



ENGINEERED OAK: INSTALLATION GUIDELINES & PRODUCT GUARANTEE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE NATURE OF WOOD FLOORING

1. Hardwood engineered flooring is crafted of natural timbers, which are uniquely characterized by variations in grain and colour. These variations are not flaws, but part of the beauty of real wood floors. The grade of your wood will determine the overall look of your floor - please make sure you are aware of the grade of your chosen product and the characteristics of its grading.
2. Real wood will experience a change in colour over a period of time - the degree of change depends on the species and the amount of UV exposure. Again, this is not a flaw, but a distinctive characteristic of real wood floors.
3. During normal living conditions, if there are large glass panes where the sun shines on to the floor all day, unnatural shrinkage and fading of the floor will occur. UV window film is recommended in these areas.
4. Please note that one cannot tell the finished look of a complete floor by looking at a small sample.

ACCLIMATIZING OF YOUR FLOORING AND STORAGE

1. Leave the floorboards in their original packaging, in the room that they will be installed in, for 48 hours prior to installation, in order for the timber to acclimatise.
2. Store them horizontally and flat, and at least 50cm from the walls.
3. The timber needs to acclimatize to the relative humidity of the area where they will be fitted. Please store the floorboards in a cool and dry internal area.

BEFORE YOU INSTALL YOUR FLOOR

Installing a wooden floor is a trade, so please use a professional installer.

It is important that when installing a timber floor, you start the job knowledgeably - good preparation is half the work!

Your floor has been manufactured with the best possible care. However, we still advise that all boxes are opened prior to installation and panels are checked for any visible defects such as damage, extreme colour differences and shape or dimensional deviations. This way you can also mix and match panels to avoid noticeable colour differences. Complaints concerning visible defects will not be entertained once the timber is installed.

Please make sure all wet work is complete and the building is fully enclosed, before beginning the installation.

Please also take note of the below before starting your installation:

- **Adapt the doors:** Check that all doors will still open and close properly once the new floor is installed. Lay a loose panel in front of the door opening and check whether the door can easily open over the panel without touching it. Adhesive will add extra height to the timber panel, so please also allow for that.



- **Underfloor heating:** There are rules to be followed if you want to install a wooden floor over underfloor heating. It is important to know what type of underfloor heating is being used, and that temperature constraints are strictly adhered to. We advise that before installing your floor, you ask your supplier for advice.

Select the correct flooring adhesive according to the following parameters:

1. The nature and flatness of the substrate.
2. The properties of the timber : type of wood ; width, thickness and type of components ; the wood's sensitivity to moisture ; and the presence of a finish layer.
3. The presence of under floor heating.

The correct adhesive is essential to your installation so please contact your supplier for advice if you are unsure. Once your subfloor meets all requirements and you have applied the correct primer, you can begin to glue your new timber floor to the subfloor.

FITTING TO A SCREED OR CEMENT SUBFLOOR

To successfully install a timber floor on to this type of surface, you must pay attention to a number of elements:

1. Check for moisture in the screeds. Determine the moisture content of the screed with an electronic moisture meter (Inland areas 3% Tramex, 12% Protimeter ; Coastal areas 3.5% Tramex, 15% Protimeter). On average in ventilated areas, new slabs and screeds dry at a rate of 1% per day, i.e 100mm slab takes about 100 days and a 30mm screed about 30 days. If fans or humidifiers are used to speed up the drying process of the screeds then check the moistures at least 25mm beneath the surface, until correct levels are reached. Note that the Tramex reading will apply to a depth of 15mm, whereas the Protimeter only reads the surface unless probes are used, then readings to a depth of 100mm can be taken. Remember that moisture readings are only a guideline of moisture and will need to be checked again prior to installation. Moisture readings must be taken all along outside walls and doors and in various points across the centre of the room.
2. For a perfect installation, it is essential that the subfloor be completely stable, flat/level, smooth and dust free. It must also be free of any paint, oil, glue, grease, wax, dirt, sealants and loose or flaky screed/cement. A flat/level subfloor will have no height differences between different parts of the floor. With a straight rod of either one or two meters long, you can determine any height differences that may occur. Height differences across two meters should be no more than 2 to 3mm.
3. Ensure the breaking strength of the screed meets the requirements as per the glue manufacturer's specifications. Should the floor expand and cause the screed/ self-leveling screed and/or moisture barrier to delaminate, it is the problem of the installer. The installer needs to ensure that the pulling strengths meet the correct specifications of the adhesive manufacturer (around 1.5N/mm²). This can be tested using an adhesion-testing meter.
4. Even if screeds test as dry, moisture barriers are still mandatory. Only recognized moisture barriers manufactured specifically for use on screed under timber flooring, are acceptable.



