



## ENGINEERED WOOD FLOOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Engineered floor installation Instructions, including expansion gap and 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 any 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.

#### **ALL FLOORS REACT TO HUMIDITY AND MOISTURE.**

It is the responsibility of the installer and the owner, to install an effective moisture barrier and to maintain correct moisture and humidity percentages.

- The humidity of a room varies due to many factors – the change of seasons, geographical area for example. The floor must be able to expand and contract, unimpeded, in all directions.
- This flooring is of natural origin and may have slight variations in shade and grain. It is recommended to be installed from five to several cartons at the same time to ensure good colour and shade mixture.
- When possible, pre-select and set aside boards that blend best with all floor beadings, skirting boards or mounted mouldings used to assure a uniform final appearance. Install these boards adjoining the mouldings.
- Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards in adjacent rows. They should be staggered at no less than a ¼ of the length of the panel header to header. E.g., 1200 long panel, header no less than 300mm.
- Any installation requiring the flooring to exceed the recommended range limitations, will require an expansion or T-moulding. All doorways and adjoining rooms should have expansion joints. Door frames should be cut to allow for floor movement, do not use filler in the expansion gap.
- Always allow a minimum of 15mm expansion around all vertical obstructions. This is dependent on the geographical area where the flooring is to be installed.

## Under floor heating

Under floor heating is not necessary. However, if wanted, please obtain exact/detailed specifications from your approved flooring dealer.

## TOOLS/ACCESSORIES

You will need the following tools and accessories to install FinOak Hardwood Flooring correctly: tape measure, metal hammer and tapping block, fine-toothed saw (For ease use an electric jigsaw or circular saw), spirit level, ruler or straight edge, lever or pulling iron, pencil, spacers; a polythene membrane as a moisture barrier; waterproof tape and finally a sound reducing underlay such as Finlay Underlay (A separate polythene membrane is not required if the underlay has a built in moisture barrier). Always install the vapour barrier to face up/to the top, as this will both protect the vapour barrier from damage and will facilitate the float. Other accessories such as threshold profiles, beading and pipe rosettes are available from your local supplier.

## SUITABILITY

FinOak Hardwood Flooring is suitable for installation on the following subfloors : Wooden floors, Linoleum, PVC (cushioned surfaces must be fixed to the sub floor), Needle felt (must have a vapour barrier over this to assist with the floating system); Dry ceramic flooring; Cement floors (maximum residual moisture 2.0cm%), Anhydrite and anhydrite tiles (maximum residual moisture 0.3cm%), Magnesia cement (maximum residual moisture 3.0cm%)

**Attention: Without a recorded measurement of the residual moisture a claim in the case of consequential damage cannot be accepted.**

FinOak Hardwood Flooring is not suitable for installation on the following sub-floors: Carpeting (this must be removed first), Composition screeds made of wood shavings, magnesium oxides or chlorides (Residual moisture too high) and existing Parquet block wooden flooring and any "stuck down" wooden strip flooring.

Ideally the planks should be staggered by at least a ¼ of the length of the panel and placed in steps (See Fig. 1). In this way an improved connection of the entire area is obtained.

FinOak Hardwood Flooring is not recommended for wet or damp rooms (Saunas, Bathrooms etc.)

## BASIC RULES

Installation should be carried out at a minimum indoor room temperature of 13/14°C and at a relative humidity between a minimum 35% and a maximum 75%. Please do not ventilate during installation.

FinOak Hardwood Floor should be installed/laid in the direction of the main source of natural light, or if light source is equal in the longest length.

FinOak Hardwood flooring must only be installed on floors that are level, clean and firm. Unlevelled areas greater than 3mm in a metre must be first levelled.

FinOak Hardwood flooring is generally laid as a floating floor, but is also suitable for direct stick applications (Contact your supplier for further information).

As wood is a natural product, wood moves so the planks must be allowed to expand and contract in all directions. For this reason it is necessary to include an expansion gap of at least 15mm at the walls, conduits, thresholds and all vertical surfaces etc.

