

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

14mm T&G Plank Flooring



LUXURY
OAK FLOORING

Please read the below installation instructions prior to installing this flooring.

1. Installers / Owners Responsibility
2. Acclimatising & On-Going Environment Conditions
3. Subfloor Preparation & Pre-Installation
4. Installation Methods
5. Installation Steps
6. General Maintenance
7. Warranty
8. Pre-Installation Check List Form

1. Installers / Owners Responsibility

This is a professional product and requires a high degree of technical ability to be installed correctly. Luxury Oak Flooring always recommends a qualified and experienced professional should be responsible for installing this product.

It is the installers / owners responsibility to carry out the final inspection of all flooring to ensure the colour, grade, quality, manufacture and factory finish of the product is acceptable before installation. Carefully examine the flooring for colour, finish and quality before installing it. As wood is a natural material, you can expect changes in appearance between floor boards (colour, grain, knots and other visual imperfections between each of the boards). No two floor boards will ever have the exact same characteristics.

The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause. If the product is deemed not acceptable for any reason, do not install it and contact your supplier immediately.

We recommend you add 15% more flooring to your total square meterage when calculating the quantity of flooring required. This allows 10% for cutting and 5% for visual grading. We manufacture this flooring to industry standards which outline that defective boards must not exceed 5% of the full pack.

The installer / owner must check to ensure the correct flooring product has been supplied prior to laying the floor. Once the floor has been laid, and later discovered to be incorrect, or any floor boards deemed to be defective, no financial assistance or compensation can be given nor can the product be returned. Please note that "Installation implies Acceptance", no warranty will be offered or returns accepted for flooring that has been installed.

2. Acclimatising & On-Going Environment Conditions

AS PART OF THE WARRANTY CONDITIONS OF YOUR ENGINEERED FLOOR IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ACCLIMATISE THIS FLOORING IN THE SAME ROOM / ENVIRONMENT THAT IT IS TO BE LAID IN FOR A MINIMUM OF 3 DAYS BEFORE INSTALLATION.

The aim of acclimatising wood flooring is to allow the temperature of the wood flooring to adjust to the normal day to day temperature of the room that it is to be laid in once occupied. In newly constructed buildings we recommend the heating to of been operational for at least 10 days prior to installation.

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Prior to installation, it is the installers responsibility to ensure that the internal site conditions are suitable for the installation of this flooring. The optimal room temperature for oak engineered flooring is between 18°C – 20°C and the room air humidity range is 45-65%.

Upon delivery the installer should check the wood flooring moisture content with a moisture meter to establish a baseline for required acclimatisation. If the wood flooring has a moisture content of more than 12% then action should be taken to reduce moisture / humidity readings within with the site it is to be installed in.

Flooring should never be stored outside, in a garage or in any damp conditions. When you are acclimatising your flooring we recommend storing the packs no more than 3 packs high and wide. Leave a gap between the packs to allow for increased air circulation. Do not store the flooring packs upright leaning against a wall, or next to any radiators or heaters, it is important the flooring is in equilibrium with the site it is to be installed in.

3. Subfloor Preparation & Pre-Installation

This flooring is suitable for installation on most types of subfloor (i.e. concrete/cement screeds and timber subfloors) as long as they are dry, clean, solid and level. It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure site conditions are met prior to installing this flooring.

Concrete & Screed Subfloors should not have a moisture reading of more than 65% Relative Humidity (RH) – The installer must use a surface hygrometer to measure the moisture level of the sub-floor. If the reading is above 65% RH then that indicates you have a damp floor. If this is the case a damp proof membrane (DPM) should be used. If you are in doubt about the presence of moisture in the sub-floor always use a suitable DPM.

A newly poured concrete floor requires a drying time of +/- 1.5 weeks per centimetre depth. Furthermore the subfloor needs to be level, meaning without uneven sections that exceed 2mm over a length of 2 metres (if not you will need to level the subfloor surface). Solidity also is important; this means that no screed may be dislodged from the concrete slabs when you scrape the subfloor with a trowel. Clean means all residue of paint, glue, plaster, grease, oil must be removed. Thus making the subfloor surface completely free of dust and grease.

