

This guide is designed to complement the current British Standard BS8201 and should only be used in conjunction with current building regulations and official codes of practice.

Please note: Responsibility for the installation lies with the installer, who should be trained and knowledgeable in the safe and correct installation of wood flooring.

Subfloor conditions

The subfloor must be clean, sound with no friable areas and flat to a tolerance of +/- 3mm over a 2m span across all points of the subfloor.

Laitance must be mechanically removed from screeds by abrading or grinding.

The subfloor must be dry. This is tested using a hygrometer. A moisture reading of between 45-65% Relative Humidity (RH) must be achieved. For moisture content exceeding 65% and below 90% a Damp Proof Membrane (DPM) can be used. We recommend [Bona R590 Silane Based Moisture Barrier](#).

Alternatively a suitable underlay can be used as a DPM. We recommend [Timbertech Silver Plus Underlay](#). We advise these are only used over screeds with a relative humidity of 75% or below.

A DPM is also advised for use in areas below the waterline, i.e. basements. DPM's should not be used over underfloor heating systems.

DO NOT use DPM's over Calcium Sulphate (Anhydrite) screeds. These screeds must be fully cured before installing over.

Screeds typically dry at 1mm per day up to 40mm thick when exposed to an average air temperature of 20C and relative humidity of 65%. The drying time can be reduced. Please speak with our office for advise on this.

New screeds or dusty, brittle screeds should be primed first. Please speak with our office for advise on the type to use.

Timber subfloors should have a moisture content less than 14% and within +/- 2% of the moisture content of the wood floor being installed. Timber subfloors should be tested for vertical movement which should not exceed 5mm.

Acclimatising your floor

Wood flooring should only be brought on to site once all of the above subfloor conditions have been met, and all wet works are complete and dry. Room conditions must ideally be between 18c and 22c degrees with a relative humidity between 45% and 65%.

The wood flooring should be ideally stored in the area it is to be installed, out of direct sunlight, away from direct heat and on battens for a minimum of 7 days.

Installation

Installation should only begin once all of the above criteria have been met.

An allowance of 10% should be added to the required quantity of flooring to allow for wastage.

Extremes in temperature and humidity must be avoided during the lifespan of the flooring.

Use boards mixed from several packs to ensure an accurate grade representation is achieved, and check each piece for defects before installing.

Decide the direction the flooring is to be laid. This is typically determined by the shape of the room or the dominant direction of natural light fall, but is ultimately discretionary.

Calculate the size of external cuts to ensure, where possible, they are of equal width and are no smaller than 50mm. Header joints should be a minimum of 300mm apart but ideally 500mm plus.

All timber fixtures, including door linings, architraves and kitchen end panels should be removed or under cut where possible. We do not advise undercutting anything structural like newel posts or timber beams. Beading or flexible filler should be used in these areas.

For areas up to 5m wide by 10m long, a minimum expansion gap of 15mm must be employed to the perimeter of the flooring to allow for natural seasonal movement, and an additional 3mm of expansion gap should be employed for every 1m in width. Spacers and wedges should not be removed until the adhesive used has fully cured.

Lay across the direction of the flooring a compatible underlay that best suits your requirement.

As not all walls are straight or square, we recommend dry laying several rows before fixing to ensure the flooring is laid straight. Once you are happy you have the flooring square, install wedges against your start wall to prevent the flooring from moving off square.

Install your flooring row by row by applying a bead of D3 type PVA, we recommend [Bona D700](#), along the length of the tongues, and join the boards together using a knocking block if necessary. Immediately remove excessive glue from the surface with a damp cloth or suitable wipe.

Flooring clamps should be used to ensure a tight fit, and are advised for use over night where installations can not be completed within one day.

Protection

We advise that you install our wood flooring once all other building work and decorating is complete. Should this not be possible, floor protection may be required.

Our wood flooring is finished to order, and takes approximately 1 week after installation to fully cure. Any protection applied to the flooring during this period will increase this curing time.

Only breathable protection should be used. We recommend the use of a fleece protection.

Floor protection does not guarantee that the wood flooring will remain undamaged, so care must be taken when working over a newly installed floor.

UFH must remain off when protection is present.