In rooms that measure more than 12 metres in the direction of the plank length and 8 metres in the direction of the plank width, an additional expansion profile must be inserted, or the expansion gap is can be increased to at least 18mm, this will allow you to go to 10 lin.m. in the width. This also applies to door openings, room passages and corridor corners. For larger rooms the expansion gap will need to be increased. The required gap can be calculated using the formula 2mm per running metre in the width, e.g. 9.000m = 16mm expansion gap. Maximum allowable coverage is 12 x 12lin.m.

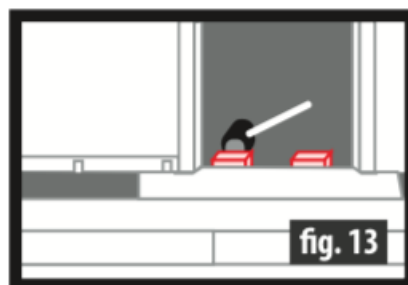
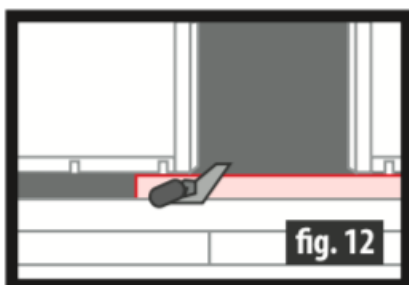
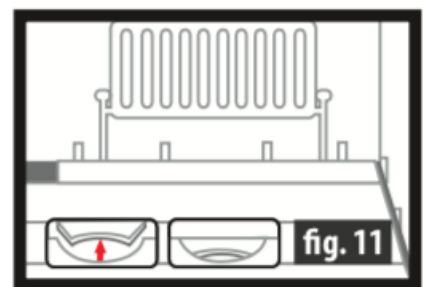
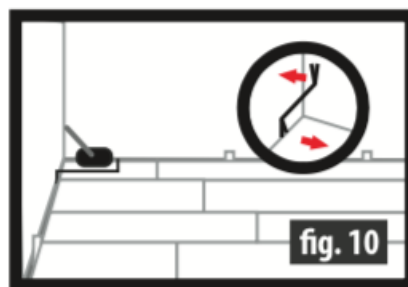
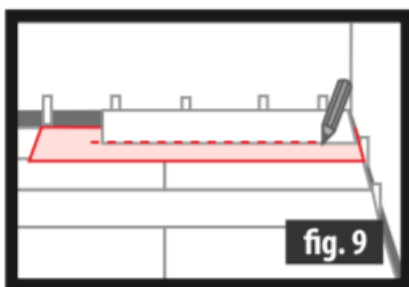
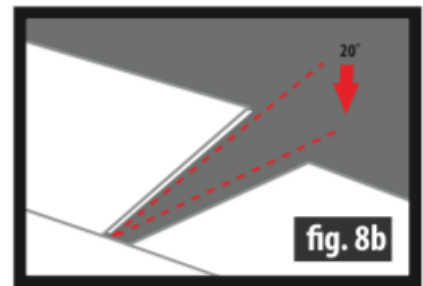
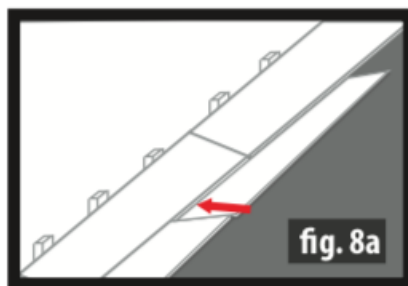
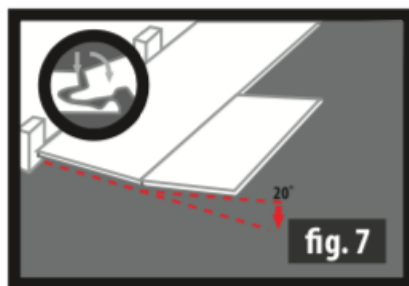
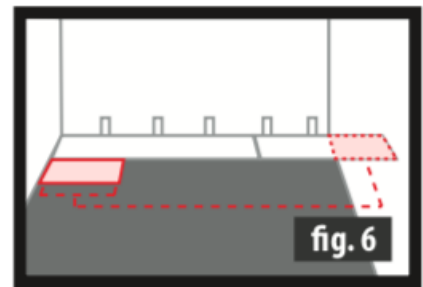
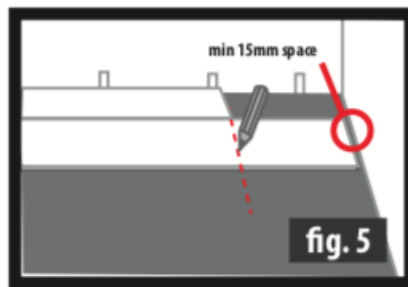
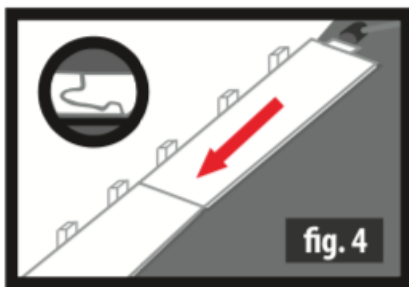
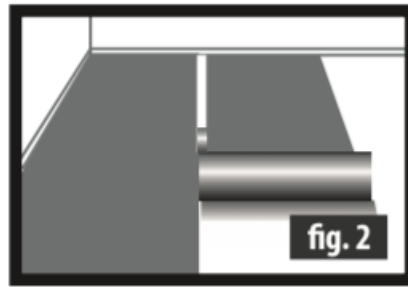
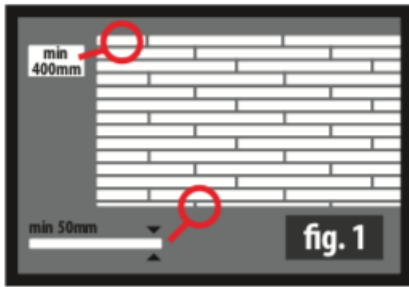
## LAYING INSTRUCTIONS