New build homes and newly concreted floors need to be dried out before this wood flooring is installed. There is nearly always excessive moisture on newly laid floors and if the subfloor is not dry enough the wood flooring will absorb the excess moisture resulting in stress issues such as cupping, delamination, expanding and later contraction.

Timber Subfloors – Floorboards, Chipboard, Plywood and O.S.B. are all suitable timber subfloors for this flooring providing they are level, solid and secure in place and show no signs of moisture. This flooring should be laid crosswise in sections across any old floor boards. Please note this flooring is **NOT** suitable for installation directly on top of floor joists or battens. In this case use a 20mm thick structural grade subfloor (such as plywood, chipboard, OSB). This sub-floor should be laid level on top of the existing floor joists prior to the installation of this wood flooring.

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Leave 15mm Expansion Gaps - Wood flooring is a natural product that is affected by the relative moisture percentage in the air. When the moisture in the air is high, your wooden floor will expand (swell), while a moisture content that is too low will make it contract. For that reason, it is of the utmost importance that when installing this flooring you leave an expansion gap of 15mm between the floor and the walls, door frames, radiator pipes etc. This expansion gap must be in place around the full perimeter of the room. The flooring must 'NOT' run through doorways into other rooms, instead there should also be an expansion joint of 15mm in the doorway between the floors in each room. For installations in large rooms with lengths over 10m the floor should be divided so to have expansion joints on the length and width. Any expansion gaps/joints should be covered by a profile that is not fixed to either of the floors.

Installer Tool Requirements - This floor should only be installed by a qualified and experienced professional installer who should have the correct tools and equipment and understanding of how to use them safely to ensure a successful installation. Standard hand tools required would be a Tape Measure, Pencil, Chalk Marker, Hammer, Tapping Block, Hand Saw, Crowbar, Square, Folding Metre Rule, Screw Driver, Wooden Wedges. Power tools such as a Chop Saw, Jig Saw, Cordless Screwdriver may be also used to speed up the installation process.

Flooring Selection – As your floor is a natural product, structure and colours in wood will vary between boards and therefore we recommend mixing floor boards from at least four different packs when installing your floor. This will give you an even distribution of colour across your floor once the floor has been laid. We also recommend loosely laying your flooring out prior to installation to ensure the selected floor boards are of consistent colour and this will enable you to pull out any floor boards that are not visually suitable. Please allow 5% wastage for this selection process prior to installation. Boards that remain as part of the installation are considered to have been accepted by both the installer and the owner (even if the owner is not present at the time of installation).

Underfloor Heating – This flooring can only be used with water based embedded underfloor heating systems only and is NOT suitable for electric Matting floor heating systems. We recommend you consulting your underfloor heating instruction guidelines prior to installation to ensure the correct underfloor heating system is in place.

When laying this floor where underfloor heating has been installed you must ensure the floor heating has been started up at least 3 weeks before laying the floor to ensure an ambient living environment has been achieved. You must check to ensure there are no water leaks from any pipes and the concrete floor is dry. The subfloor must meet all the requirements of your underfloor heating and the floor surface temperature when laying must not be below 18°C and no more than 27°C. The underfloor heating should be turned off 48 hours before this floor is installed, then turned back on gradually after 48 hours after laying the floor increasing 1-2°C every 24 hours.

Do not turn on your underfloor heating system to the maximum after this floor has been installed as this can cause the timber to dry out quickly and cause the floor to split or crack. Note that loose carpets or rugs insulate the floor top surface by around 2°C.

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4. Installation Methods (Glue Down, Nail Down & Floating)

GLUE DOWN

For a more secure and stable floor we recommend the Glue Down installation method.

The “Glue Down” method uses a water-free, moisture-cured, flexible wood flooring adhesive that has been specially formulated for installing hardwood flooring on suitable sub-floors (concrete or wooden sub-floors).

The exact glue type will depend on the sub-floor that the floor is to be glued to. You must consult your qualified flooring installer to ensure the correct floor glue is used for your installation.

It is essential the Herringbone floor is fully glued down on the back, including the short edges for the most secure fit.

See “Glue Down” Installation Steps on the following pages.

NAIL DOWN

The nail down method can only be used on structural and self-supporting wooden sub-floors that are at least 18mm thick.

