

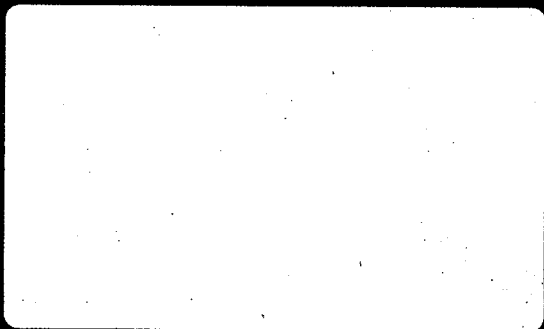
**PLEASE
STUDY
THIS**

FLOOR FITTING

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR
SOLID WOOD FLOORING

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR
FLOATING FLOORS

For further information
please contact your distributor.



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLID WOOD FLOORING

Congratulations with your new Solid Wood Flooring. Before starting with the installation, we advise you to read the following instructions carefully.

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 most important he works from several boxes at the same time. (four-five boxes 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.

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.

BEFORE INSTALLING

Your Solid Wood Flooring is a 100% natural product. This means that despite our very modern processing of wood and critical selections and controls, the intrinsic characteristics of each plank remain. By following a few basic instructions, while installing your flooring we guarantee you a beautiful result. Our fitting instructions are based on our own experience and cannot replace the official rules and prescriptions.

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-temperature 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 :

1. all the painting and wallpapering is done
2. all the plaster is dry
3. floor and wall tiles have been installed for 3 weeks
4. windows are in place
5. make sure radiators have been bled
6. 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 the change in colours. Each floor, even each board is a piece of nature, which is guaranteed to make your home a place of beauty.

■ The sub-floor

In most modern homes, we have a concrete floor. In older homes we find a structure of battens on which the flooring can be nailed, with renovation we may have a wooden floor. It is important for each base floor that it is 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 cement and only 0.5% for concrete 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. The battens distance between centres is maximum 40cm to allow perfect support.

■ Wooden floor

These sub-floors are mostly softwood in 22mm, 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 nailheads and uneven boards are sanded or smoothed. Old paint or lacquer has to be removed to allow good adhesion of the glue.

■ Underfloor Heating

When laying a floor where underfloor heating has been installed it is important to follow these guidelines:

1. The heating has been started up at least 3 weeks before laying the floor, make sure that there is no water leaking and the concrete is dry. This means not more than 3% moisture full depth of screed.
2. The concrete has to meet all the requirements for underfloor heating.
3. The surface temperature of the ground can not exceed +27°C.
4. The heating has to be turned off 48 hours before laying the floor.
5. 8 days after laying the floor, the heating should be turned on gradually (increasing 2-3°C every 24 hours).

INSTALLATION

There are 3 methods to install your Solid Wood Flooring:

■ Gluing (on concrete floor)

You must use a waterfree, alcohol-glue, specially for wood, and follow the instructions of the manufacturer. With this method, you don't need a sub-floor and 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 (not for flooring less than 18mm thick)

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). For extra security, nail the boards to each batten with a pair of nails. For some extremely hard wood

species, it may be necessary to predrill nail holes. Don't forget expansion gap (15mm) everywhere.

■ Floating Solid Flooring

It is entirely possible to float most solid flooring. However:

1. Correct in house conditions must exist.
2. Expert installation personal must be employed.
3. If this is the fitting method desired.

The Instructions Titled:

"FLOATING FLOORS"

"EVERY STEP OF THE WAY"

must be studied carefully. (please see overleaf)

WOODCARE GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

■ Lacquered flooring

If you have chosen a lacquered floor, it has to remain beautiful for a long time. For ongoing maintenance, make sure you use the appropriate products as advised by your retailer.

We advise the following:

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

NEVER USE AGGRESSIVE DETERGENTS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING AMMONIA OR SILICONES.

■ Pre-oiled Solid Wood Flooring

If you have chosen a pre-oiled floor, you have made an environmental choice. Nowadays it is friendly to treat wooden floors with vegetable oil. In Scandinavia it is a long used and very successful method of finishing. Oiled floors have an extremely natural appearance. There are two types of oil-natural and white. The natural oil enhances the natural structure of the wood and the white oil gives a transparent and limed appearance. Your pre-oiled floor has to be maintained in an appropriate way, by means of soaping.

■ Daily maintenance with TRIP TRAP soap Natural or White

Before soaping, ensure your floor is clean;

1. Dissolve soap into warm water (not hot). Solution 1/40. Wash the floor lengthways, using a damp floormop.
2. Always work with 2 buckets, 1 with soap water 1 with clean water to rinse your mop.

3. Leave the soap solution briefly on the surface of the wood in order to dissolve heavy dirt.
4. Regular washing with soap makes the floor highly resistant to dirt. When you use the white soap, make sure that it is applied equally onto your floor.

Always shake the bottle to ensure a good mix.

NEVER CLEAN YOUR OILED FLOOR WITH ONLY CLEAN WATER!

Special cleaning with TRIP TRAP Intensive Wood Cleaner

Typically once a year in private homes, you have to give your floor a special cleaning. This special cleaning removes dirt and stains very effectively.

1. Use a solution 1/20 or 1/40 depending on how dirty the floor is.
2. Apply to floor and leave for approximately 10 minutes. Scrubbing may be necessary.
3. Always work with 2 buckets as above. Afterwards rinse with clear water.
4. Let your floor dry for between 4 to 8 hours..