### Preparation

It is important to measure out the room. Using the plank dimension information, calculate the length and width of the planks at the ends and in the last row. The length of any plank should not be less than 400mm and the width of any plank should not be cut narrower than 50mm. It may be necessary to reduce the length of the first plank and the width of the plank to be laid in the first row (See Fig.1). Ensure you have enough spacers to create a minimum 15mm expansion gap at the walls, pipes and thresholds. For larger rooms the expansion gap may need to be increased. The required gap can be calculated using the formula 2mm of expansion per running metre of flooring in the width of the panel.

## Underlay

Lay the polythene membrane as a moisture barrier. Overlap the strips by at least 200mm and seal them down with the tape provided on the Finlay. Run the membrane up the wall and later cover with skirting or beading. For footfall, sound and thermal insulation use the premium quality Finlay Underlay (Please note a separate polythene membrane may not be required as the Finlay Underlay has a built in moisture barrier). Lay the underlay with the edged butted and seal the edges of the underlay with a waterproof tape (See Fig. 2).



## Installing the first row

There are two alternative methods for fitting the short ends: (a) Drop-down method – Lay the first plank with the tongue on the long length towards the wall. Holding the second plank with the tongue on the long length towards the wall, drop the tongue on the short length into the groove on the short side of the first plank, drop and click into place. (See Fig. 3). This system works laying your panels Right to left tongue facing the wall on the length and tongue on the left on the short side.

(b) Tap method - Lay the planks flat lying next to each other, with the tongue on the long length towards the wall. Align the short ends and locate the tongue up to the groove and using a hammer and tapping block carefully tap the planks together (See Fig. 4). Try to avoid this method as there are examples of floor panels being over hit, recommended only when the floor panels are sliding under a door frame.

Connect the third plank to the side of the preceding plank and all further planks in this row in the same way, by using the drop-down method. The planks will follow the run of the wall. If the wall is not straight, the line of the wall must be marked/scribed onto the first row and cut accordingly (Remember to leave the minimum 15mm expansion gap). This normally done after Three rows are done, this will allow you to make sure that the floor panels are running straight and not the wall should this not be straight.

