



FINfloor™
total floor solution

ENGINEERED WOOD GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Engineered wood flooring glue down installation Instructions, including expansion gap, coverage requirements and limitations.

Installation Instructions

Read completely before starting installation

All installed boards will be considered as accepted by the installer and/or homeowner. Any defects should be reported to the retailer immediately for inspection and/or replacement. We cannot accept responsibility for flooring installed with visible defects.

IMPORTANT!

THE USE OF STEAM CLEANERS/WET MOPS IS NOT RECOMMENDED WITH THIS PRODUCT. Acclimatise the FINOak packs for a minimum of 48 hours by lying them flat in the centre of the room approximately 16mm off the concrete screed in which they are to be installed and open the boxes (break the plastic seal), but do not remove the planks until you are ready to install. Prior to fitting, inspect material carefully. Any material installed with obvious defects will not be warranted. Due to inherent shade differences in all hardwood flooring, Installer must work out of a minimum of 5 boxes.

Screed requirements for glue down applications.

The screed must adhere to a maximum tolerance of 3mm over 1,80lm. The screed MPA Strength must be a minimum of 25mpa and must be consistent strength without any sandy or soft spots. (Mixing screed by hand on site does not deliver a constant mix strength)
Reason: The kinetic forces through expansion and contraction of the timber adhered to the screed will pull a weak screed loose thus resulting in loose planks.

It is highly recommended that a paintable vapour barrier is applied to all stick down floors for ground floor installations. This will ensure a good bond of your adhesive and protect your solid wood floor from rising damp or water table.

Please ensure that the screed is clean and free of all foreign substances, before applying any vapour/bonding/adhesive layer. If this is left the adhesion strength will be compromised and in turn so will your installation.

Good practice for sub-floor preparation for stick down timber:

During the finishing process when screed is installed the floating process leaves a laitance on the surface of the screed. It is not advisable to apply the glue down system directly onto this laitance. Thus, before proceeding with the glue system, it is important to mechanically grind off this laitance. Then follow with testing the screed strength by doing a pull off test. A round metal disc is epoxied onto the prepared screed and a pull bar is then used to test the pull-off strength. The test must exceed 1 bar pull off strength.

Some installers cut costs by using a cheap non elastic adhesive (Typically a 2 part polyurethane) this adhesive does not allow the natural expansion and contraction of the timber flooring and installation failure is therefore imminent.

3 Ply Engineered Oak flooring is designed to stabilize the North/South and especially the East/West expansion and contraction of the planks. This is achieved by cross grain method the Oak top grain lies North/South and the core timber grain is turned 90 degrees to the top finish with a last/bottom timber again 90 degrees to the core timber. It is therefore 2 x laminations only.

The locking system allows for easy replacement of possible damaged planks by simply removing the skirting and un-locking the planks until the damaged plank and replacing the floor in the same method

HOW TO GLUE DOWN ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING

What is a glue-down installation?

Glue-down involves gluing your engineered wood flooring direct to your sub-floor. You will need to add an even layer of glue/bonding agent across the surface of the sub-floor as well as gluing in-between each of the planks tongue and grooves, if desired but not necessary, before slotting them into place.

Important: For concrete sub-floors a DPM (Damp Proof Membrane) is required. You must let this fully dry prior to fitting. If you are going to glue your floor down to a wooden subfloor, make sure you use a wood-to-wood adhesive. You do not use underlay with a glue-down installation. This will improve the acoustics, provided a full bond method is used.

Fitting Engineered Wood Flooring with a Glue-down Fixing Method

Prepare your sub-floor - Your sub-floor preparation can affect the overall performance of your flooring so it's important to get it right. You must check the moisture levels are acceptable (average of 3 to 4% on a Tramix or 12% on a Prontimeter), ensure the sub-floor is level and clear any dirt or debris. When installing over wooden floorboards it is advised to create a 6 mm ply-wood stud floor to be screwed or stapled to the boards. This will ensure the surface remains flat and smooth.

Before you start – Don't forget to acclimatise your wood for at least 48 to 72 hours before installing. It is also important to leave a 7-10 mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. Use wedges or spaces to make sure the gap stays consistent. Remember to allow for the natural expansion of solid timber, i.e. 2mm per Lin.m in the width and less than 1mm per lin.m in the length. Hence that stability of Engineered wooden Flooring, with its opposing forces.

Starting point – Choose the longest, straightest wall to use as a guide and lay the boards in the direction you want the floor to run. Make sure the tongue is facing the wall, so that the groove is ready to accept the tongue of the next row of boards.

