

# Installation Guides

## Unfinished Wood Flooring

Engineered floors are very dimensionally stable allowing them to be installed over all types of sub floors. They are suitable for all areas of the house except bathrooms and wet areas. They are also suitable for use over under floor heating and conservatories. You should seek out a professional to install this floor.

### Finishing

All unfinished flooring will need to be finished on the premises after installation, otherwise it will likely stain, mark, and get easily water damaged. The floor should not be used or left for any period of time without a finish applied.

Oiled and lacquered finishes each have their own benefits. Choose whichever works better for you with the product of your choosing, provided it is suitable for finishing engineered wood flooring.

### Storage

Decorating and remodelling a home is a time-consuming process that can become even longer when problems arise. If your building project exceeds the original timeframe you may need to store some of your flooring materials like Engineered Wood flooring. Engineered Wood flooring is susceptible to environmental damage, so it must be stored properly for it to be viable for use when you need it. If you make the effort to store your flooring properly, you can avoid having to deal with damage or replacements later.

If it is required to leave Engineered Wood flooring elsewhere before bringing it into the correct room to acclimatise, it must be kept in properly enclosed surroundings that have a secure roof and weatherproof windows. Extreme temperatures and excess moisture can irreparably damage wood flooring, so it is important to select an area that will protect your flooring from exposure to the elements. A garage, for example, would be unsuitable due to the cold and potential for damp.

If Engineered Wood flooring is exposed to freezing temperatures or extreme heat, this can lead to cracking or warping. To prevent this damage, if you are not sure, speak to our personal flooring experts about what temperature and humidity is ideal for storing your particular type of flooring, and do what you can to control the temperature and humidity in your temporary storage area. Engineered Wood flooring needs to be kept clean and dry, so air circulation is also a concern. Clean air should be allowed to circulate among the stacks of flooring; you may need to install fans if your building has poor air flow.

The flooring should be laid down horizontally onto a flat surface, and never propped up against a wall, for example, as this is likely to cause the flooring to warp and bow.

As a general guide, look at Temperatures in the region of 18-24°C and a Relative Humidity of between 45-60% (please refer to the manufacturer's guides upon delivery).

### Acclimatisation

Due to their stability, they can be fitted in a minimum of 48-hours after correctly being acclimatised. To correctly acclimatise your engineered floor, it should be left in the room it is going to be fitted in

still sealed in its packs, and at a suitable temperature and relative humidity (RH). Please refer to the manufacturer's guides contained within the packaging for accurate advice of your chosen product.

### **Installation - Click & 5G Engineered Wood**

Engineered flooring with a click installation system can be installed as floating floor, which is the most common and DIY friendly installation method because it is the easiest and the fastest to install. They can be installed over any type of subfloor and do not require any special skills or prior experience in installing floors as the floors just click together with no need for any glue.

Additionally, some of our floors feature a 5G/5GS/5GC click system, these boards feature the latest technology for an even faster and easier fitting. As well as a locking profile on the long edge, the 5G range uses a plastic widget on the short edge to provide a robust joint on all sides that can be simply pushed down into place with ease.

All floating flooring installations must use the correct underlay. Over a concrete subfloor you will need to use a superior underlay which has a built-in damp proof membrane (DPM) such as Cushion Ultra Silver Wood Underlay. Over a wooden subfloor you can use the Essential Cushion White Underlay or Essential Plus Cushion White Underlay with its vapour barrier that allow the flooring and subfloor to breath. For installations over under floor heating we recommend using Cushion Ultra Silver Wood Underlay. Also, for improved noise reduction we recommend the Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay, bringing peace and quiet to the room, by reducing "Drum Sound".

Using the correct underlay can give better support to your new flooring, which in turn prolongs the life and aids installation by removing some minor imperfections from the sub-floor. Each board is designed with a click profile on all four sides to join the boards together. Simply insert the long side tongue into the groove at around a 30° angle and then push them down. The shorter end, known as the "Header Joint", will vary dependent on product chosen. You will need to refer to the manufacturer's guides for further product specific instructions.

You will need to leave a minimum 15mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. To maintain this gap during installation spacers are provided in our installation kit (purchased separately). After you have installed the floor, you can cover this expansion gap with scotia beading or replace your old skirting boards. An expansion gap also needs to be left in doorways, whether the floor follows through from one room to another or not, to be filled with a door profile. We have a full range of door profiles available to match your floor.

### **Installation - Tongue & Groove Engineered Wood**

All floating flooring installations must use the correct underlay. Over a concrete subfloor you will need to use a superior underlay which has a built-in damp proof membrane (DPM) such as Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay. Over a wooden subfloor you can use the Essential Plus Cushion White Underlay or Cushion Ultra Silver Wood Underlay. Alternatively, Essential Cushion White Underlay, dependent on subfloor construction.

Also, for improved noise reduction we recommend the Cushion Acoustic Gold Wood Flooring Underlay, bringing peace and quiet to the room, by reducing impact sound. Using the correct underlay can give better support to your new flooring, which in turn prolongs the life and aids installation by removing some minor imperfections from the subfloor.

Each board has a tongue and groove machined profile on all four sides, to join the boards together simply insert the tongue into the groove on a flat surface after running a bead of glue along the top

inside of the groove on the board you are next fixing. You will need to leave a minimum 15mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. To maintain this gap during installation, spacers are provided in our installation kit (purchased separately).

After you have installed the floor you can cover this expansion gap with scotia beading or replace your old skirting boards with new ones, this gives a much more professional finish. An expansion gap also needs to be left in doorways where the floor follows through from one room to another. We have a full range of door profiles available to match your floor.

Engineered Tongue and Grooved flooring can also be fully glued down, secret nail/screwed down or glued down with liquid battens.

This is a brief guideline on the installation of our engineered flooring; always refer to the manufacturer's installation guidelines contained within packs of the flooring or visit our Flooring Manufacturer Installation Guides.

**[www.ukflooringdirect.co.uk](http://www.ukflooringdirect.co.uk) If you require any further advice on installation then please call our technical department on 02476 012 840, e-mail us on [technical@ukflooringdirect.co.uk](mailto:technical@ukflooringdirect.co.uk) or click the Live Help Button at the bottom of the page.**