



# Laminate Flooring Fitting Guide

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](mailto:info@osbflooring.co.uk) and we will be happy to answer any query you may have.

## **Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when fitting your floor.**

Laminate flooring can be installed as a floating floor, glued or clicked together and laid over a suitable underlay.

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.

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.

An expansion gap of approximately 10mm - 15mm should be allowed around the perimeter of the room.

## **Storage Prior to Fitting**

Acclimatisation. This is the time the flooring should spend on location prior to installation. Always ensure that all wet work, especially plaster, is complete and dry before delivery.

Always try to store the laminate in the area where the flooring will be installed as this will allow for perfect acclimatisation. Do not store in a damp environment, next to radiators, in any drafts or direct sunlight as these situations will affect acclimatisation.

The room in which the floor is to be laid must have settled to ambient conditions of temperature and humidity. Always store the packs flat and leave in their original packaging until ready to lay. Never lean against a wall.

Allow at least 48 hours for laminate floors to acclimatise.

## **Wastage Allowance**

Make an allowance of between 5% & 10% extra for wastage on planked products and 15% wastage on herringbone floors for cuts.

The wastage allowance will allow you to select the best boards for all areas of the room.



## **Subfloor Preparation**

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. You may have the need to plywood subfloors or to use self-levelling screeds to concrete floors.

## **Fitting on floorboards**

Make sure that the floorboards are flat and secure and there are no gaps present. If the 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.

## **Fitting on concrete**

Ensure that the Moisture content of the sub floor does not exceed 2.5 Select an underlay that has a built-in Damp-proof membrane. We recommend OSB gold rubber underlay. Allow an expansion gap of at least 10mm around the perimeter of the room. Always follow manufacturer's instructions when fitting your floor.

## **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.

## **Why Do I Need Damp Proofing?**

When installing a laminate floor on a concrete base the use of a damp proof membrane is always recommended. 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.

## **Underfloor Heating**

Test the system prior to laying the flooring. We recommend turning the system on gradually over several days and then turning the system down gradually and leaving the flooring on battens in the room 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 degrees Celsius. It is important that the end user knows that the floor temperature is different to the room temperature. If the room temperature is 27 degrees, the floor temperature will be much higher, and this could cause a problem with your floor. We recommend a floor temperature and humidity gauge placed and monitored and kept in a corner of the floor.

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

### **Laying Pattern**

Always try and stagger the end joints for a more natural look, avoiding symmetrical, brick patterns. The header joints should be at least 20cm away from each other.

Flooring usually runs lengthways from the front to back of the property and the layout pattern should be considered before installing the flooring.

### **Expansion Gaps**

It is particularly important to leave an expansion gap around the flooring when installing it, this allows for the natural expansion and shrinkage that will occur as the laminate gets warmer and colder.

Always allow an expansion gap of at least 10mm-12mm around the perimeter of the room and cover the gap with new skirting boards or a scotia to match your flooring.

It is extremely important to leave an expansion gap around all architraves, wall supports hearths and patio doors as these are a natural place for a floor to catch, which could cause a problem with the boards cupping.

### **Kitchen cupboards and islands**

You should always fit your 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.

### **Fire hearths, patio doors, landing balustrades, matwells and front doors**

Always leave an expansion gap around these areas as the flooring will want to move and you do not want the floor to expand and catch. You can leave an expansion by using an end profile bar. This is the neatest way to finish the flooring around these areas.



## Stairs

Laying laminate on stairs is possible by purchasing nosing's if the stairs do not have an open side. One Step Beyond can supply you with a colour match, flush fit stair nose from our range of laminate stair nosings.

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 that we can supply and glue the components to the staircase.

## Post Installation

Do not cover the floor with Corex or any other plastic material as this could cause the flooring to sweat without first laying a breathable material such as dust sheets.

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.

We recommend the use of Easy Shine laminate floor cleaner.

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