

## SOLID HARD WOOD FLOORING

### General Wood Floor Information

- Ideal temperature 22C (72F)
- Relative humidity level should be between 35% - 50% (Ideally 45%)
- Cement floor should left to dry between 45 to 90 days
- Moisture content of cement should not exceed 3 lbs per 1000 square feet in 24 hours (concrete moisture meter can not exceed 12% for engineered flooring and 3% for solid hardwood flooring)
- Recommended Glue: Bostik EFA (guaranteed by Bostik)
- Recommended membrane, Dura 3.5mm, 5mm, Felt, and Cork
- Cement level should not exceed 5mm on 10 feet.
- It is recommended to let your flooring adjust to the climate in your home 48 hours prior to installation

**General Wood Floor Care** – Following installation of your floor, caring for your new wood floor is easier than ever. Just follow these recommendations and guidelines and consult a flooring professional for their advice.

- At least once a week depending on foot traffic, sweep or vacuum the floor to remove loose dirt before it can scratch or be ground into the surface.
- In high traffic areas, rugs should be used to keep wear to a minimum. Make sure to rotate rugs occasionally as they block sunlight and tend to discolour under the rug. Make sure the backing is not made of rubber or foam and is approved for hardwood floors by a reputable manufacturer. Drapes or blinds should block excessive sunlight.
- Wipe up any spills with a dry cloth, excessive water can dull the finish and permanently damage the hardwood floor.
- To clean your floor use a floor cleaner recommended by a flooring professional and never use the product directly on the surface. Do not use oils, soaps, or wax products to clean your floor.
- The warranty from the finished wood floor manufacturer is invalid if oil cleaners are used.
- Certain types of furniture may damage wood flooring. The use of felt or vinyl pads or rollers is recommended on the furniture legs. High heel shoes or heels in poor repair, small stones and un-manicured pet nails may scratch and cause damage to floors.
- Due to the nature of wood, never shut off your heating or air conditioning system for long periods of time. Wood stoves and electric heat cause very dry conditions and a humidifier is strongly recommended to prevent shrinkage of wood floors.

**IMPORTANT:** The amount of water you use when cleaning your floor should be kept to a minimum. Always use a well wrung out cloth or mop and remove any puddles of water on the surface immediately.

Although your hardwood floor offers high durability and easy maintenance, it is not indestructible. The following are tips, which will help to preserve the beauty of your floor.

### **Things to Avoid :**

Never pour any cleaner directly onto the floor.

Do not allow any liquid to remain on the floor.

Do not use any oil-based or wax cleaners/polishes on your floor. These products will make the surface greasy, slippery and difficult to clean.

Some manufacturers recommend cleaning hardwood floors using a mop rinsed in water and vinegar.

This is acceptable provided the mop is well wrung out before it is used on the floor.

**Stain Removal :** The following tips are provided to help you treat common stains, which could affect your timber floor. As with other surfaces, the quicker you tackle a stain on your floor, the easier it is to remove. After removing the stain, wipe the floor using clean water and a damp cloth.

STAIN	REMOVAL
Fruit juice, milk, cream, tea, lemonade, coffee, beer, wine	Soap based cleaner (neutral soap)
Chocolate, grease, oil, shoe polish, tar. Scuff marks	White spirits
Printing and other ink, lipstick	Alcohol
Blood	Cold Water

**Fitting Guide Solid Flooring in** – Timber is a living substance that reacts to changes in relative humidity. Wood gains and loses moisture before and after installation, as surrounding conditions fluctuate. Indeed, wood expands in the summer when the humidity level is much lower. To minimize the expansion or contractions of your hardwood floor, it is recommended that the building should be well ventilated and the relative humidity level maintained to at least 40 to 45% all year long.

## **Testing the sub floor for Excess Moisture:**

**If sub floor is concrete:** The level of moisture in the concrete sub floor must be tested by using a professional concrete moisture meter\*. The moisture content reading should be no higher than 3% for solid hardwood flooring and 12% for engineered flooring. **If a higher percentage reading is measured, the fitting of the timber floor should NOT go ahead.** The concrete should be left to dry by installing a dehumidifier and turning on radiators until the correct moisture level has been achieved.

\*PLEASE ENSURE YOUR MOISTURE METER IS CALIBRATED TO A PERCENTAGE READING.-

**If sub floor is timber:** The level of moisture in the timber sub floor must be tested using a hygrometer. The moisture content reading must not exceed 12%. **If a higher percentage reading is measured, the fitting of the timber floor should NOT go ahead.** If the humidity level is too high, turn up the head and open the windows. Wait until the correct moisture level has been achieved before installing.

**Installation:** Before you begin, it is important to verify the working condition of the hardwood nailer to prevent damage to the planks.

## **Tools required:**

1. Hardwood floor nailer (with rubber mallet)
2. Electric drill and bits
3. Tenson-saw, circular saw or hand saw
4. Claw hammer and nail punch
5. Measuring tape
6. Chalk line

## **General Preparation:**

- Remove the skirting boards
- Using a handsaw, slit the bottom of the door frames  $\frac{3}{4}$  " (19 mm) in order to slide a hardwood plank Beneath the door

## **Preparation For Installing Solid Flooring:**

Having tested your sub floor as directed, the next step is to put down a vapour barrier. For this you must use 1000 gauge polythene. Ensure your sub floor is clean and free from grit to avoid puncturing the polythene. Unroll the polythene over the sub floor allowing an overlap at the joints of at least 100 mm.

Make sure you allow enough polythene to extend under the skirting boards and that the polythene lies flat to avoid any bunching. All joints must be sealed using waterproof tape.

If you are installing your solid floor over a concrete sub floor, you now put down your fixing base. For this you can use full sheets of 19 mm plywood or pre-treated 35 X 50 mm timber batons. Both sheets and batons must be fixed to the sub floor-using hammer in fixings. Batons should be fixed no more than 200-250 mm apart from each other.

### Step-by-Step Installation for Solid Flooring:

- Begin in the corner where the two longest straight walls come together and preferably lay your flooring in the direction of the incoming light. If you are fitting your floor over an existing timber sub floor you should lay your flooring in the opposite direction to the existing floor.
- Using the chalk line, draw a line 12 mm larger than width of the timber board out from your starting wall.
- Select your boards, using the straightest boards first. Select your boards with care, making sure to reject any flawed pieces.
- Lay the groove edge of your first board on the guideline (groove edge facing wall) and fix through the face of the sub floor. Continue in this manner until row is complete.
- Start the second row with a board that is shorter or longer than the board used in the first row to avoid aligning the joints. Set the board in place and secure with secret nails through the tongue using your hardwood floor nailer. Nail ever 8-10'' and never nail closer than 3'' towards the end of a board.
- Install the subsequent rows in the same manner, continuing to alternate with boards of different lengths to avoid aligning joints.
- Expansion Gaps: You must leave expansion gaps of 1 mm every 4-5 rows to allow for timber movement and to prevent cupping. Also, an expansion gap of 12 mm should be left around the perimeter of the floor and also around radiator pipes.
- The last three rows should be installed in the same manner as the first row. Finally slot row zero behind the first row and face nail in the same fashion.
- Nail holes can be filled using a matching wax or wood filler.
- Each board should be carefully checked prior to installation. Never install any damaged board and always work out of several bundles alternately for installation.