

### General instructions for laying parquet

1. Read carefully the manufacturer's laying instructions delivered with the parquet.
2. Timber is a living material. Due to its hygroscopic properties, it either absorbs or releases moisture.

For that reason, a minimum gap of 10 mm must be left between the boards and the walls of a room and also around fixtures like pipes. This allows the floor to shrink and expand.

For floors that are longer or wider than 6 m, this tolerance gap should be increased by 1.5 mm per extra metre.

For floors that are longer or wider than 12 m, a movement joint should be constructed under the threshold. Alternatively a masking profile such as a fillet can be installed on top of the wood flooring.

3. Packages must be stored in a dry place and opened only as needed to prevent possible short-term humidity changes from affecting the boards.
4. A concrete subfloor can be levelled with self-levelling compound or screed. A wooden subfloor can be levelled using a sander.

If the subfloor is an existing wood floor, ensure prior to laying that it has adequate support and, if necessary, use chipboards with tongue and groove joints to provide extra rigidity between the parquet and the wooden subfloor.

5. The monitoring of humidity in newly constructed premises is vital. To avoid damage and to achieve the best possible end result, the relative humidity of the ambient air must be 40 - 60 % and the temperature 18 - 24 ° C, both during installation and thereafter.

Measuring the relative humidity of the subfloor prior to laying the boards is of great importance. When the floor is laid in newly constructed premises and the subfloor is recently cast concrete, it is essential to use a moisture barrier (e.g. 0.2 mm thick plastic membrane with joints overlapping 200 mm or with joints taped).

When laying Karelia wood flooring, the maximum allowable relative humidity for the subfloor is 80 % or 3.0 weight-%. Where Karelia is installed by glueing to the subfloor, the maximum allowable relative humidity for the subfloor is 60 % or 1.5 weight-%.

The relative humidity of a subfloor made of construction boards, e.g. chipboard, must be  $8 \pm 1$  %.

If accurate equipment for measuring the humidity content of concrete subfloor is not available, the humidity can be checked by taping a 1 m<sup>2</sup> piece of plastic membrane on top of the concrete for 4-5 days. If during this time condensed water appears underneath the membrane or the colour of the concrete turns darker, the humidity of the concrete subfloor is too high for laying the parquet.

Where Karelia is laid on an existing old wood floor, avoid using a moisture barrier between the structures if the wood floor is already protected from underneath with a moisture barrier. Instead use a porous and breathing underlay, such as corrugated cardboard or fibreboard.

6. If Karelia is to be permanently glued to the subfloor, use a professional installer.
7. Where there is underfloor heating, only 14 mm thick Karelia wood flooring can be used.
8. A sound insulation layer can be laid under the parquet. Acceptable materials are bituminous paper with cork granules, felt manufactured from recyclable fibres or foamed 2.0 mm thick plastic membrane. All these materials have to be laid with butt joints.
9. It is advisable to measure the width of the room prior to starting the installation in order to identify the width of the last row to be installed. If the last row seems too narrow, adjust by making the first row narrower, to achieve a professional-looking finish.
10. When removing parquet boards from packing, the boards must not be bent or the varnish may crack. Take especial care.

# Karelia®

## Wood Flooring

11. Glue has to be spread evenly on the top edge, not on the bottom, of the female groove. See installation instructions.
12. End joints of adjoining rows have to be at least 500 mm apart.
13. When tapping parquet boards together, a piece of parquet must never be used as a tapping block because this may damage the edge of the top layer lamina.
14. Glue squeezed out from the joints when tapping the boards together must be wiped away immediately with a damp cloth.
15. If thresholds are installed by screwing them directly through the parquet boards, a gap of 10 mm has to be allowed between the screws and board edges (see installation instructions).
16. Skirting boards installed after laying the wood flooring have to be nailed onto the wall only, not onto the installed parquet.
17. Laying wood flooring should be the final phase in any premises where several jobs are being carried out. However if after laying the parquet other work remains to be done, carefully protect the installed parquet with porous material such as fibreboard or corrugated cardboard.