To cut the plank to the correct length at the end of the row, rotate the final plank 180° and lay it next to, and partly on top of, the row that has been laid (Tongue to tongue - See Fig. 5). Mark the length with a pencil, remembering the 15mm expansion gap, and cut. Note the length of the last plank should not be less than 400 mm (See section on preparation). Using a fine-toothed saw cut the topside of the plank, decorative side up to avoid splintering the plank.

It is important to note that a straight alignment of the planks in the first row is essential if the planks in the subsequent rows are to fit exactly.

## Installing the following rows

Begin fitting the second row with a half plank or with the remains of the first row (But only if it is longer than 400mm - See Fig. 6). Position the plank, tongue facing the groove, with the long side parallel to the first row. Insert the tongue into the groove at an angle of 20°-30° and whilst applying light forward pressure, push the plank downwards until it lies flush with the floor. (See Fig. 7).

### Then depending on fitting method:

(a) Drop-down method – preferred method - With the tongue on the long length towards the wall, drop the tongue on the short length into the groove on the short side of the first plank just short of the long length groove. Drop both boards and slide the second plank down so that it is full into the groove of the long length. Then ease both planks down and click into position so they are fully flush with the floor. (See Fig. 8).

(b) Tap Method - The following plank is again inserted with the long sides first as described above. Whilst at an angle slide the plank along so that it is close, but not right up to, the adjoining plank. Ease the plank downward so the tongue and groove align and again using a hammer and tapping block carefully tap the planks together (See Fig. 8b).

Ideally the planks should be staggered by at least ¼ of the length of the panel and placed in steps (See Fig. 1). In this way an improved connection of the entire area is obtained.

## Installing the final row

First, determine the exact required width of the planks for the final row. To do this rotate each plank by 180° and place them on top of the planks, tongue to tongue, on the last but one row. Using another plank as a straight edge, place it up to the wall, remembering the minimum 15mm clearance, and mark the overlap along the length of the rotated plank (See Fig. 9). Cut the entire length along the marked line.

The short ends on the final row can be fitted using either the Angle or the Tap Method. The final piece can be angled into position down the long length, and then pulled/levered into position on the short edge by using a pulling iron/lever (See Fig. 10).

## Dismantling

If necessary the planks can be dismantled again (When moving, making repairs, changing rooms etc.) To do this, carefully remove the complete row along the long side first, and then slide the individual planks from each other. If you work carefully enough, this procedure can be repeated at least two or three times without causing damage.

## Special Areas

Wherever heating pipes or room dividers, for example rise, from the floor, cut the plank to the correct length, then lay the piece against the actual place, measure and mark the recess with a ruler. Drill out the points you have marked, remembering the 15mm expansion gap. For example, radiator pipes require a hole drilling the size of the pipe + 24 mm. Saw into the plank at an angle of 45° as far as the holes. This way the surface for the adhesive is increased. Apply adhesive to the sawn piece and join again behind the heating pipes (See Fig. 11).

If the planks are to go right up to a doorframe it is advisable to cut under the frame allowing the planks to fit under. Please note an expansion gap of 15mm is still required. To cut away the doorframe, lay one plank (with decorative side down) against the frame. Cut away at the level of the plank with a hand or undercut saw, Multimaster or similar (See Fig. 12).

The plank can then be fitted, decorative side up, by sliding it under the doorframe. The plank should then be laid flat with the tongue located next to the groove of the preceding row. Then using a hammer and tapping block, carefully tap the plank along the long length, so that the tongue goes into the groove and the desired expansion gap is left under the door frame/architrave. (See Fig. 13).

## Finishing

It is highly recommended that the unfinished surface be oiled using our Oleum oil & waxed or sealed with the suitable material & method. Leaving the surface untreated will lead to unsightly marking. FinOak Hardwood Flooring is immediately usable and furniture can be put back into the room. Remove any spacers and cover the expansion gaps. Skirting or beading should be fixed to the wall and not the floor. Door thresholds should be fixed to the sub-floor and not through the floor.

## 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 limited manufacturers domestic warranty**

**5 year limited manufacturers 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.