5. When the screed has dried, a thin layer of calcium sulphite would have formed on the surface of the floor – this is detrimental to the adhesive bond and has to be sanded or buffed off. The dust released from this process will impede a good adhesive contact, so the floor must be thoroughly vacuumed afterward to remove all dust.
6. It is also recommended to use a primer suitable for screed, to further improve the adhesive bond.
7. If the surface is sufficiently dehydrated and in optimum condition as per the above, you can begin the installation of your floor.

INSTALLATION: GLUE-DOWN FLOOR

1. Focal points are vital. It is recommended to start laying a wooden floor from the focal point, moving across to the far side of the room. This then ensures full timber planks at the main focal point and the cut pieces at the edges of the room, ending under the skirting. If one starts installing at the edge of the room, moving towards the focal point, it is highly likely to end up with boards tapering from wider to narrower, causing an eyesore and the possibility of uplifting and relaying the floor at additional cost.
2. Planning and thought must go into each floor, from focal points to finishing strips, and must be discussed in detail with the installation team prior to starting the job.
3. The direction of the floor is vital : it is best to have the length of the timber plank running in the longest direction and the width of the plank running in the shortest direction - this will avoid having unsightly expansion joints in the middle of the floor.
4. It is imperative that the adhesive is applied to the screed according to the manufacturer's specification - this would normally be with a 6mm notched trowel.
5. If the fitter is using the liquid batten method, the adhesive beads must be 10 – 12mm high and the spacing centers must be 150mm – 250mm apart.
6. An expansion joint of around 15mm should be installed all around the floor. This must be maintained around any permanent fixtures such as kitchens, cupboards, pipes, etc. Door frames and similar will need to be under-cut to maintain the 15mm expansion gap. Place spacer blocks every 60cm in the gap - remove them 24 hours after the floor has been laid. Your skirting or floor profile will cover this expansion gap. Ensure not to fix the skirting or floor profile to the floor, as this restricts the movement of the floor. Movement joints should be installed if floors are more than 10m long or 6m wide.
7. Before installing the boards, calculate the number of boards that you will be installing. You will obtain the best results if the first and last board are approximately the same width. We recommend that you start in a corner of the room which is immediately visible when entering the room.
8. Put the first floorboard down with the groove against the wall - remember to have the 15mm spacers in place in order to keep the expansion seam open.
9. Lay the second floorboard in the extension of the first and push the short-sided tongue and groove together. Tap the second panel into the first, making sure the seams are completely closed. The last floorboard of the first row must be sawn to size. Complete the row with the sawn piece and then start the second row with the left over part of that board. The short pieces of two adjoining rows have to be spaced out as far as possible. In order to achieve a stable floor, the absolute minimum is 50cm.



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10. Join the lengths of the boards from row two to row one by applying glue to the tongues of row one boards and then pushing the long sided tongue and groove together. Make sure the first two rows are perpendicular and well connected. Keep a tightly strung cord above the seam to check whether the floor is straight.
11. Continue to the third row as per the above, and keep checking the straightness of the floor throughout the installation. The final row is installed by sawing the floorboards to size lengthwise. With the help of a crowbar or pulling tool, pull the last row's floorboards into place.
12. When connecting tongue and groove, a tapping block and mallet must be used. Never hit the tongue or groove directly with tools.
13. Once the installation is complete, the area where the floor has been installed is not to be closed up, ie, without ventilation, as this will create a sauna effect and can result in floor failure.
14. After completion of the installation, felt pads must be fitted to all the furniture legs to avoid scratching. Walk off mats at entrances and loose rugs in high traffic areas are recommended to get the best wear from your floor.
15. After completion of any floor that has been finished on site (whether oiled, or PU), please follow the specific curing times and any other specifications or recommendations that the manufacturer of the product specifies. If these are not followed, the finish of your floor may be affected. Please contact your supplier for advice if you are unsure.
16. Proper maintenance of any timber floor is very important. Please consult our maintenance guide to get the best life out of your floor.

PRODUCT GUARANTEE

Lime Green Sourcing Solutions offers a 5-year guarantee on all our engineered oak panels, subject to the floor being fitted to our specifications and the correct maintenance program being followed. If hidden material or manufacturing defects appear within 5 years of the date of purchase, Lime Green undertakes to replace the damaged/defective floor panels free of charge, and to pay all reasonable labour costs related to the uplifting and refitting of those panels.

Lime Green reserves the right to revoke the guarantee if there is any issue with payment. Please contact your supplier with proof of purchase for any claim.

Invalidation of Guarantee:

Lime Green cannot be held responsible for circumstances that are outside our control. Damage from improper use, water, sliding doors, falling objects, scratches, staining and abrasion from sand or grit is not covered by our guarantee. Defects clearly noticeable during installation will also not be covered by this guarantee.

Note:

If you have any doubt concerning the correct processing of the floor panels, please contact your salesperson before continuing with the installation. You may also contact SAWLFA (South African Wood Laminate Flooring Association) for advice.