**Winkleigh Timber Ltd & Winkleigh Pine Furniture**

**Since 1983**

**Wood Floor Installation Guide**

Important Notes –

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline the basic principles of laying a wooden floor. We would always recommend you employ the services of an experienced and competent wooden floor fitter.

It is the responsibility of the owner/installer, whether professional or not, to determine that all internal site conditions are stable and suitable for the installation of the agreed flooring. The wood flooring must also be thoroughly checked prior to installation. No complaints regarding the appearance of the product will be accepted by the company once the wood has been installed

Disclaimer –

The specifications and technical information given in this guide are intended for guidance only and although they are to the best of our knowledge correct, they are given without warranty. We cannot accept any responsibility for reliance placed upon the advice contained herein since practical expertise and site conditions are outside of our control. Neither do we accept liability for the performance of the product arising from such use. This does not affect your statutory rights.

When to use Wood -

Your new wooden floor is suitable for most rooms in the house however, we do not recommend using a wooden floor in any area likely to be wet i.e bathrooms or wet rooms etc. If you are considering a wooden floor for a conservatory, then the Engineered range would be more suitable than a solid wooden floor. Temperatures within a conservatory can be quite high and would most certainly cause the wood to shrink. If you have any queries regarding this, please do speak to our experienced team.

Taking Delivery, Storing and Handling-

When you take delivery of your flooring boards, they must be stored in the house – preferably in the room where they are to be laid. The room should be average temperature (min15® -max 25®) and a relative humidity of 45-65%. The boards should never be stored in a garage or out building or in a damp room. The boards must be unpacked and stacked on bearers preferably to allow the air to circulate. Solid wooden boards need to acclimatise in the room for at least 14 days before use (Engineered boards minimum of 48 hours). Do not place any boards near a direct heat source i.e radiators or wood burners.

Floor Type –

Solid Wood Flooring – This is a classic Floor highly durable and with great longevity. The boards are cut from a single piece of timber and have structural soundness. This type of floor is extremely hard wearing but not suitable for use with under floor heating.

Engineered Flooring – This is a modern flooring idea where the boards are constructed from several different layers so that the floor cannot expand or contract. The board is finished with a top layer of oak veneer (ours is 6mm). This type of flooring is suitable with under floor heating.

Wastage Factor - We always recommend you allow a wastage factor – 10% is a general rule of thumb.

Natural features of wood – All our wood floors are carefully selected to offer a range of the naturally occurring characteristics of the tree. This will include knots and shakes.

Considerations prior to Installation –

We strongly recommend that all decorative work is carried out and finished prior to your new floor installation. The room should be totally empty and clear of any debris. It is the responsibility of the owner/installer to ensure that the room conditions are suitable for installation.

General rule of thumb is the floor boards are laid towards the source of natural light, running the length of the room. We recommend that the owner and installer both agree on the starting point of the floor as this is what sets the line for the whole floor area.

As with any natural product there is always variance whether it be colour, length or natural features therefore, we recommend careful selection of the boards and even a dry fit prior to installation to ensure an even distribution.

Skirting Boards/ Allowing for Expansion –

We recommend leaving an expansion gap of 15mm around the entire perimeter of the room including any doorways. This will allow for natural movement of the wood. It is always ideal to fit skirting boards after the floor is laid to conceal the gap however, if this is not possible you could run lengths of beads along the base of the skirting to conceal the gap.

Site Preparation / How to avoid future problems –

The environment of the room is critical prior to installation of your new wood floor. As we previously mentioned, all wet works (subfloor, cement works, plastering, decorating) must be complete and be fully dried before the floor installation can even be considered. Conventional Heating systems must have be run for a minimum of two weeks and under floor heating must be run for a minimum of 3 weeks prior to laying. Wood flooring is highly sensitive to humidity. Too much moisture in the air will cause the wood to expand and swell whereas too much heat will cause the wood to shrink. Natural shrinkage between the boards is natural and the expansion gap will allow for some movement however excessive heat or dampness will undoubtably cause the boards to distort or even to lift. Do not use an existing floor as a guide for laying a new floor. We recommend you use a humidity test kit to determine the properties of the room. We cannot emphasise enough on making the critical checks prior to selecting and laying a wooden floor. By investing some time into this will certainly avoid problems in the future.

Subfloor preparation -

All construction dampness must be completely dry and the house should be at the temperature and humidity expected during occupation. The condition of the subfloor is integral to the stability and performance of the finished floor. All substrates should be structurally sound, flat, free of any debris, old adhesives, clean and dry. The normal tolerances are +/- 3mm over a 2.0 metre straight edge. Uneven floors should be levelled first or battens and packers can be used depending on the intended fixing system.

Sand and Cement/Concrete/Anhydrite screed –

Prior to installing the wood floor check and record the relative humidity level of the substrate. If above 85% wood floors must not be fitted and specialist advice is recommended. Concrete subfloors at ground/basement levels must contain a damp proof membrane (DPM). If one does not exist or has been damaged then a new DPM must be fitted prior to installing the wood floor.

Installing onto Sand and Cement/Concrete/anhydrite screed –

Solid Boards and Parquet can be fully bonded onto suitably prepared screeds with Granwax Total 2kPU Floor Glue. Please follow the manufacturer’s installation guidelines (www.granwax.com/products/adhesives/). Engineered boards can be installed using the floating system. We would recommend the pre-laying of a suitable underlay to provide a cushion between the floor and the subfloor. Float the floor on top of the underlay gluing the tongue and grooves.

Existing timber floors: E.g. Joists, tongue and groove floorboards, plywood/chipboard and floating floors –

 A final moisture check should be carried out and recorded immediately prior to installation. The wood to be installed should be within +/- 2% moisture of the surface onto which it is to be fitted. Only Solid boards can be fixed over sound and secure joists. When laying solid boards directly onto existing joists the gap between joists should not exceed 450mm. All wood flooring can be fitted onto floating floors, which must be sound, flat, firm and free of any deflection. If under floor heating is present only engineered boards can be installed. Existing wood floors must be dry, level and firmly fixed. Loose boards not secured may cause the new floor to squeak. Take care if using nails and screws not to damage pipes or electrical cables beneath. If the floor is on or below ground level the installer should ensure there is no moisture build up beneath the boards, there is adequate ventilation beneath and between the joists, and air bricks are present and not blocked. Suspended ground floors must have sufficient cross ventilation to prevent condensation occurring on the underside of the flooring. It is advisable to lay a suitable membrane over the joists to help protect the undersides of the new boards from moisture.

 Installing onto Existing Timber Floor -

A new wood floor should be laid at a 90 degree angle to the existing boards. If the new boards are to be laid in the same direction as the old, flooring grade plywood sheets, min 6mm should be nailed or screwed down to cover the existing floor. Solid Boards and Parquet can be either fully bonded onto suitably prepared timber base with Granwax Total 2PKU Floor Glue, nailed down or secret nailed. Please follow the manufacturer’s installation guidelines. Engineered boards can be installed using the floating system. We would recommend the pre-laying of a suitable underlay to provide a cushion between the floor and the subfloor. Float the floor on top of the underlay gluing the tongue and grooves.

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Sealing and Maintenance – Please refer to our ‘Wooden Floor Care & Maintenance Guide’

Should you have any questions, we will do our best to help whenever possible.

Useful Contacts:

[www.granwax.com](http://www.granwax.com)

www.fiddes.co.uk