



# Kersaint Cobb

Wood Flooring Instructions

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

Congratulations with your new Wood 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 counties. 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.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION of -- FLOATING FLOORS STEP by STEP

Congratulations on purchasing your Engineered Flooring, before starting with the installation we advise you take time 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 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. DO NOT FIT DEFECTIVE FLOORING.**

**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.

#### 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

### • Laying and storing conditions

The flooring should be left in the room (boxes unopened) where it is to be laid for 48 - 72 hours to allow it to acclimatize. Always place a plastic sheet 1000 or 1200 gauge material direct on sub-floor, below the underlay. This is most important to avoid moisture infiltration. Overlap all joints by about 300mm and tape securely using a moisture proof tape. Vent all edges of plastic sheet behind skirting and trim as necessary.

A floating floor requires no nailing or gluing to the sub-floor. The relative air humidity (RH) must be between 45-60%. Temperature must be 18-25°C before, during and after installation. To prevent any adverse effects from dampness, the room should be heated and aired for at least a month before installation, in order to achieve the right climatic conditions. For storage of wooden floors, the same climatic conditions as described above must be present. Packaging must not be removed until immediately before laying.

## INSTALLATION

### • Expansion Gap

Wood is a living material, (it moves continually) therefore room for expansion is required (known as an expansion gap) of 12-15mm between the floor and the walls. This also applies to door thresholds, pipes, and stairs, up against fireplaces or stone floors, etc, etc.

### • Gluing

Use good quality wood glue compliant with EN204D3-BS4071. All boards must be glued. Spot gluing is not sufficient; a full glue line must be applied inside the groove on the long side and the ends. Quickly remove any excess glue with a damp cloth.

### • Limitations

A floating wooden floor, even despite its laminated construction, can expand and contract significantly, depending on how much the indoor climate changes during the year. This means a floor can only go up to 10m wide without an additional expansion gap. More complicated floors, for example a corridor that is to be laid in conjunction with rooms on either side, are possible. In such cases, it is recommended that the floor is laid as several independent squares/rectangles, with expansion gaps between. If several floors are to be laid in conjunction with each other without gaps, laminated boards, panels and herringbones can be glued directly onto the sub-floor. This method minimises the movement of a wooden floor and can also be used for pattern laying, when boards are laid in various directions, or to reduce movement in a floor due to other causes.

### • Types of sub-floors

#### Basement or concrete floors:

The moisture content of the sub-floor (screed) should not be more than 3% @ full screed depth. Local humidity must be between 45% and 60%. Level out any unevenness. Lay a damp proof barrier, eg. (1200 gauge builders Plastic Sheeting) on top of which the underlay is fitted. The wooden floor can then be laid floating on top.

#### Old wooden floors:

Check that the floor is firm, level and free from rot and does not squeak. Serious unevenness should be planed/sanded or filled. Smaller unevenness can be filled with rag felt.

#### Chipboard: Base Floor.

### Cellular plastic:

Boards can be laid on cellular plastic insulation with a density of at least 30kg/M3. The boards can be laid floating on top of a layer of rag felt. High point loading, areas of heavy wear etc., can require some reinforcement of the construction. If in doubt, consult your supplier or flooring contractor.

### Under-floor heating

When laying a floor where under floor heating has been installed it is important to follow these guidelines:

1. The heating should be started up at least 3 weeks before laying the floor, make sure that there is no water leaks and the concrete is dry. This means not more than 3% moisture, full depth of screed.
2. The concrete has to meet all the requirements for under floor heating.
3. The surface temperature of the ground cannot exceed +27° C.
4. The heating has to be turned off 48 hours before laying the floor.
5. 8 Days after laying the floor, the heating should be turned on gradually, increasing 2-3° every 24 hours.

### Maintenance

#### • In commercial areas

Wear and strain on floors in commercial areas place a high demand on surface finish, regular care and maintenance of the floor surface will give long term rewards.

#### • Protective covering

If some small work is to take place after the installation, cover the floor with some form of protective covering, which allows the wood to breath, and does not discolour the floor.

1. Lay out the first row of boards with their grooved edges against the wall, and work to your right. It is very important that the first board is laid straight.
2. Turn the last board so that the grooved end is tight up against the end wall. Using a setsquare, mark the board 12-15mm from the end of the last board (must correspond to expansion gap). Cut the board, put it in place and push in a wedge at the short end. When using a hacksaw, cut from the board's upper side. For circular or tenon saws, cut from the underside.
3. If the last board is less than 5cm or the wall is crooked, the first board should be cut. Measure up and mark the cutting position using a guide running along the wall, checking that the board is square.
4. Lay the boards up against the wall. Create the necessary expansion gap by pressing down the wedge between the board and the wall. Glue the groove of the shorter board. Press the board in against the wall and check that it is lying straight. Use the fitting bar to tap the board tight home, and secure the wedge. Tips: For long rows, it may be difficult to fit in a wedge after the first row. Wait until 4-5 rows have been laid, and then with the help of the fitting bar push away from the wall sufficient to fit in the wedge.
5. Start the next row with the leftover piece from the row before. Any adjacent end-joints should be staggered at least 50cm. All grooved ends must be glued.
6. Use the tapping block when tapping boards together. Never use a leftover piece from a board for this purpose, as this and or hitting the boards too hard can cause damaged edges.
7. When the final row is to be laid, it will rarely fit exactly. Lay the last row of boards with their tongue side against the wall over the last row already laid. Use a full-width cut off to mark the distance, and slide the cut-off together with a pencil along the wall, marking the line to be cut on the

board beneath.

