

Installation Guidelines for Bespoke Woodflooring Engineered Oak Boards

Please find below information on fitting your floor. If you have a question that is not covered here please call 020 3697 6812 or email info@osbflooring.co.uk and we will be happy to help.

Remember to always follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting your floor.

Bespoke Woodflooring engineered boards can be installed as a floating floor, glued, or clicked together and laid over a suitable underlay. Engineered wood flooring can also be laid directly to the subfloor. The sub floor should be dry, clean, flat, and free of any cracks. An underlay with a built in Vapour Barrier (dpm) should be used when installing over concrete floors.

The flooring should be acclimatised for a minimum of 48 hours. Carefully check all boards prior to installation, never use a damaged board. Always work from several packs at the same time to ensure a balanced mix. An expansion gap of approximately 10mm - 12mm should be allowed around the perimeter of the room.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting your floor (enclosed in all packaging).

Pre-Installation

The site in which the floor is to be installed must be weather tight, heating system in operation and always ensure that all wet work, especially plaster, is complete and dry before delivery.

Do not store the wood in a damp environment, next to radiators, in any drafts or direct sunlight as this will affect acclimatisation and always leave in its original packaging until ready to lay. Do not store or stand the boards or boxes on their ends. Always keep the boards or packs flat on the ground.

The room in which the floor is to be installed must have settled to ambient conditions of temperature and humidity and the Bespoke Woodflooring cartons should be left open in the room for at least 48 hours prior to fitting to allow the product to acclimatise to the environment.

Except for the Distressed plank, Bespoke Woodflooring is recommended for use with water piped underfloor heating systems subject to the accepted compliance by the manufacturers of the heating system in its suitability for use with timber flooring. Always check this compatibility with a qualified heating installer. The Distressed plank is not suitable for use with any underfloor heating systems.

Be extremely careful when opening your boxes with any type of sharp instrument to avoid damaging the flooring inside the packaging. When pulling your boards out from the packaging make sure that you do not damage the board underneath with the board you are taking out. We recommend that you open the packaging completely and lift each board out carefully.

Wastage allowance

When ordering, allow for between 5% & 10% extra for wastage for cuts. If you have purchased a herringbone floor, please allow at least 15% for cuts and wastage. The wastage allowance will provide you with the option to select the best boards for the different areas of the floor.

Boards

Due to the nature of engineered wood flooring sometimes a pack may contain bowed boards. This is a natural phenomenon and is not a product fault. Always select boards from 5 open packs so you can choose where to place them as there will be some variation in colours and knots. Try to place larger knots where there will be furniture and avoid putting boards with larger knots in doorways.

Sub-Floor Preparation

This flooring can be laid on most types of substrate flooring which is clean, dry and level, Always take a subfloor damp test reading and a RH reading in the area where the flooring will be laid and keep the reading logged somewhere safe. We recommend keeping date stamped photos.

Concrete and Screed Sub-Floors

It is vital that the installer check the moisture content of the concrete / screed and to satisfy himself that it is dry enough for the flooring to be laid. If measured directly with an appropriate moisture meter, the moisture content should not exceed 2.5% or the relative humidity of the air over the screed and should be between 45% and 65% R.H. at a temperature of 18°C-21°C. The screed must be levelled to a tolerance of no more than a 3mm gap showing under a 3M straight edge.

If you are gluing the boards direct to the subfloor always use a recommended 2 coat paint on damp proof membrane prior to installation, such as F Ball's F76, Monosil Primer or EP21. No matter how dry your floor feels it will always contain damp, which can be drawn to the wood if not treated causing cupping, lifting and general damage to the floor.

The flooring must be entirely adhered to the sub floor using a recommended adhesive i.e. Monosil Flex which is compatible with laying over wet underfloor heating systems. Allow an expansion gap of at least 10mm around the perimeter of the room.

Timber Sub-Floors

Floorboards, O.S.B., plywood or battens are suitable for installing engineered oak flooring on top of. Make sure that the floorboards are flat and secure and there are no gaps or infestations present. If the existing floor is over joists, ensure that adequate ventilation is provided as per UK building regulations. The same level tolerance of 3mm applies.

If the existing floorboards are not flat, you may have to use plyboard to level the floor out. Screw down all loose floorboards making sure that you take out any movement as the floor could squeak, avoiding water pipes and electrical wiring. The depth of the ply will be determined by the amount of levelling required. Screw the ply down making sure there is no movement. Use a suitable tool to nail the flooring down directly or a suitable flex adhesive. Never use wire nails to fit your floor as these will come loose and the floor will move.

