

INSTALLERS RESPONSIBILITY

It is the installer's responsibility to carry out the final inspection of the floor to ensure the colour, grade, quality, manufacture and factory finish of the product is acceptable. Additionally, the inspection of all flooring must be done before installation. Carefully examine the flooring for colour, finish and quality before installing it. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause. If the product is deemed not acceptable for any reason, do not install it and contact your supplier immediately. The product must be checked with the end user to ensure the correct product has been supplied. Once a product has been laid, and later discovered to be incorrect, or any boards deemed to be defective, no financial assistance can be given, nor can the product be returned.

IMPORTANT!

To keep the wood in excellent condition it is imperative that the humidity level be controlled at all times, from delivery to laying the floor, and during the years that follow installation. The optimal humidity range for hardwood flooring is 45-65%; temperature should be maintained at about 18°C.

Flooring should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions. Engineered blocks should be left in the packaging in the room where it is to be laid until you are ready to lay the floor (for at least 48 hrs). In a new constructed building, the central heating must have been in operation for at least 10 days. Flooring can be laid after the 10 day period mentioned. Upon delivery, check wood flooring moisture content with a moisture meter to establish a baseline for required acclimatisation. All flooring contractors should possess a moisture meter.

A waste factor of 5-10% should be taken into account. The expansion required for any hardwood flooring installation will vary depending on the type of flooring (solid or multi-layer), timber species and the size of the room. As a general rule we recommend at least a 15mm expansion gap for engineered floors around the perimeter of the room, at doorways and any other vertical surfaces. These expansion gaps can be covered by mouldings which can be purchased from Atkinson & Kirby.

Perimeter of the room: If the skirting board has not been removed, the expansion gap can be covered by a scotia.

Doorways: At doorways the floor should be broken with an expansion gap. The expansion gap should be covered with a twin or ramp moulding, this will allow individual rooms to expand and contract within their own areas. Which moulding to use is determined by the floor covering on the other side of the doorway. If the floors are equal in height a twin should be used, if floors have differing heights a ramp should be used.

Pipes, vents and other fixed objects: Each can be unique, but the general rule is to measure very carefully before you cut and remember to leave a 15mm expansion gap between the object and the flooring. Cover the expansion gap with mouldings, vent covers or pipe rings when the floor is complete.

PRE INSTALLATION

The choice of installation method depends on the specific circumstances and the requirements of the final floor. Before selecting an installation method the floor must be assessed for the following criteria:

Is the subfloor wet? Moisture tests should be carried out on all ground installations and all new build upper floor levels where a screed has been used. The British standard method is to use a surface hygrometer. Moisture readings above 65% relative humidity (RH) indicate a damp floor. If this is the case a damp proof membrane (DPM) should be used. If in doubt about the presence of moisture use a suitable DPM. (Please refer to DPM manufacturer's instructions for more details).

Is the subfloor smooth? If the subfloor is not smooth enough to accommodate the wood flooring, apply a smoothing compound to level out the floor.

Is the substrate a sound strong material? If not screeding of the floor will have to be carried out. Blocks may be installed onto flooring grade plywood or chipboard (which is firmly affixed to the subfloor) using Bostik Wood Bond.

Is there a requirement for improved acoustics? If so, use an adhesive that offers improved acoustic properties.

NOT SUITABLE FOR:

Asphalt subfloors.

Work out of several packs at a time to ensure an even colour and shade distribution over the whole floor.

INSTALLATION OVER UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Hot Water Pipe Systems, Engineered Hardwood Flooring Only

GENERAL GUIDANCE – The maximum temperature at the point of contact (where the heating meets the underside of the hardwood floor) is 27°C. In order to ensure that this is adhered to, we recommend the use of an underfloor heating system that is controlled by floor sensors - a probe, and allows for a gradual increase of the temperature. UFH must be properly commissioned with correct heat up and cool down carried out. There should be a written document confirming this has been carried out. Further information regarding UFH heat up is contained within BS8201. PLEASE REFER TO UNDERFLOOR HEATING MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR MORE DETAILS.

BLOCK INSTALLATION

Draw a line down the centre of the room. This line is known as the crown line.

Lay the first line of blocks down the crown line with the tongue facing inwards. For herringbone pattern. The apex of the joints should fall down the crown line.

Continue to lay the floor outwards from the crown line until a space remains around the perimeter of the floor, sufficient for a border of two blocks wide plus a provision for an expansion gap.

Without adhesive, lay the last two lines of blocks, fringing the border area and mark and cut these blocks using a suitable template the width of two blocks plus a 15mm gap (engineered flooring).

Cut blocks and then finally the border blocks are stuck down.

Advice given is for general guidance only. It is the responsibility of the floor layer to ensure that site conditions are suitable for hardwood flooring. If specific advice is required, please contact Atkinson & Kirby.

Hardwood block flooring is a very accurately machined product, allowing a floor to be laid interlocked with tongues and grooves in a range of timbers. The finished floor provides a natural resilient, hardwearing and easily renovated floor under almost all traffic conditions, including industrial wheel traffic.

The plan of the finished floor is decided, and then the blocks are built into the design pattern, e.g. herringbone, brick or basket.

Blocks of different colours can be mixed to give a more decorative floor.

We recommend the use of Bostik Wood Bond Adhesive (L19) adhesive for bonding the blocks to a suitably prepared sub floor. Do not apply more adhesive than can be worked in 10 minutes.

POST INSTALLATION

Heating systems may have to be utilised throughout the year to maintain the correct humidity level. The installation of a humidifier or an air exchange system can prove indispensable in controlling humidity.

Above all don't forget that wood is a natural, living material and that we must look after it for life. A proper maintenance program should always be carried out. Barrier matting should be placed at all exterior doorways. Remember that pet claws, stiletto heels and dirt/grit left on the floor can scratch wood; regular maintenance should be carried out to prevent this.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

As with all hardwood floors, maintenance is the key to lifelong service and beauty. By following these simple maintenance guidelines you will maintain the natural beauty of the floor and it will remain attractive and give many years of use. You should always remember, wood is a natural product; its looks will improve as the floor matures.

Important Do's and Don'ts

Do	Don't
Clean the floor regularly	Allow liquid to stand on the floor, this can cause the wood to expand
Wipe up any spilled liquids immediately (wood will absorb liquids and expand)	Use a wet mop to clean the floor. Always use a damp mop
Use protective pads under all furniture legs	Use abrasive cleaners, these will damage the seal
Use barrier mats at all external doors	Allow sharp or abrasive objects to come into contact with the floor
Protect your floor from grit	
Keep the ambient temperature to 18-20°C	

Routine Maintenance

Dirt and grit can cause damage to all wooden floors. Make sure that a sturdy doormat is in place both inside and outside all exterior access doorways. Always protect the floor by using felt pads on furniture legs. Sharp objects such as pet claws and stiletto heels can cause damage to your floor.

A RANGE OF ACCESSORIES AND MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ATKINSON & KIRBY

For the latest fitting instructions please refer to our website

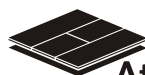
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Contact Supplier for DoP



Atkinson & Kirby