

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 and flat to a tolerance of +/- 3mm over a 2m span across all points of the subfloor.

The subfloor must be dry to no more than 14% moisture and within +/- 2% moisture content of the wood flooring.

The subfloor must be checked for vertical movement which must not exceed 5mm.

The subfloor must be free from infestations including wood rotting fungi and wood boring insects.

We recommend over boarding floorboards and chipboard subfloors with 9mm or thicker Plywood complying with BS EN 314-1:2004 Class 3.

When installing on to chipboard the surface must be made free from wax and contaminants by sanding.

When installing on to floorboards the new flooring must be laid at 90 degrees to the floorboards.

We recommend the use of Bitumen Paper over wooden subfloors when screw fixing the wood flooring.

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.

These installation details refer to secret nailing or screw fixing. Floating floor installation can be used for installing over wooden subfloors. Please refer to our Floating Floor Installation Guide for details on this method.

Check the subfloor for the location of any pipework or cables and clearly mark their location.

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.

As not all walls are straight or square, we recommend dry laying several rows before fixing to ensure the flooring is laid straight. Once done, mark the floor with a line to work from once you are happy the floor is square.

Install your flooring row by row by secret nailing (on to plywood or floorboards only) with a portanailer or similar, or by secret screwing with flooring screws, we recommend [Tongue-Tite Floor Screws](#). This is done at 300-450mm intervals. Care must be taken to avoid pipe work.

Boards wider than 180mm may need face fixing. Speak to our office for further details.

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.

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