1. Glue your Engineered Wood Flooring in Manageable Sections

Using string chalk lines, create a glue zone to work within. This usually spans across the length of the room by around 2-3 planks wide. Creating this manageable section enables enough time to apply an even layer of glue and allow to cure without setting. Refer to adhesive guidelines to ensure you do not exceed the cure time. You will repeat this process once you have filled the zone with boards. There are 2 methods of gluing, Full bond and Batton bond.

Full bond - use 6 mm notched trowel and make sure you have full coverage of glue onto the screed, not onto the back of the floor panels, lay your panels on top of this with light pressure to get a good pull down and glue transfer.

Liquid Batton – Beads must be no more than 100 to 150 mm apart and at least 10 to 12mm high and must be applied to the screed, not onto the backs of your floor panels. Place your panels on top of these beads with light pressure to get a good pull down.

2. Fitting your Engineered Boards

Lay your starter plank down in the corner of the glue zone, leaving a 7-10 mm expansion gap around the wall perimeters (Use your spacers to maintain this gap during installation). Make sure the tongue is back to back with the wall so that the groove is facing towards yourself, i.e. into the room. Continue for the rest of the row, applying glue to the end groove (optional) before laying the wood down at a 30° angle. Ensure that the planks are secure by exerting pressure in the direction of the tongue whilst pressing the plank down to lock the edge joints and secure the adhesive on the sub-floor. If there is a gap along these joints, use a tapping block and a plastic mallet to secure. The last plank on this row may have to be cut to size.

Tip: Any glue that comes in contact with the face of the board should be removed immediately (glue spots can cause damage to the appearance of wood floors especially when dried) using adhesive remover formulated for the glue being used. Follow the adhesive manufacturer's instruction on adhesive removal. Use clean towels, changing frequently to prevent haze and adhesive residue. If the spot removal damages the appearance of the boards, replace the board.

3. Create the Look

For a more natural looking finish, it is advised to stagger your boards in a random manner, using your off cut from the 1st row to be at least ¼ of the length of a panel, as opposed to a uniform application. To do this, when installing the second row, make sure your first plank is shorter than your starter plank by at least 15cm. You may have an off-cut you could use, if not you can simply cut the plank to size using a regular handsaw.

To install the second row, apply glue to the planks side and end grooves. Holding the plank at a 30° angle, affix it to the tongue of the previous row. This should then slot down into place. Again, ensure the planks are secure by exerting pressure toward the tongue and pressing down to secure joints and sub-floor. Use the tapping block and a mallet to fix any gaps in the joints.

Tip: Keep checking to see if the glue on the joints and sub-floor has set. If it has it will not transfer to the back of the plank so scrape off the adhesive and apply a fresh layer.

4. Repeat the Process

Repeat stage 3 for the remainder of your flooring, creating additional glue zones as you go. Make sure you maintain the expansion gap, continue the random staggering of the planks and ensure there is 100% contact between the flooring and the adhesive on the sub-floor.

For the last row of boards it is likely that you will need to cut them to fit the gap. To do this, measure the distance between the floor face edge (exclude the tongue) to the wall. Subtract your 7-10 mm expansion gap. Draw a line on the wood plank. Cut through the line. Discard the excess piece and proceed with installation.

Important: The last row of boards need to be at least 50 mm wide. Any smaller than this you would struggle to fit and may look a little strange. To avoid any gaps between the joints on your last row use a pull bar to draw the last row to fit tightly to the previous row.

5. Finishing Touches to Complete your Engineered Wood Flooring Install

Cover the expansion gaps with either your skirting or beading and you're finished!

Cleaning & Care

FinOak Hardwood Flooring is very hygienic and easy to clean. Simply clean with a soft broom or vacuum cleaner. Footprints and dirt can be removed by wiping the panels lengthwise with a well-wrung, barely moist cloth or Micro fibre mop. Should the floor be very dirty a hardwood floor cleaner can be used. Refer to manufacturer's instructions for cleaning if using an oil stain finish. Residual moisture should be immediately wiped up. Do not use household cleaners with oil, fat or wax.

In particular dirty areas, such as entrances and hallways, dirt trapping mats should be placed on the floor. Use felt pads on the bottom of furniture and smooth soft-wheeled chair castors made of rubber for the feet of furniture. The wellbeing of the occupants and the preservation of the hardwood floor require the maintenance of a healthy climate in the room. The ideal climate is room temperature of 18-24°C and humidity of 35-60%.

Warranty

25 year Manufacturers limited domestic warranty

5 year Manufacturers limited general commercial use

This warranty becomes valid from the date of purchase from your local supplier. Finfloor shall not be liable to any other party other than the original purchaser and not liable to any other party for any damage of any nature arising.