We recommend laying the new flooring at 90° to existing floor to stabilise any subsequent movement within either of the timbers.

Fitting on underlay

Make sure that you choose the correct underlay for your flooring. If you are laying the floor on a concrete subfloor you must still make sure that the concrete is dry, otherwise the moisture may get into

the flooring causing the wood to over expand. You must select an underlay that has a damp proof membrane attached to the underlay.

We recommend OSB gold underlay which has acoustic dampening qualities up to 23db and has good insulation properties. Always use PVA D3 to glue the tongue and groove together as normal wood adhesive is not suitable.

Installation

We recommend that a professional and competent flooring installer is contracted and that the flooring is installed by floating, nailing or stick down method with a suitable specialist wood flooring adhesive.

Laying the floor

Open 4 or 5 packs and “shuffle” the boards to ensure an even distribution of colour and character. If you discover a defective piece DO NOT LAY IT. Bespoke Woodflooring and retailers of Bespoke Woodflooring will not be responsible for costs associated with installing, finishing, and /or replacing flooring installed with obvious defects.

Ideally boards should be laid “end on” to the incoming day light. Flooring normally runs lengthways in a room, front to back, and you should consider the layout and direction of the planks before fitting.

The first board should be laid with the groove to the wall, allowing for expansion of minimum 10mm between the wall and first board. Continue all round with a minimum 10mm expansion gap, allowing for the natural expansion and shrinkage that will occur as the wood warms up and cools down. Always try and stagger the end joints for a more natural look and avoid symmetrical, and not brick patterns. The header joints should be at least 20cm away from each other.

Do not butt up against any fixed construction such as walls, door frame, pipes, partitions, fireplaces etc, and use door bars, scotia, rose covers and skirting to close any visible gaps.

Under cut the bottom of door frames, wardrobes, etc. to allow for the floorboard to fit under it. Always fit flooring around kitchen units and islands as the weight on the floor could be a potential problem when the planks expand, especially when there is underfloor heating installed.

Nail Down Installations

It is recommended to use a professional floor nail machine for this product.

Bespoke Woodflooring boards can be fixed directly onto joists or battens. The joists or battens should be sound rigid and level with moisture content no greater than 12-14% at the time of fixing the flooring. Where the engineered oak flooring is to be fixed to ground floor joists, adequate under-floor ventilation and appropriate protection against damp must be provided.

In the case of battens fixed to a concrete/screed base, the conditions described above should be met, i.e. the base must be dry. The battens should be not less than 36mm wide for a fixed floor and of sufficient depth to accommodate the length of the flooring fixings. End to end joists between battens should be staggered throughout the floor area to avoid creating a line of weakness. Battens are usually laid at 300 - 400mm centres and fixed with either nails, clips, or appropriate adhesive to the sub-floor.

Glue Down Installations

A professionally formulated specialist wood flooring adhesive that is either alcohol or polyurethane based must be used, always ensuring the manufacturers guidelines are strictly followed on application. Both trowel and glue batten systems are acceptable. If the flooring is glued directly to the concrete subfloor then a 2-coat liquid DPM system that is compatible with the adhesive will be required prior to installation.

It is not necessary to further adhere the tongue and groove system with the above options

Always keep glue off the surface area of the boards and do not let any surplus glue dry on the finished flooring as this is exceedingly difficult to remove.

Floating Installation

Bespoke Woodflooring planks must be installed over minimum 2mm foam or poly type underlay when floated. On ground floors a surface moisture barrier such as a combination underlay or 1000-micron polythene must be used with joints over lapped and taped.

A specialist wood flooring PVA adhesive (D3 rated) should be applied in the T&G system at the head of the board, then along the edge of the board in 200mm beads with 100mm intervals. Installation clamp & strap systems are recommended to hold rows in place whilst the glue sets.

Starter boards from the off cuts of the flooring should be used at the beginning of each row to ensure that a stagger is created between the header joints of a minimum 20cm. This gives valuable added strength.

Finishing Off

The last board of the first row should be fitted using a puller bar ensuring a minimum of 10mm expansion gap at the head of the board.

Tapping blocks should be used to tap boards together, direct contact of hammer or mallet on the board edge is not recommended.

