved flooring can also be fully glued down, secret nail/screwed down or glued down with liquid battens.

The above is a brief guideline on the installation of T&G engineered flooring; always refer to the manufactures installation guidelines contained within packs of the flooring or visit our Flooring Manufacture Installation Guides.

Click & 5G Engineered Wood

Engineered floors are very dimensionally stable allowing them to be installed over all types of sub floors. They are suitable for all areas of the house except bathrooms and wet areas. They are also suitable for use over under floor heating and conservatories.

Storage

Decorating and remodeling a home is a time-consuming process that can become even longer when little problems arise. If your building project exceeds the original timeframe you may need to store some of your flooring materials like Engineered Wood flooring. Engineered Wood flooring is susceptible to environmental damage, so it must be stored properly in order for it to be viable for use when you need it. If you make the effort to store your flooring properly, you can avoid having to deal with damage or replacements later.

While it may be required to leave Engineered Wood flooring in the garage for a few days before bringing it inside to acclimatize, these conditions are not acceptable for long-term storage. Flooring must be kept in properly enclosed surroundings that have a secure roof and weatherproof windows. Extreme temperatures and excess moisture can irreparably damage wood flooring, so it is important to select an area that will protect your flooring from exposure to the elements.

If Engineered Wood flooring is exposed to freezing temperatures or extreme heat, this can lead to cracking or warping. In order to prevent this damage, if you are not sure, speak to our personal flooring experts about what temperature and humidity is ideal for storing your particular type of flooring, and do what you can to control the temperature and humidity in your temporary storage area. Engineered Wood flooring needs to be kept clean and dry, so air circulation is also a concern. Clean air should be

allowed to circulate among the stacks of flooring; you may need to install fans if your building has poor air flow.

The flooring should be laid down horizontally onto a flat surface, and never propped up against a wall, for example, as this is likely to cause the flooring to warp and bow.

As a general guide, look at Temperatures in the region of 18-24°C and a Relative Humidity of between 45-60% (please refer to the manufacturer's guides upon delivery).

Acclimatization

Due to their stability they can be fitted in a minimum of 48-hours after correctly being acclimatized. To correctly acclimatize your engineered floor, it should be left in the room it is going to be fitted in at a suitable temperature and relative humidity (RH). Please refer to the manufacturer's guides contained within the packaging for accurate advice of your chosen product.

Installation

Engineered flooring with a click installation system can be installed as floating floor, which is the most common and DIY friendly installation method because it is the easiest and the fastest to install. They can be installed over any type of subfloor and do not require any special skills or prior experience in installing floors as the floors just clicks together with no need for any glue.

Additionally, some of our floors feature a 5G/5GS/5GC click system, these boards feature the latest technology for an even faster and easier fitting. As well as a locking profile on the long edge, the 5G range uses a plastic widget on the short edge to provide a robust joint on all sides that can be simply pushed down into place with ease.

All floating flooring installations must use the correct underlay. Over a concrete subfloor you will need to use a superior underlay which has a built-in damp proof membrane (DPM) such as Cushion Ultra Silver Wood Underlay. Over a wooden subfloor you can use the Essential Cushion White Underlay or Essential Plus Cushion White Underlay with its vapour barrier that allow the flooring and subfloor to breath. For installations over under floor heating we recommend using Cushion Ultra Silver Wood Underlay. Also, for improved noise reduction we recommend the Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay, bringing peace and quiet to the room, by reducing "Drum Sound".

Using the correct underlay can give better support to your new flooring, which in turn prolongs the life and also aids installation by removing some minor imperfections from the sub-floor. Each board is designed with a click profile on all four sides to join the boards together. Simply insert the long side tongue into the groove at around a 30° angle and then push them down. The shorter end, known as the "Header Joint", will vary dependent on product chosen. You will need to refer to the manufactures guides for further product specific instructions.

