



TIMBERFLOR LTD/ORIGINAL TIMBER INSTALLATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Pre Installation

Acclimatising your new wood floor

We recommend acclimatising your new wood floor for 48 hours in normal installation circumstances i.e. no underfloor heating, or not a new build property partially open to the elements (see underfloor heating instructions).

Site Conditions

The site in which the floor is to be installed must be weather tight, heating system in operation and all wet trades work must be fully dry. Any damp problems must be remedied in advance of installation taking place. At the time of installation, and thereafter, conditions should be within the range expected when the building is in use. The Relative Humidity (R.H.) of the air should be between 45° and 65° R.H. The temperature should be between 18C and 21C. These figures also apply once the floor is installed. This climate is coincidentally also the most comfortable for people to live or work in. The installer/owner assumes all responsibility for the final inspection of both the site suitability and product quality prior to installation in order that the requirements of these instructions are fully complied with. Claims of any nature will not be accepted if a fault was visibly noticeable prior to installation.

Your engineered wood floor is suitable for use with underfloor heating systems subject to the accepted compliance by the manufacturers of the heating system in its suitability for use with timber flooring. Always check this compatibility with a qualified heating installer.

Sub Floors

This flooring can be laid on most types of substrate flooring which is clean, dry and level, eg sand and cement screeds, timber floor boards, chipboard, ply, ash-felt, bitumen etc. It is the responsibility of the flooring contractor to check that the site condition is in a satisfactory state for the installation to take place including all moisture related readings.

Concrete & Screed Sub Floors

It is vital that the installer check the moisture content of the concrete/screed and to satisfy himself that it is dry enough for the flooring to be laid. If measured directly with an appropriate moisture meter, the moisture content should not exceed 4% or the relative humidity of the air over the screed and should be between 40° and 65° RH @ a temperature of 18C–21C. The screed must be levelled to a tolerance of no more than a 3mm gap showing under a 3M straight edge. On ground floors a surface moisture barrier such as a combination underlay or 1000g polythene must be used with joints over lapped and taped.

Timber Sub Floors

Wooden sub floors should not have a moisture content of higher than 12%.

Floor boards, O.S.B, plywood or battens are suitable for installing engineered flooring on top of. Ensure if the floor is over joists that adequate ventilation is provided as per UK building regulations. The same level tolerance of 3mm applies.

Note: if installing on existing tongue and grooved flooring, make sure all old floorboards are secure and free of infestation' it is then recommended that you lay the new flooring at 90° to existing floor in order to stabilise any subsequent movement within either of the timbers.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING INSTRUCTIONS

When installing flooring over underfloor heating the following must be observed:

- Heating must be operating as normal and have been operated for at least 2 weeks prior to installation of flooring.
- **Maximum permissible subfloor surface temperature must not exceed 27°C and maximum output must not exceed 60W/m²**

- Heating must be turned off 48 hrs prior to installation and remain off for 48 hrs after installation (*during this period room temperature must be maintained with portable heat*).

***Please note the wood flooring must be acclimatised to 7-8% moisture content before installing over underfloor heating.**

When underfloor heating is turned back on, the temperature must be increased by no more than 1°C per day starting at 18°C until the normal operating temperature is reached ([Maximum 27 °C Subfloor temperature](#)). It is not unusual to see some gapping/cupping of boards due to the varying moisture levels. **DO NOT COVER** the floor with any rugs/matting as this will create 'hot spots' in the flooring.

The sub floor temperature (*NOT* air thermostat) must be set so the temperature hitting the back of the flooring boards does not exceed **27°C**. Your customer must also use a humidifier to replace lost moisture, especially in the winter months.

You must have a valid certificate from the underfloor heating installers/manufacturers confirming the system is suitable for wooden flooring and has been correctly installed not to exceed 27°C subfloor temperature. Original Timber products are suitable for underfloor heating systems but are not guaranteed because we cannot be responsible for site conditions beyond our control.

Please contact us for further information on underfloor heating.

Installation of Engineered Flooring

WE RECOMMEND THAT A PROFESSIONAL FLOORING INSTALLER IS CONTRACTED AND THAT THE INSTALLATION IS BY FLOATING, NAILING OR FULL STICK DOWN METHOD WITH A SUITABLE SPECIALIST WOOD FLOORING ADHESIVE.

On completion of the preceding tasks the following steps should be followed for installation.

1. Under cut the bottom of door frames, wardrobes, etc. to allow for the floor board to fit under it, plus always leave a full 15mm-20mm expansion gap around the full perimeter of the floor.
2. Open 4 or 5 packs and "shuffle" the boards to ensure an even distribution of colour and character.
3. The industry standard of 5% waste shall apply for defects and cutting.
4. If you discover a defective piece DO NOT LAY IT. You are the final judge of acceptable quality. Timberflor Ltd or its dealers will not be responsible for costs associated with installing, finishing and/or replacing of flooring installed with obvious defects.
5. Ideally boards should be laid "end on" to the incoming day light. The first board should be laid groove to the wall allowing for expansion of minimum 15mm between the wall and first board and continue all round with minimum 15mm expansion gap. Do not butt up against any fixed construction such as wall, door frame, pipes, partitions.