8. The line will include an expansion gap corresponding to the width of the tongue (5mm). If the expansion gap required is 10mm, the cut line must be 5mm within the marked line (towards the groove). It is recommended that a new line be drawn before sawing.
9. Tap in the cut-to-measure board with the help of the fitting bar. If the last row does not leave any space, the tongue must be cut off so that the expansion gap is not lost. Position the wedges and leave them a few hours (e.g. overnight). Finish off with skirting.
10. If the short end meets a pipe: Drill a hole 25mm greater than the diameter of the pipe (provides an expansion gap). Cut the board through the hole.
11. If the long end meets a pipe: Drill a hole as above. Cut off the piece that will be behind the pipe against the wall.
12. Tap the board into place, glue the loose piece and wedge against the wall.
13. Door frames can be removed and raised, but it is easier to saw them. Use a leftover piece of a board to mark the bottom of the frame, cut with a fine-toothed saw. Slide the board in under the frame. (Do not lock the board between the sub-floor and the frame).

## WOODCARE GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

### • Lacquered flooring

If you have chosen a lacquered floor, it has to remain beautiful for a long time. For ongoing maintenance, make sure you use the appropriate products as advised by your retailer.

We advise the following:

1. Protect chair and furniture legs using felt or other suitable products.
2. Avoid the introduction of sand and dirt from outside by placing a floor mat at door.
3. Daily maintenance is done by wiping or vacuuming. Surplus water must be avoided.

4. Remove dirt and stains with a gentle detergent and damp (not wet) sponge.

### NEVER USE AGGRESSIVE DETERGENTS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING AMMONIA OR SILICONES.

#### PRE-OILED SOLID WOOD FLOORING

If you have chosen a pre-oiled floor, you have made an environmental choice. Nowadays it is friendly to treat wooden floors with vegetable oil. In Scandinavia, it is a long used and very successful method of finishing.

Oiled floors have an extremely natural appearance. There are two types of oil, natural and white. The natural oil enhances the natural structure of the wood and the white oil gives a transparent and limed appearance. Your pre-oiled floor has to be maintained in an appropriate way, by means of soaping.

#### Daily maintenance with a QUALITY BRANDED soap. Natural or White

Before soaping, ensure that your floor is clean:

1. Dissolve soap into warm water (not hot). Solution 1/40. Wash the floor lengthways, using a damp floor mop.
2. Always work with 2 buckets, 1 with soap water, and 1 with clean water to rinse your mop.
3. Leave the soap solution briefly on the surface of the wood in order to dissolve heavy dirt.
4. Regular washing with soap makes the floor highly resistant to dirt. When you use the white soap, make sure that it is applied equally onto your floor. Always shake the bottle to ensure a good mix.

#### SPECIAL CLEANING WITH INTENSIVE WOOD CLEANER

Typically once a year in private homes, you have to give your floor a special cleaning.

This special cleaning removes dirt and stains very effectively.

1. Use a solution 1/20 or 1/40 depending on how dirty the floor is.
2. Apply to floor and leave approximately 10 minutes. Scrubbing may be necessary.
3. Always work with 2 buckets as above. Afterwards rinse with clean water.
4. Let your floor dry for between 4 to 8 hours.

#### MAINTENANCE OIL, NATURAL OR WHITE.

After cleaning with Intensive Wood Cleaner, your floor needs Maintenance Oil, this makes the floor more resistant and easier to clean.

1. The concentrated Maintenance Oil is applied with an acid proof rubber squeegee pad or cotton cloth. For large areas, a polishing machine can be used. Ensure the Maintenance Oil is polished well into the floor. Polishing must continue until the wood is saturated with oil and the floor appears silky mat and all excess Oil has been removed.
2. If a polishing machine has been used, the floor is ready for use immediately after application. If the oil has been applied manually, the floor should be left for at least 4 hours before use.
3. After 24 hours, the Oil has cured and before this time, no water must reach the floor. Please avoid, if possible, walking on the floor before this time.

#### WARNING

Avoid all skin contact.

(There is a risk of self-ignition with Textiles) Dispose of cloths by burning or wash cloths carefully in water and air-dry. Afterwards you can start again with the daily or weekly maintenance with soap.

# Kersaint Cobb

## 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 its 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 18°C - 25°C.

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

Product deficiencies whether they be natural or of a manufacturing kind and do 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.

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