You will need to leave a minimum 15mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. To maintain this gap during installation spacers are provided in our installation kit (purchased separately)

After you have installed the floor you can cover this expansion gap with scotia beading or replace you old skirting boards with new ones; this gives a much more professional finish. An expansion gap also needs to be left in doorways where the floor follows through from one room to another or not. We have a full range of door profiles available to match your floor. This is a brief guideline on the installation of our click engineered flooring; always refer to the manufactures installation guidelines contained within packs of the flooring or visit our Flooring Manufacture Installation Guides.

Laminate Click & 5G

Laminate floors are a popular choice of flooring due to the fact that they are very easy to install. They can be installed in all areas of the house (except wet rooms) and are suitable for use over any type of subfloor including underfloor heating.

Additionally, some of our floors feature a 5G click system, these boards feature the latest technology for an even faster and easier fitting. As well as a locking profile on the long edge, the 5G range uses a plastic widget on the short edge to provide a robust joint on all sides that can be simply pushed down into place with ease.

Click system floating installation is the most common and DIY friendly installation method because it is the easiest and the fastest to do and does not require any special skills or prior experience. The floor just clicks together with no need for any glue.

All floating flooring installations must use the correct underlay. The ideal choice for laminate flooring is Cushion Ultra Silver Wood Underlay, which has a built-in damp proof membrane (DPM) that's suitable for use over a concrete subfloor. Over a wooden subfloor you can use the Cushion Plus White Underlay with its vapor barriers. Alternatively Cushion Standard White Underlay, dependent on subfloor construction. Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay is not a suitable option for this type of flooring.

Using the correct underlay can give better support to your new flooring, which in turn prolongs the life and also aids installation by removing some minor imperfections from the subfloor.

Please ensure you review and follow the manufacturer's guidance on subfloor prep and leveling to achieve a correct fit. For herringbone lines the subfloor should be completely flat.

After acclimatization we recommend opening 3-4 packs when installing to stagger the boards creating a floor with great visual interest.

Each board is designed with a click profile on all four sides to join the boards together. Simply insert the long side tongue into the groove at a medium angle and then push them down. The shorter end, known

as the “Header Joint”, will vary dependent on product chosen. You will need to refer to the manufacturers guides for further product specific instructions.

You will need to leave a 15mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. To maintain this gap during installation spacers are provided in our installation kit (purchased separately).

After you have installed the floor you can cover this expansion gap with scotia beading or replace you old skirting boards with new ones, this gives a much more professional finish. An expansion gap also needs to be left in doorways where the floor follows through from one room to another or not. We have a full range of door profiles available to match your floor.

The above is a brief guideline on the installation of our laminate flooring; always refer to the manufacturer’s installation guidelines contained within packs of the flooring or visit our Flooring Manufacturer Installation Guides.

Spectra Click

- Spectra features new click/lock technology, resulting in a floating floor system that only requires minimal hand tools. A quiet, fast and clean installation process.
- Spectra is intended for interior installations only, suitable for below-grade, on- grade and above-grade installations, but should not be installed where the applications substrate is exposed to weather elements.
- As a floating floor, it should be allowed to expand and contract freely. Permanent fixtures must be installed prior to installation of Spectra.
- A minimum 8mm expansion space is required in all areas, at all vertical surfaces.
- Areas larger than 9m x 9m require a transition strip, as do doorways narrower 1m in width.
- Spectra must be acclimated for a minimum of 48 hours, a consistent room temperature of 18-21°C should ideally be maintained before, during and after all installations.
- Direct exposure to sunlight may cause fading and or joint separation.
- Spectra is not recommended for installation in sunrooms.
- Spectra is water resistant, however, constant/prolonged exposure to excessive moisture/humidity may affect the product. Moisture/humidity issues must be addressed and corrected prior to commencing installation.

Spectra undergo a strict quality control procedure that guarantees high-quality standards. If, contrary to all expectations, material problems should be identified on site, these are to be notified before cutting to size and laying.

Claims for obvious defects (e.g. colour variations, differences in thicknesses, surface defects, insufficient accuracy of fit etc.) cannot be accepted after installation.