It is recommended that you use nails of approximately 50mm long with round heads, which you have to nail at an angle into the tongue on the joint with a pneumatic nail gun. To obtain the best result, it is recommended that you nail the floor boards tight together with 2 nails per board.

FLOATING

The “Floating” method involves installing the wood flooring on top of a suitable subfloor and underlay.

The floor boards should have a continual bead of PVA adhesive applied to the upper edge of the groove both on the long side and short side of the board. This will glue the floor together but not to the subfloor.

Do not use excessive amounts of PVA adhesive when joining the floor boards, only use enough for the T&G joints and be sure to wipe off any excess PVA adhesive off the face of the floor with a damp cloth.

We always recommend using a qualified flooring installer.

The Contract Flooring Association (CFA) has a directory of qualified installers across the UK.

See the CFA website to find Qualified installers near you: www.cfa.org.uk

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5. Installation Steps

Important: The below installation steps are meant to assist you as much as possible in the laying of your floor. As individual circumstances are beyond our control and will vary between different installation conditions it is the responsibility of the installer to ensure the flooring is installed correctly.

1. Place the first board with the grooved side against the wall. Provide for an expansion gap of 15 mm, with the spacers for the joint at the end and along the wall. Lay out the first row of floor boards, with the grooved side towards the wall. Make certain that all boards are tightly joined together. To this end, use a hammer and a wooden strike block to prevent damage to the edges of the boards.

2. Shorten the last section of the row. Here also, leave 15 mm space for the expansion gap. To ensure a tight fit at the end of a row, the use of a crowbar is recommended. The remainder of the shortened part at the end of the row can each time be used as the start of the next row.

3. Start the second row on the same side as the first row and ensure that the ends of the boards are staggered by a minimum of 30 to 50 cm vis-à-vis the previous row.

4. Space for heating ducts and other pipes must be accounted for in the floor sections. Cut out the sections that have been measured off. Attention: the diameter must be 10 to 15 mm larger than the diameter of the ducts.

5. Laterally saw the floor board through the centre of the cut out section at an angle of 45°. Fit both parts around the duct and adjust.

6. Door frames and other wooden elements are best sawed off at the bottom so that the floor board can be shoved through underneath them. Here also, account for the expansion gap.

7. For the positioning of the last row of floor boards, accurately measure the remaining width between the last placed row and the wall, with appropriate deduction of the expansion joint. Saw the board to the correct measurement. Carefully lay the final floor sections and fit them in place using the crowbar.

8. The spacers of the expansion joints can be removed after 24 hours. Start next with the placing of the matching skirting boards.

