ROYAL PARQUET

Engineered Hardwood Flooring Installation Guidelines

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Important Information Before You Begin
It is vital that you read and understand this information completely prior to starting, improper installation can cause failure of your Royal Parquet floor and potentially void the warranty.

Installer/Owner Responsibility
Always inspect the flooring prior to installation for defects or faults, wood is a natural product that will vary in colour and grain density, it also contains natural characteristics that varies from plank to plank and this is to be expected. We cannot warrant against natural variations from plank to plank or variations from sample to plank due to the natural origin of the product. If you are not satisfied with the flooring prior to installation, contact your dealer immediately - DO NOT INSTALL the flooring, rejecting the material must be done on a full order basis, not box by box or plank by plank.

Preparation

MOISTURE IN SUBFLOORS

Moisture testing of all sub-floors is essential before installation can begin, this is true for both new and old buildings. Moisture testing must be carried out and recorded using an appropriate method and device, the subfloor may be considered dry and acceptable once the moisture levels reaches 12% or below, if readings above 12% are present then the application of a surface damp proof membrane will be required, this should be applied as per the manufacturers guidelines. If the subfloor is of new construction, alternatively it can be left to dry naturally over time, as a general rule this can mean a drying time of 1mm per day of thickness depending on site conditions.

CONDITION OF SUBFLOOR

Regardless the construction type, the subfloor must be smooth and level before installation can proceed, undulations must not exceed a tolerance of +/- 3mm over a 2m span, should the subfloor not conform then a suitable application of self-levelling compound or plywood should be applied to make the floor level. The subfloor must also be having a sound and hard surface strength with all laitance removed, a scratch test is recommended to be carried out to determine the suitability, if the subfloor fails the scratch test then appropriate remedial work must be carried out, contaminates such as oil, grease or polish must also be removed prior to installation.

CONDITION OF SITE

Royal Parquet must not be installed until all other work such as painting, wallpapering, tiling, plastering etc is completed, dust and moisture released into the atmosphere during such works can cause permanent damage to the flooring. If such works must be carried out then suitable protection must be used, this must be breathable, plastic/ PVC must never be used to protect flooring as this can cause moisture to form and subsequently damage the floor.

Royal Parquet requires a stable ambient room temperature and humidity before, during and after installation, temperatures should not be below 18 deg and not exceed 26 deg, in warmer climates air conditioning must be fully operational to control the environment. Humidity levels must not exceed 60% RH at any time to avoid damage to the floor.

Fixtures and fittings, kitchens, kitchen island units, partitions, wardrobes etc must never be fixed on top of the parquet in a floating installation. They can be fixed through the floor provided a space/expansion gap is provided to prevent the fixed object from pressing down and stopping the floor from expanding. If such fixtures and fittings or heavy items must be placed on top of the completed floor without an expansion gap then the flooring must be installed using the full glue down method rather than floating installation.

Prior to installation the flooring must be delivered to site to acclimatise to the ambient conditions as mentioned above, a minimum of 48 hours of acclimatisation is recommended to ensure the flooring is ready for installation. The flooring should be stacked in small piles no more that 6 pack high to ensure the ambient air can circulate around the flooring, ideally the flooring should be lifted at least 100mm above the subfloor during the acclimatisation process, the use of a wooded pallet that supports the full length of the boxes is best used for this purpose.

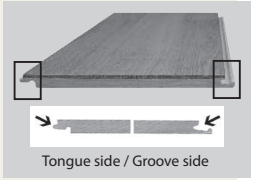
Installation Procedure for floating floor



Other than standard wood working tools, all that is needed for installation of Royal Parquet flooring is a tapping block, pull bar and expansion spacers



For sound reduction, support and to smooth out minor subfloor irregularities an appropriate rubber underlay that contains a moisture barrier must be used under the flooring. Ensure the underlay is installed directly up to all walls and terminations and that it does not overlap.



Familiarise yourself with the locking system as per the diagram, left side is the tongue and the right side has the groove.



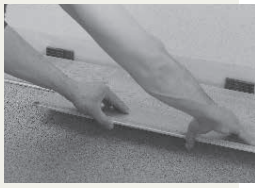
Select your plank direction and starting point, this is usually the in the corner of longest wall within the area to be installed, fix the first board into position using the expansion spacers to maintain a 10-15mm gap from the wall. (a 10 -15mm expansion gap must be maintained around 100% of the perimeter)



Continue to install the remaining boards along the first wall ensuring all of the locks are fully engaged using the tapping block.



Measure the last plank of the first row keeping in mind the 10 -15mm expansion gap, cut and fit the last piece using the pull bar to fully engage the locks. Providing the off cut from the last board is at least 300mm long this should be used to start the second row, this will ensure the joints of the short ends are kept random distances apart in adjacent rows. If the off cut is less than 300mm cut a new plank to start the second row ensuring to offset the joint in the first row by at least 300mm.



The remaining rows should now be installed board by board, the tongue of the long side of the board should be angled and engaged into the grove of the previous row, this may need a small amount of force.



Use the tapping block if necessary to ensure the plank is fully engaged and sitting perfectly flush with the previous row.



Continue to use the tapping block to ensure the short ends are fully engaged and sitting flush before installing each new plank.



Obstacles such as pipes should be measured and cut around ensuring to leave a minimum of 10mm expansion gap all around, the expansion gap can then be filled later with a matching coloured mastic or silicon to give a professional finish.



Adjoining rooms should have an expansion gap at each doorway, a suitable profile such as a T-bar should be installed to cover the expansion gap and allow the flooring to move freely. It is also recommended that the door frames are cut at the exact height of the flooring and underlay so each plank can slide underneath to maintain the expansion gap and professional finish.



The width of the last row should be measured allowing 10 -15mm for expansion, the size should be marked on the last plank and cut to the desired width. If the last piece is less than 50mm it is advised to run a small amount of PVA glue into the grove before installing to give extra support next to the wall.



Once the flooring installation is complete a matching skirting or beading should be installed around the perimeter to cover the 10-15mm expansion gap, please bear in mind that cooler temperatures can cause the flooring to contract, with this in mind ensure the skirting or beading is at least 5mm wider than the expansion gap to allow for this.