If a number of packages of design flooring are being used the contents should be checked for batch-to-batch variation before cutting and laying. When ordering it is imperative that reference be made to the need for a delivery from one dye lot to insure colour consistency.

Pre-installation procedures

Please refer to the British Standard BS 8203:2001 +A1:2009, code of practice for installation of resilient floor coverings.

Job site evaluation:

- The building should be closed in with all outside doors and windows in place.
- All concrete, masonry, framing members, drywall, paint and other “wet” work should be thoroughly dry.
- Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated. (Crawl space must be a minimum of 24” (600mm) from the ground to underside of joists. A ground cover of 6-8 mil black polyethylene films is essential as a vapor barrier with joints lapped six inches and taped. The crawl space should have perimeter venting to a minimum of 1.5 % of the crawl space square footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation).
- Permanent air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operational.
- The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 15-21°C for 14 days prior, during and after installation for a proper living environment.
- HVAC systems should be in place and working 10 days before installation.
- Substrates must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate testing methods.

Suitable surfaces

Lightly textured or porous surfaces, well-bonded sheet vinyl, vinyl or ceramic tile, embossed surfaces or grout lines may telegraph thru, so these must be filled with an appropriate Portland based leveling compound.

All structurally sound solid wood floors, plywood substrates etc. should be tested for moisture using a moisture meter and levels must not exceed 14% MC.

Dry, clean, well set concrete, cured for at least 90 days prior, should also be moisture tested and must not exceed 4% MC. If it is found to exceed this level, a suitable liquid damp proof membrane is recommended. Spectra Resilient vinyl may be installed over radiant heated floors (Surface temperature must never exceed or sustain 27°C and never come into direct contact with the heat source).

Spectra resilient vinyl may be installed on all grade levels including basements. Although Spectra is water resistant, moisture issues must be identified and corrected prior to any installation to avoid mould or odour.

In addition, any traces of glue or residue from the previous flooring must be removed or a suitable leveling compound used to act as a membrane between the Spectra vinyl and the residue.

Unsuitable surfaces

Rough, heavy textured or uneven surfaces may telegraph through the vinyl and distort the finished surface. This product is not suitable in rooms that could potentially have damp concrete, such as saunas and wet rooms. Do not install this product in areas which are exposed to long-term direct sunlight and/or extreme temperature changes. This product features a built in 1mm attached underlay, so an additional underlay should not be used when installing the floor.

Installation implies acceptance of preparation

- The vinyl planks should be allowed to acclimatize at room temperature approx. 18-21°C for 48 hours prior to installation (Excessive cold or heat can affect the size of individual planks).
- It must be stored horizontally, flat.
- Check that all Batch number and item numbers are the same and that you have purchases sufficient material to complete the job.
- Carefully check planks for any defects before installation.

All new concrete floors need to dry out for at least 90 days prior to installation. Wood plank floors require a suitable thickness plywood surface and all nail heads or fasteners must be adjusted below the subfloor surface (beware of pipes under the subfloor). Securely fasten all loose subfloors to remove squeaks and deflection. If the sub-floor is uneven 3mm +/- within a span of 2m, plane, sand, or fill uneven boards, holes or cracks using floor-leveling compound. If installing over existing tiles, use a floor-leveling compound to skim coat grout lines. Make sure the floor is smooth, clean and free of wax, grease, oil or dust and sealed as necessary before laying planks.

Tools required

Utility knife, spacers, pencil, tape measure, set square, handsaw, knee pads and safety goggles.

Getting Started

Determine the direction that the flooring will be installed. Installation parallel to the longest wall is recommended for best visual effects. Undercut all door jams by turning a plank upside down and using a handsaw to cut away the necessary height so that planks slide easily under the frames. Remove any existing base, quarter round, shoe molding and door thresholds. Sweeping and vacuuming to remove any debris as you go. Floor should be installed from alternate cartons at the same time to insure a good colour and shade balance.