Nail Down Installations

It is recommended to use a professional flooring nailer for this product.

1. Our engineered flooring boards can be fixed directly onto joists or battens. The joists or battens should be sound, rigid and level with moisture content no greater than 12-14% at the time of fixing the wooden floor. Where the engineered flooring is to be fixed to ground floor joists, adequate under-floor ventilation and appropriate protection against damp must be provided.
2. In the case of battens fixed to a concrete/screed base, the conditions described above should be met; i.e. the base must be dry. The battens should be not less than 36mm wide for a fixed floor and of sufficient depth to accommodate the length of the flooring fixings. End to end joists between battens should be staggered throughout the floor area to avoid creating a line of weakness. Battens are usually laid at 300 – 400mm centres and fixed with either nails, clips or appropriate adhesive to the sub-floor.

Glue Down Installations

1. You must use a professionally formulated specialist wood flooring adhesive that is either alcohol or polyurethane based, always ensuring the manufacturer's guidelines are strictly followed on application. Both trowel and glue batten systems are acceptable.
2. It is not necessary to further adhere the tongue and groove system with the above options
3. Always keep glue off the surface area of the boards and do not let any surplus glue dry on the finished flooring as this is very difficult to remove.
4. If the board width is 200mm and bigger, it is advisable to fully glue down the boards.

Floating Installations

1. Timberflor Ltd engineered flooring when floated must be installed over minimum 3mm foam or poly type underlay.
2. A specialist wood flooring PVA adhesive (D3 rated) should be applied in the T&G system at the head of the board, then along the edge of the board in 200mm beads with 100mm intervals. Installation clamp & strap systems are recommended to hold rows in place whilst the glue sets.
3. Starter boards from the off cuts of the flooring should be used at the beginning of each row to ensure that a stagger is created between the header joints of a minimum 500mm. This gives valuable added strength to the installation.

Finishing Off

1. The last board of the first row should be fitted using a puller bar ensuring a minimum 15mm expansion gap at the head of the board.
2. Tapping blocks should be used to tap boards together, direct contact of hammer or mallet on the board edge is not recommended.
3. All perimeter gaps should be covered with skirting or Scotia beading using profile cover strips at all thresholds between rooms.

Floor Care after Installation

1. Do not wash your floor for 3 weeks after installation as the hardwax needs time to fully cure.
2. Correct humidity and temperature conditions must be maintained within the environment.
3. Mats on both sides of entrance ways, not for decoration.
4. Prevent water being walked or leaked onto the floor
5. Do not install this type of flooring in bathrooms, kitchens or conservatories where leaks or excessive humidity may occur. Consult you supplier who will advise.
6. When cleaning use water sparingly and mop dry after
7. Immediately remove stains and spillages.
8. Protect your floor by using felt pads under all furniture.

Warranty UK

1. Timberflor Ltd is responsible for manufacturing defects.
2. The warranty lasts for 20 years starting from the date of purchase. The original invoice is proof of date of purchase.
3. Our floors must be installed correctly according to the above mentioned instructions. The warranty covers normal use. The warranty does not cover the use in damp and wet spaces, such as bathrooms.
4. Floor boards showing visible defects should not be installed. It is the responsibility of the owner/fitter to deselect these boards at time of installation. These boards can be exchanged at your local Timberflor dealer at no cost. Boards with visible defects that are installed in spite of these instructions are excluded from this warranty.
5. Finished flooring, i.e. lacquered, stained, oiled, brushed, or other finished flooring is subject to normal wear and is not covered by this warranty, i.e. if you don't maintain the floor correctly, the warranty is null and void.
6. Excluded under this warranty are: scratches, heavy impacts, humidity, and damage caused by incorrect use or lack of correct maintenance.
7. If you have a defect which falls under the conditions mentioned in this warranty, you should report this to your dealer in writing within 14 days after detecting the defect. In your letter you should include a copy of the invoice.
8. The warranty provided only relates to the floor boards supplied, consequently it does not include labour costs, the costs of additional material and any other consequential loss.
9. In case of a dispute arising from the Timberflor warranty, either party may call upon an independent expert to render binding advice. In the event that this clause is applicable, the cost of same shall be agreed on in writing by all parties involved in advance.
10. The 20 year warranty period will continue from original date of purchase and will not be affected by subsequent resolution of any complaint.
11. Where the Timberflor warranty applies, Timberflor or its distributors will replace the faulty floor boards. In case the product in question is no longer available, Timberflor will ensure replacement by an alternative product of the same quality.
12. This warranty shall apply only to the original owner.