All perimeter gaps should be covered with skirting or Scotia beading using profile cover strips at all thresholds between rooms.

Underfloor Heating

Engineered oak flooring is more stable than solid woods on water piped underfloor heating due to the cross-ply base. We recommend testing the system prior to laying the flooring, turning it on gradually over several days and then turning the system down gradually. Leave the flooring on battens in the room the floor will be installed in to acclimatise.

The room temperature must not exceed 18°C. It is important not to shock the floor by introducing heat too quickly. The underfloor heating should then be switched off for at least 48 hours after the flooring has been laid.

When running the system, the floor temperature should never exceed 27°C. It is important that the end user knows that the floor temperature is different to the room temperature. If the room temperature is 27°C, the floor temperature will be much higher, and this could cause a problem with your flooring. We recommend the use of a floor temperature and humidity gauge kept in a corner of the floor once installed.

Please note that the Distressed plank is not suitable for use with any underfloor heating systems.

Always seek guidance with your underfloor heating provider to make sure that the system is compatible with your floor.

Accessories

Rose Pipe Covers

For a professionally finished look to your project we recommend using solid oak radiator pipe covers to hide the unsightly cut that you will need to make in order to fit the flooring around the pipes of your radiator.

Bespoke Woodflooring manufacture exact colour matched radiator roses and recommend ordering at the same time as the flooring.

Door bars/ Transition bars

Bespoke Woodflooring manufactures a range of door bars in the exact same colour as the flooring for a professional, seamless finish. The door bars are available in 4 profiles.

- T- Bars to join two different surfaces, such as wood flooring and carpet
- End bars for edges where scotia or skirting will not suffice, such as fireplaces and patio doors
- Ramps for transitions to vinyl flooring
- Semi ramps for transitions to laminate flooring or tiled flooring.

All Bespoke Woodflooring door bars have a separate plastic rail which, once the bar slots into it, enable the bar to be adjustable within the rail.

You can use a compatible adhesive to glue the door bar down for extra stability. Firstly, the bar and rail should be cut to size and the bar placed onto the rail before fixing. Then use an adhesive such as Gripfill to make a base under the rail with the bar attached. Push the bar and rail into the layer of adhesive and adjust the angle of the bar so that it touches both surfaces. Put a weight on the bar until the adhesive is fully set.

Stair Nosing

Use oak nosing on stairs to finish the edge when installing engineered oak flooring on staircases where there is no open side. Bespoke Woodflooring manufacture exact colour match nosing's which can be made at the same time as your floor.

On most staircases there is a nosing on the original step, which requires cutting off to make the step square. This is so the nosing sits flat to stop the nosing rocking on the edge. The nosing can be cut off by

using a chisel. The grain will always run across the width of the step so it will come off easily and cleanly.

Cut the nosing to size for each step. This will then give you the exact measurement of the stair and riser cuts. Cut the step first and then the riser. Dry fit them as you are going. Once you are happy that it all fits use a compatible adhesive to fix the components to the staircase.

Post Installation

- Do not cover the floor with Corex or any other plastic material without first laying a breathable material such as dust sheets as this could cause the flooring to sweat. Always make sure that all dust and waste residue is swept prior to covering your floor as dust under a protective covering can act as sandpaper once walked on and could damage your new floor.
- Do not mop the floor for 1 week but you are able to sweep the residue fitting dust away with a soft broom or vacuum cleaner. Make sure that all dust is swept/vacuumed away prior to mopping the floor. Please refer to our cleaning and maintenance page.
- Unlike natural and hardwax oils, with our UV oiled floors, once laid, you do not have to apply any more coats of oil. Our UV oils also do not require any additional future maintenance except for a repairing maintenance oil which you can purchase from us directly.
- Correct humidity and temperature conditions must be maintained within the environment that the flooring is installed.
- Mats should be used on both sides of entrance ways to protect the floor surface.
- Always prevent water being walked or leaked onto the floor especially at entrance ways.
- Do not install this type of flooring in bathrooms, kitchens, or conservatories where leaks or excessive heat or humidity may occur. Consult your supplier who will advise.
- When cleaning use water sparingly and mop dry after cleaning removing all excess water.
- Immediately remove stains and spillages.
- Protect your floor by using good quality felt pads under all furniture.
- Always follow a professional maintenance program.

Remember to always follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting your floor.