Before starting, determine the width of the last row of planks, if less than 50mm, trim the width of your starting row of planks to centre the boards in the room. Be attentive to staggering the ends of the vinyl planks a minimum of 400 mm for a more favourable overall appearance of the floor.

Installation

Step 1: First plank, first row. Place a distance 8 mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after three rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances 8mm. Prior to installation, measure the width of the room to check if the first row should preferably be cut length wise to get more equal width of the first and last rows planks.

Step 2: Second plank, first row. Press the short end of the next floorboard at an angle to the first one, and then lay down. Complete the first row in the same way.

Step 3: At the end of the first row, put a distance 8 mm, to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit. Cut the last panel to correct length, recommended min length is two times the width of the plank.

Step 4: Second row. Position the remaining part of the first row's last plank as first plank of second row. Again, keep two times the width as minimum length. Put a distance against the wall.

Step 5: General. Distances between short ends. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than about two times the width of the plank.

Step 6: Place the floorboard an angle against the floorboard in the previous row, press forward and fold down at the same time. Leave the panel in a somewhat up angled position where the panels start to loc. To make this further easier, a wedge with the suitable angle can be placed under the plank near the short side joint as support.

Step 7: Second plank second row. Place the short end of the floorboard at an angle against the previous installed floorboard and fold down all the way.

Step 8: Push to slide the plank against the row in front so it aligns with the first plank. Put it down like with the first plank when the floorboards are positioned tightly together. The first/previous plank can now be folded completely down to horizontal position and if a wedge is used it can be moved to the next short end joint.

Step 9: After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance to the front wall by placing distances 8 mm. Keep the distances in position during the entire time of installation and remove once the installation is completed.

Step 10: If the wall is uneven, the floorboards must be adapted to its contours. Mark the floorboards with the contour of the wall. Do not forget to leave ca 8 mm space to the wall. This procedure shall be used also for the first row if necessary.

Horizontal installation

Step 13: Cut off the locking element with a chisel, apply applicable glue on the adjusted strip and push the planks horizontally together. If necessary place some spacers between last board and the wall during the hardening time of the glue. The method can also be applied to the short ends.

Step 14: Installation at for example radiator pipes. Mark the centre of the holes and drill the hole with a diameter about 16 mm bigger than the pipe diameter (= 8 mm gap around), cut as shown with a saw or with a sharp utility knife. Install the floor plank. If necessary, put glue on the cut piece and replace.

Completing the job

Remove all spacers, install baseboards or quarter round/ scotia, to cover expansion joint. Install door

transition moldings, (do not fix any molding or transitions thru the resilient vinyl flooring). Sweep or vac up any remaining debris. Clean as necessary with a quality resilient vinyl floor cleaner.

To prevent surface damage avoid rolling heavy appliances and furniture directly on the floor, use plywood or hardboard if necessary.

Care & maintenance

Sweep, dust mop and vacuum regularly to remove surface grit and dust. Use a damp cloth or mop with a quality resilient vinyl floor cleaner to clean up dirt and footprints, (be careful to avoid using excessive moisture).

CAUTION: Planks are slippery when wet. All spills should be cleaned up immediately.

- Do not use wet spray micro fibre mops.
- Never use wax, polish, vinegar, abrasive cleaners or scouring agents as they may dull or distort the finish.
- High heels can damage floors.
- Use protective pads under all furniture.
- Use exterior doormats at all entrance ways to keep dirt and moisture from being tracked in. Avoid the use of interior rubber, foam or plastic back mats as they may discolour the floor. To prevent slippage or area rugs use an approved rug underlay from a reputable manufacturer.
- Do not allow pets with unclipped nails to scratch or damage the floor.

NOTE: Steam cleaners are not recommended.

Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time. Use drapes or blinds to minimize direct sunlight during peak sunlight hours.

TIP: It is a good idea to save a few planks in case of accidental damage. Planks can easily be replaced or repaired by a qualified professional.

If you require any further advice on installation then please call our technical department on **+44 2088 945 886**, e-mail us on <mailto:info@floorvilla.com> or click Contact Page.