

KERSAINT COBB & COMPANY

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLATION OF - SOLID & MULTI-LAYER FLOORING

Before starting with the installation, we advise you to read the following instructions carefully.

The floor fitter is the most important person to the final customer. He is the person who finally decides how the finished floor will look overall. Therefore, it is most important he works from several boxes at the same time. (Four - Five boxes recommended). This enables him to decide on a correct colour and grain structure mix, and so, achieve the best looking floor possible.

Discoloured' or imperfect boards must be discarded.at the fitter's discretion. Remember; any piece of flooring, once fitted, is deemed acceptable.

A NOTE OF CAUTION

Wood is a beautiful product of nature, but due to the intrinsic volatility of most species, it is always a possibility that up to 5% of the product may not be usable for its intended purpose.

BEFORE INSTALLING

Your Wood Flooring is a 100% natural product. This means that despite our very modern processing of wood and critical selection and controls, the intrinsic characteristics of each plank remain. By following a few basic instructions, while installing your flooring we guarantee you a beautiful result. Our fitting instructions are based on our own experience but cannot replace the official rules and prescriptions.

GENERAL

Changes in moisture levels (humidity) will cause natural expansion and contraction. The result will be seen as small gaps appearing during winter (low, in house humidity levels) or boards tightening in

summer (higher humidity levels). To help maintain correct humidity levels (45 - 60%) you may consider investing in a humidifier. This machine can also have health benefits for the people who live or work in the same environment as the flooring.

PREPARATION

- Acclimatise

Your Wood Flooring has been especially kiln-dried to 8 -10% at delivery - which is the ideal Level for most European countries. Therefore, your Wood Flooring should be stocked horizontally, in the packaging, at least 72 hours before installation, in the room where your floor will be laid. Make sure that you have a room climate of about 18°C and relative humidity between 45 - 60%

In winter, especially when the temperature outside is 0°C or below, and the air is dry outside, we recommend the use of humidifier, especially when the room temperature is high.

Please remember

Wood lives and breathes; changes in humidity cause natural expansion and contraction of the flooring.

This is NOT a defect. Therefore, Before Installation; make sure that:

1. All the painting and wallpapering is done.
 2. All the plaster is dry.
 3. Floor and wall tiles have been installed for at least 3 weeks.
 4. Windows are in place.
 5. Make sure radiators have been bled.
 6. No re-humidification takes place in the room where the floor will be installed.
- Open several packs of flooring to allow you to mix the planks when laying, taking into consideration the texture of the wood and the change in colours. Each floor, even each board is a piece of nature, which is guaranteed to make your home a place of beauty.

• THE SUB-FLOOR

In most modern homes, we have a concrete floor. In older homes we find a structure of battens on which the flooring can be nailed; with renovation we may have an older wooden floor. It is important for each base floor that it is dry, clean (no glue or residue), firm and level.

CONCRETE FLOOR

Your concrete floor must be sufficiently dry, this means maximum moisture of 3 full depth of screed for concrete sub-floors with cement and only 0.5% for concrete floors with anhydrit. Your concrete floor must also be level; this means no unevenness of more than 2mm over any 1 M length. If so, you should make your concrete floor smooth with a proprietary levelling compound. Your concrete floor also has to be firm.

STRUCTURE OF BATTENS

Wooden battens are the most traditional sub-floors for the installation of your Wood Flooring. Make sure they are strongly fixed and that they are level. The battens distance between centres is maximum 40 cm to allow perfect support. The battens **MUST** have similar moisture content as the flooring to be laid.

WOODEN FLOOR

These sub-floors are mostly softwood in 22mm, with tongue and groove. The new flooring has to be laid at right angles to the existing floor. Make sure that all loose boards are nailed down with no protruding nail heads and uneven boards are sanded or smoothed. Old paint or lacquer has to be removed to allow good adhesion of the glue.

INSTALLATION

There are 3 possible methods for your Solid Wood Flooring:

Gluing (on concrete floors)

You should use a water free, alcohol-glue, especially for wood and follow the instructions of the manufacturer.

With this method, you do not need an additional sub-floor and you do not glue tongue and groove. Always be aware that wood lives, so provide an expansion gap of 15mm between the wall and flooring. This also applies to door thresholds, pipes, and stairs, up against fireplaces or stone floors. Please note, with large areas (**width in excess of 10M**) the floor must be divided with an expansion gap. On completion, this gap is covered by a profile that is not fixed to the floor.

Nailing onto battens (not for flooring less than 18mm thick)

This is the most traditional method of installing your floor. Boards to be secret nailed at an angle of **45°** through the top of the tongue. Use lost head machine nails of 50mm and a pneumatic nailing-machine (to avoid damage to the tongue). For extra security, nail the boards to each batten with a pair of nails. For some extremely hard wood species, it may be necessary to predrill nail holes. Do not forget expansion gap at least (15mm) everywhere.

• FLOATING SOLID FLOORING

It is entirely possible to float most solid flooring. However:

1. Correct in house conditions must exist.
2. Expert installation personnel must be employed.
3. If this is the fitting method desired.

The Instructions Titled:

"FLOATING FLOORS"

"STEP by STEP"

Must be studied carefully.

To the Customer & FLOOR FITTER

IMPORTANT Message

Hardwood flooring is a natural product, it is rarely perfect.

This flooring has been manufactured in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

ONSITE CONDITIONS

Before any installation can begin, the 'Job- Site' must be evaluated as to it's readiness for the fitting of 'Hardwood Flooring'.

There are many things to consider. Here we outline a few of the basics.

We strongly advise that a FULL pre- installation report be completed.

The measurement & recording of sub-floor Moisture Levels, Humidity and Temperature at various points on the floor, is a necessity and the report should be signed by the installer. Please keep this record for future reference.

If you have a concrete screed sub-floor the maximum permitted moisture level @ full depth of screed is, 3%.

The sub-floor must be LEVEL & CLEAN, free from ALL foreign substances.

Overall Humidity within the area to be floored should be between 40% - 60%.

The temperature within this area should be between 18C - 25°C.

If fitting a FLOATING floor a vapour bar MUST be used below the underlay.

Product deficiencies whether they be natural or of a manufacturing kind and not exceed 5 of the total, are permitted. ALL wood flooring is subject to movement caused by the natural variation in Humidity and Temperature.

THE FITTER assumes ALL responsibility in the final selection as to how the finished project will look with regard to Grade, Colour, Finish and Manufacture.

Please cut out or discard any piece considered suspect.

DO NOT FIT DEFECTIVE FLOORING.

REMEMBER, allow for EXPANSION - (12 . 15mm recommended).

Flooring once fitted is deemed acceptable. The manufacturer will decline responsibility for 'Product Failure' caused by or associated with, Sub-Surface, Sub-Floor environmental deficiencies.