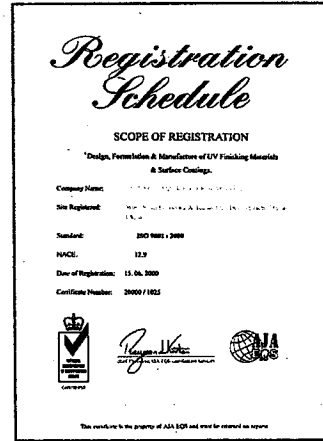
TRIP TRAP Maintenance Oil Natural or White

After cleaning with Intensive Wood Cleaner, your floor needs Maintenance Oil-this makes the floor more resistant and easier to clean.

1. The concentrated Maintenance Oil, is applied with an acid proof rubber squeegee, scrubber pad or cotton cloth. For large areas a polishing machine can be used. Ensure the Maintenance Oil is polished well into the floor. Polishing must continue until the wood is saturated with oil and the floor appears silky mat and all excess Oil has been removed.
2. If a polishing machine has been used, the floor is ready for use immediately after application. If the oil has been applied manually, the floor should be left for at least 4 hours before use.
3. After 24 hours the Oil has cured and before this time no water must reach the floor. Please avoid if possible, walking on before this time.

WARNING

Avoid all skin contact;
 There is a risk of self-ignition;(Textiles)
 Dispose of cloths by burning or wash cloths carefully in water and air-dry.
 Afterwards you can start again with the daily or weekly maintenance with soap.



All floor products are produced under ISO Certification.

Reg. Taiwan Tech

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLOATING FLOORS

Every step of the way

Congratulations on purchasing your Engineered Flooring, before starting with the installation, we advise you take time to read the following instructions carefully.

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PREPARATION

■ Laying and storing conditions

The flooring should be left in the room where it is to be laid for 48~72 hours to allow for acclimatize. Always place a plastic sheet 1000 or 1200 gauge material direct on sub-floor, below the underlay. This is most important to avoid moisture infiltration.

Overlap at all joints by about 300mm and tape securely using moisture proof tape. Vent all edges of plastic sheet behind skirting and trim as necessary.

A floating floor requires no nailing or gluing to the sub-floor.

The relative air humidity (RH) must be between 45-60%. Temperature must be 18-25°C before, during

and after installation. To prevent any adverse effects from damp, the room should be heated and aired for at least a month before laying, in order to achieve the right climatic conditions.

For storage of wooden floors, the same climatic conditions as described above must be present. Packaging must not be removed until immediately before laying.

■ Tools

In addition to the traditional tools such as hammer, handsaw, tenon or circular saw, measuring tape, set square, pencil, drill and chisel. A fitting bar and tapping block is also recommended.

The tapping block is to be used to protect the board edges when tapping them together.

Never use a cut-off piece of board, as damage to the edges of the board will result. The fitting bar makes the laying of the final board easier.

■ Planning

If the room is square, the boards should be laid in the direction of incoming light. In rectangular rooms, it is better to lay the boards lengthways in the room, depending on the expansion of the wood.

■ Moisture Barrier

The moisture barrier should always be laid to the sub-floor, and specially when the sub-floor is concrete directly on the ground, a floor over warm floor (washrooms etc), or a floor with underfloor heating. The damp barrier must consist of a durable polythene sheet (min thickness 0.20mm), which is to be laid with overlap min 200mm. This is to be securely taped using a moisture-proof tape.

INSTALLATION

■ Expansion Gap

Wood is a living material, which therefore requires a gap (known as an expansion gap) of 12-15mm between the floor and the walls.

This also applies to door thresholds, pipes, stairs, up against fireplaces or stone floors etc.

■ Gluing

Use a good quality wood glue compliant with EN204D3-BS4071. All boards must be glued. Spot glueing is not sufficient, a full glue line must be applied inside the groove on the long side and the ends. Remove any excess glue with a damp cloth.

■ Limitations

A floating wooden floor, even despite its laminated construction, can expand and contract significantly, depending on how much the indoor

climate changes during the year. This means a floor can only go up to 10m wide without an additional expansion gap. More complicated floors, for example a corridor which is to be laid in conjunction with rooms on either side, is possible. In such cases, it is recommended that the floor is laid as several independent squares/rectangles, with expansion gaps between. If several floors are to be laid in conjunction with each other without gaps, laminated boards, panels and herringbones can be glued directly onto the sub-floor. This method minimises the movement of a wooden floor, and can also be used for pattern laying, when boards are laid in various directions, or to reduce movement in a floor due to other causes.

■ Types of sub-floor

Basement or concrete floors:

Level out any unevenness. If necessary, lay damp barrier on top of which underlay is to be fitted. The wooden floor can then be laid floating on top.

Old wooden floors:

Check that the floor is firm, level and free from rot and does not squeak. Serious unevenness should be planed/sanded or filled. Smaller unevenness can be filled with rag felt. Lay an intermediate layer of rag felt, and then the new boards should be laid at right angles to the old.

Chipboard: As above.

■ Planning

Hard or soft floor covering:

Wooden floors can be laid directly onto vinyl floors, linoleum, rag felt and carpets with a short, dense pile. Ask your supplier or flooring contractor for advice.

Cellular plastic:

Boards can be laid on cellular plastic insulation with a density of at least 30 kg/M³. The boards can be laid floating on top of a layer of rag felt. High point loading, areas of heavy wear etc., can require some reinforcement of the construction. If in doubt, consult your supplier or flooring contractor.

Underfloor heating

When laying a floor where underfloor heating has been installed it is important to follow these guidelines:

1. The heating has been started up at least 3 weeks before laying the floor, make sure that there is no water leaking and the concrete is dry. This means not more than 3% moisture, full depth of screed.

