



INSTALLATION GUIDE:
ENGINEERED OAK
PARQUET FLOORING

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR ENGINEERED OAK PARQUET FLOORING

These guidelines are designed to complement the current South African Flooring Standards. Engineered oak parquet flooring has precise design specifications and the installer must be trained and knowledgeable with wood flooring installations. We encourage you to only use one of our registered installation partners. Please note: the final responsibility for the installation lies with the installer.

Eco Oak can be installed as floating, glue bonded or nailed down (NB Only 21mm can be nail directly onto batons with 300mm centres. 12mm & 15mm products require a full surface sub-base (ply-board) installed onto the batons.

PREPARATION

1. Wastage Allowance: Have you got enough of your chosen floor to cover the area?
2. Have you allowed extra for wastage caused by awkward edges and corners?

Standard wastage allowance is calculated between 7% & 10% depending on the layout. For areas with passages leading bedrooms always allow 10%. Big square areas allow 7%. NB! Running out of flooring because you have not allowed sufficient wastage is not professional and often the client will hold the installer responsible because they have not measured correctly.

3. Allowing wastage for staircases.

The Width and Length of the treads determines the wastage. Whether you are using a 12mm, 15mm or 21mm Real Oak board you need to calculate how many boards you will require per tread & riser. Most often you will have a high wastage percentage per step.

4. Planning the floor layout:

Decide which direction you are going to lay the floor. You can provide advice but ultimately always let the owner or architect decide on this. There are always varying opinions on this aspect and always-best left to them to make the final decision.

5. Check that the floor runs square with entrance ways and interior walls.

It is very common for walls to be out of square so one needs to look at which option is best. Make sure you exhaust all options before deciding on the best option best. Discuss these options with the owner or Architect before you install, letting them make the final decision covers you are the installer.

6. Sorting timber & Grade Rules:

6.1 Unpacking timber:

Before beginning the actual installation, spread out short and long lengths equally over the area where the floor is to be installed. Work out of several packs at a time to ensure an even colour and shade distribution over the whole floor.

6.1 Grade Rules.

Because timber is a natural product and various grade rules apply to the different Real Oak ranges make sure you are selective with installing timber if major walk through areas.

SUBFLOOR

1. Check moisture content off the Floor surface.

Sub-floor must remain dry all year-round. Moisture content of wood sub floors must not exceed 4% (Tramex), and must be level, dry and well secured. Concrete sub-floors must be fully cured and at least 50 days old. They should be level, with minimal height variance. A moisture content test is imperative using a pin/probe moisture meter. We do not advise installing on uneven sub-floors as it will rapidly reduce the longevity and quality of the flooring. All subfloors should be flat to within 3mm over a 3 meter length, or 2mm over a 2 meter length.

SITE CONDITIONS

Before the wooden floor is brought to the site it is very important that: All wet jobs should be completed prior to installation. This means that your wooden floor ought to be the last to be installed, followed only by skirting and other similar finishing, which should be deferred until after the floor has been laid. If any work, for some reason, is still to be carried out after installation, then a protective cover of cardboard or similar material should be placed on the wooden floor. Before the floor is taken into use, an adequate cleaning and maintenance should be carried out.

TIMBER

4.1. Acclimatisation.

Stack the timber boxes in the area to be installed and let it acclimatise until you reach the appropriate EMC (Equilibrium Moisture Content).

4.2 Colour

Wood, to a varying extent, tends to darken over time. This is a natural process and not a defect. Rugs, or carpets, should not be put down for about 4 weeks after installation. Even with this precaution a difference in colour should be expected over time, between any covered and un-covered area. Individual boards normally vary as well.

INSTALLATION

Floating wood must be installed to a solid underlay, all of the joints in the underlay must be secured or sealed with a foil or waterproof tape. It's important to keep the atmosphere constant for at least 24 hours after the installation as this will affect the glue effectively.

It's recommended that an expansion gap of 10mm be created for areas of and spans do not exceed 10metres.

For areas in excess of 10 linear meters x 8m width, of the boards will require an extra expansion between the boards and intermediate expansion in the length. These expansion gaps can be covered using a skirting board or beading / Scotia. In areas where these products can't be used, a low density foam strip can be used as an alternative.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

This wood flooring allows movement of the wood. This type of wood can be used in doorways, arches or narrow sections that lead from one room or area. Door frames and architraves can be undercut to allow for the wood to slide underneath.

T&G boards are set together with glue along all the grooves. The glue must be applied to the upper corner of the groove for full coverage around the tongue. Excess glue must be removed with a wet cloth or in accordance to manufacturer requirements. Clamps can be used across the boards to prevent the glue from separating the boards. Floating systems or self-adhesive underlay, don't require glue to be used in the joint.

All suspended wood floors must be ventilated and should be exposed to any humidity to avoid fungi and wood rot. Applying asphalt laced paper with in the solid sub-floors to prevent any residual moisture, is highly recommended.

This wood is suitable for rooms with a temperature between 18°C and 22°C and a humidity relatively between 45% - 65% for the whole life installation of the wood flooring. During the winter, the humidity levels are lower and this will produce small gaps between the joints. This is a natural occurrence is not a manufacturing or installation error.

Special care must also be given to rooms using heating, if the room is closed and not ventilate there will be a build-up of humidity and this will increase the moisture levels of the wood.

It's best to acclimatise the wood flooring in the room/area to be fitted for 72 (engineered) hours before installation. This method is used to balance the wood flooring with the location it is going to be used in. During this process, it's important to keep the wood out of direct sunlight and heaters.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

Solid and Engineered Oak Parquet Flooring may be installed by nailing or screwing onto joists or existing timber sub-floors. They can also be glued down onto a timber or solid sub-floors. Compulsory requirement is two even coats of moisture barrier on a clean surface prior to installation.

Full Bonded glue down either using the cord or trowel systems. Please ensure the full surface area is bonded to the floor area so ensure adequate adhesion to the floor surface.

Maximum suggested board width of 260mm for this recommended for this type of installation. Wider boards may require face fixing and or glue and nails.

NAIL DOWN INSTALLATION

Secret nailing to existing timber sub-floors: the sub-floor must have a minimum of 18mm thickness and a 50mm floor nail when fired at 45°. Nails should be at least 2 1/2 times the thickness of the wood flooring but care should be taken with underfloor services.

Please note: Mechanical nail guns can tighten the boards together, if you're installing areas that require intermediate expansion, ensure the boards are not tightened together.

If installing over joist we recommend installing plywood sheets over joists and then either floating or gluing down. Only 21mm engineered flooring may be installed directly onto joists at 200mm centres. The joists/battens must conform to SABS standards.

Warranty Details

- Normal and reasonable wear and tear of the flooring is not covered by our warranty
- Fading of stains and normal wearing of protective coats is not covered by our warranty
- Sub-standard installation is not covered under the warranty
- We cannot be held responsible for an inadequate sub-structure of the base upon which our product is laid.
- Water or moisture damage is not covered under the warranty and is null and void