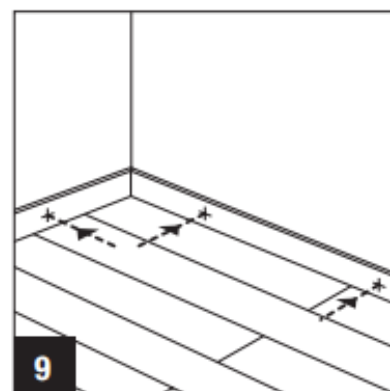
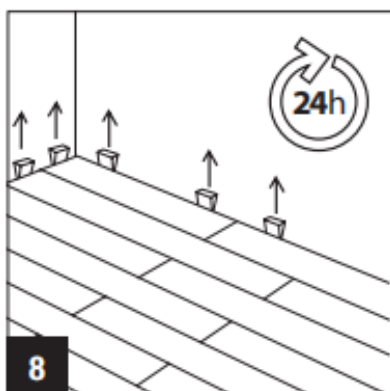
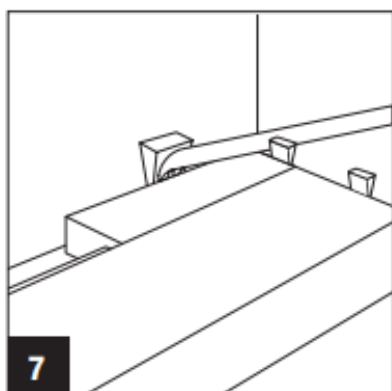
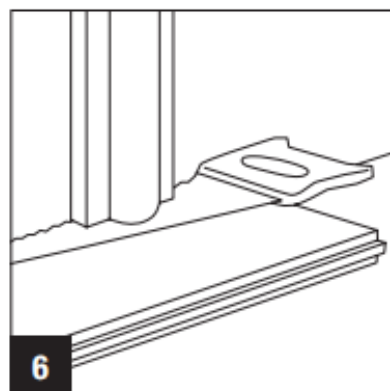
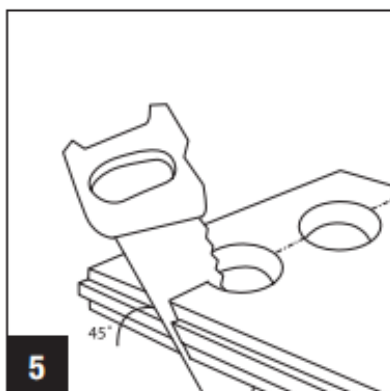
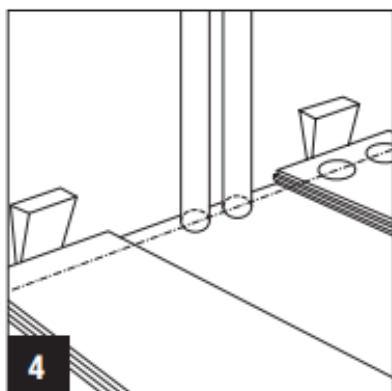
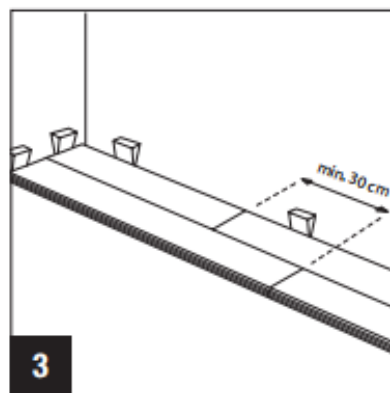
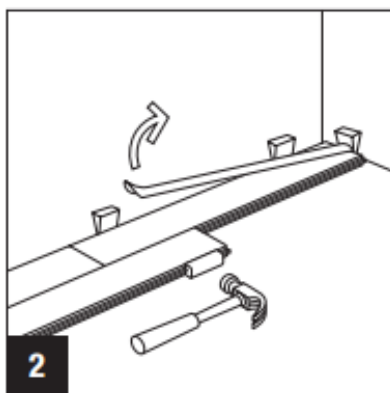
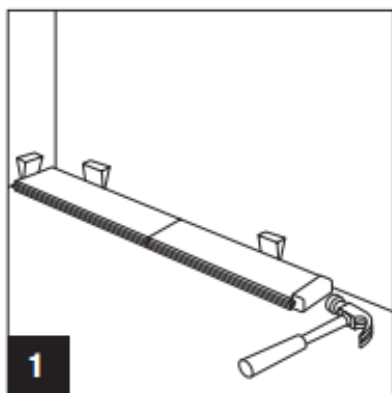
9. Skirting boards should only be attached to the walls using screws and plugs, in such a way that the natural movement of the floor not be hindered. When the skirting board is attached to the floor, this natural movement may well be obstructed, in which case damage to the floor may result.

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6. General Maintenance

A factory applied UV Lacquer / UV Oiled finish does not need any initial treatment following installation, once installation is complete simply clean any dirt and dust away using a vacuum cleaner or soft brush.

When required light cleaning can be carried out using a damp mop with floor soap. Only use floor soap that is suitable for UV Lacquered / UV Oiled floors.

As with all hardwood floors, routine maintenance should include protecting the surface finish from moisture and heavy wear which creates scratches.

It is important to note that wood floors are NOT impervious to the day to day impact of grit, food, spills and water. Sunlight can also fade and cause discolouration in your flooring and even cause warping in more severe cases. Always try to protect your flooring from excessive sunlight exposure wherever possible.

Other than regular cleaning your UV Lacquered / UV Oiled floor does not require any maintenance treatment. Should any mechanical damage occur the entire floor would need to be fully sanded down and refinished to remove the appearance of any damage / scratches. We recommend consulting a specialist floor wood repairer for advise should you need to do this.

