



Engineered Oak Flooring Installation Guide

It is the installers/customers responsibility to carry out an inspection of the delivered flooring product prior to installation to ensure the colour, grade, pattern irregularities, structural quality, gloss and finish are acceptable. It must also be confirmed that the correct product, as per viewed samples, has been delivered to site. If the product is deemed not acceptable, do NOT install it and contact your supplier immediately. If the product is installed it will be considered, to be acceptable to the customer and the supplier will take no further responsibility.

Flooring should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions. Care should be taken to store the packs flat; packs should never be lent against a wall. Engineered flooring require to be acclimatised on site. The product should be installed from the carton. Its moisture content should be checked by the installer before installation with a moisture meter to be certain that the flooring has not dramatically changed moisture content since it has left the supplier warehouse. All flooring contractors should possess moisture meters for the timber flooring and concrete and timber sub-floors.

All planks must be carefully inspected prior to & during install to detect imperfections, do not install planks that contain defects. If certain planks are displaying slight bow or twist set aside under load to assist with site acclimatisation, these planks can be recycled into the install at a later time, slight bowing is acceptable. If assembly issues arise, please contact your point of purchase immediately. Do not install any faulty planks. This will not be covered under warranty.

Pre-installation Conditions and Getting prepared.

Subfloors are to be made flat through grinding and/or levelling to the following ATFA and Australian Standards.

Sub floor levelling Not to exceed 3mm under a 3-meter straight edge.

All subfloors must be clean, flat, dry and structurally sound. The correct preparation of the subfloor is a major part of a successful installation. Slab subfloors are to be made flat through grinding and levelling to the flatness tolerance required for the flooring system and products used.

All floor surfaces shall be smooth, permanently dry, clean and free of all foreign matter such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils and old adhesive residue. The surface must be rigid, dense and free of flaking or powdery substances. Sand all edges if joins are not flush on wood based panels. Subfloor wood-based types- Plywood, OSB, Particleboard (PB), and Masonite. They must be structurally sound and installed as per their manufacturer's recommendations. If needed add additional fixings to adequately secure an existing substrate. For new substrate material fasten and secure according to panel manufacturing guidelines or meet local building regulations.

Do not install over concrete with a history of high moisture or hydrostatic conditions. Final responsibility for determining if the concrete is dry for installation remains with the floor installer / contractor.



Concrete sub floors must be protected by moisture barrier or 200-micron black plastic. Timber subfloors must also be checked for high moisture prior to installation. High readings can be caused by poor drainage or leaks and will affect the finished flooring if not rectified.

An uneven subfloor will lead to the movement of the flooring underfoot and within the joining system. This can result in excessive noise, which often sounds like “cracking or creaking”.

When installing Engineered Timber as a floating system the span of both the width and length of the floor should not exceed 6 X 11 meters. Expansion joints should be fitted to compartmentalise a larger floor area so it can move correctly as a raft. This can be done in doorways or natural transitions from one area to another. At doorways or transitions the door jambs or frames needs to be undercut well and all material removed for the timber floor to slide under and move freely.

The installer must use reasonable selectivity and remove any faulty boards that should not be laid or dock any faults to ensure the finished floor meets industry and customer standards.

We recommend at least **12-14mm** expansion gap to be allowed around the perimeter of a floating floor. At no point should the flooring be in contact laterally with any solid structure. The flooring must be allowed to move independently, or damage will occur, such as cupping, peaking, gapping or squeaking. This expansion gap allowance can also be affected by the climatic conditions of the site. If you are unsure about the product and how it will respond to the environment, then please contact the manufacturer or ATFA for guidance.

Flooring on stairs must be directly stuck with the appropriate adhesive to the existing tread & riser, matching stair nosing to be fitted on the front edge of each step. Also please make sure that the stair nosing meets the slip test guidelines for each state in Australia.

A good quality 2 or 3mm closed cell foam underlay, fitted with a plastic moisture barrier must be installed prior to any floating floor installation. Also be aware that the moisture barrier on underlays can be ineffective against high moisture within the concrete slab, strongly advised that you first install 200um plastic moisture barrier sheet first on the concrete and then the underlay.

Overlap the plastic moisture barrier sheet by at least 150mm and tape joins fully with a moisture proof tape, also tape the joins of the underlay you choose to install before you install the timber floor.

When installing a Tongue and Groove product a good quality Cross-linked PVA Glue should be applied to the top of the tongue over the whole length and end of the board.

All trims or skirting must be fitted with a 1mm clearance gap above the flooring to allow for the correct raft movement. This gap **must not be caulked or filled with silicone in any way**.

After installation, if other trades are still to complete their work, a breathable protective covering should be installed over the flooring. Non breathable plastic should not be used as this will damage the product due to increase of moisture. The flooring must be clean and clear of any debris prior to fitting of protection. Do not use adhesive tape directly on the surface of the prefinished planks, the coating surface may get damaged when removed. External damage claims will not be covered under warranty.



Glue-down Instructions

All direct stick subfloors should be checked and logged for moisture content both timber and concrete subfloors. If installed over a concrete slab the ATFA recommend that the Relative Humidity (RH) be checked using the ASTM F 2170 test method/ AS 1884:2013. This information must be kept for later reference. In all cases on concrete slabs, it is highly recommended that an industry level moisture barrier should be installed to 200 micron thickness. Usually this requires two coats of the product. If a timber substrate is high in moisture, this suggests that there is an issue with water or moisture under the subfloor and must be addressed prior to installation.

The subfloor levelling must be within the normal 3mm over 3 meters as previously mentioned.

The subfloor should be checked for any contamination or structural damage prior to installation that might affect the adhesion or performance of the floor. If installing directly over a solid strip timber floor the Oak Flooring or Herringbone must be laid perpendicular to the direction of the current flooring. If this is impossible plywood substrate should be installed prior to laying.

The adhesive should be an industry recognised product. The product must be applied as per all the manufacturers' recommendations. We insist that at least a 5 to 6mm notched trowel be used to ensure the correct bed of adhesive under all boards.

The installer must ensure the timber is adhered to the subfloor. This might require extra weights be placed on the area in some circumstances to ensure contact with the adhesive bed.