Maintenance - Do's and Don'ts

✓ Do	X Do Not
✓ Clean your floor regularly to remove dirt / grit	X Use a Wet mop to clean floor (Damp mop only)
✓ Use a damp mop only to clean floor	X Use a Steam cleaner on the floor
✓ Use a suitable floor soap only if required	X Allow any liquid to stand on the floor
✓ Wipe dry and water / liquid spills immediately	X Slide heavy objects/furniture across floor as this can scratch the floor
✓ Keep the room temperature between 18-20°C	X Use abrasive cleaners
✓ Keep the relative room humidity at 45-60%	X Use cleaners not suitable for UV Lacquered /UV Oiled Floors
✓ Use protective mats under all furniture legs	X Wear high heel shoes as this can dent the floor
✓ Use entrance mats to reduce dirt entering room	
✓ Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight	

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7. Warranty

1. We offer a 5 year UK Warranty on this flooring providing it has been installed by a qualified flooring installer and the conditions of the sub-floor and environment are suitable as stated in these installation instructions.
2. To validate your warranty you must use a qualified installer and the pre-installation checklist form must be completed and emailed to: info@thefurnituremarket.co.uk within 3 months of your delivery date for your warranty to be validated. If this pre-installation checklist form is not completed and submitted to us within 3 months of delivery then your warranty will be null and void.
3. The warranty starts from the date of purchase and only covers domestic use and not commercial use. It does not cover use in damp/ wet spaces such as bathrooms, conservatories and kitchens where the flooring has been exposed to excess moisture and water spillages.
4. Wear to the flooring finish (i.e. Oiled, Lacquered, Stained, Brushed) is subject to normal wear and tear and is not covered by this warranty.
5. This warranty covers delamination of flooring providing it has been installed within the required site conditions as per these installation instructions. If delamination occurs a qualified repair technician will attempt to make repairs on site.
6. This warranty does not cover scratches, dents, heavy impacts, humidity related defects such as expansion, shrinkage, curling and damage caused by incorrect use or lack of maintenance.
7. This warranty does not cover defects that have arisen due to dampness or water damage or any other causes as a result of force majeure.
8. This warranty does not cover the visual faults as a result of any deformation of the boards due to changed climate conditions, any variations in colour due to sunlight and the effects of normal ageing and wear and tear of the finishing coat.
9. This warranty only applies to the wood flooring supplied and not to any associated installation costs or any other consequential loss.
10. In case of a dispute arising from the warranty, either party may call upon an independent expert to render binding advice. If the clause is applicable, the cost is to be agreed in writing with all parties involved in advance.
11. Where the warranty applies we will replace any faulty product. If the product is no longer available you will be offered an alternative product of the same quality or a credit note to the value of your original purchase amount.
12. It is the installers/owners responsibility to grade & remove any defective boards prior to installing.
13. This warranty only applies to the original owner/purchaser of the wood flooring.

Manufacturing Tolerances – This flooring is a natural product and is subject to variances in colour and appearance. When laying this flooring we recommend you always work from four packs to ensure a balanced colour mix across your floor. As such a tolerance of 5% should be allowed for the deselection of any floor boards deemed unsuitable for installation. This flooring is manufactured to a tolerance level of +/- 1.5% on the dimensions of the board and in line with specified flooring manufacturing guidelines. As such any boards that are out of the tolerance levels should be dismissed as part of the 5% manufacturing tolerance.

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8. Pre-Installation Checklist Form for Warranty Validation

This form must be completed by a qualified flooring installer to validate the warranty prior to installation and must be submitted to info@thefurnituremarket.co.uk within 3 months of your delivery date.

<p>Pre-Installation Evaluation of Job Site</p> <p>Purchase Invoice No.....</p> <p>Installation Date.....</p> <p>Installation Address.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Until the following guidelines have been met, the jobsite is not ready for wood floor installation!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">All wet trades (Tile, Paint, Plaster, ETC) have completed work on site and the room & floor is dry. YES / NOBuilding is water tight (inc doors & windows) YES / NOThe temperature and relative humidity within the building are at "NORMAL LIVING CONDITIONS" (Room Temp between 18-20°C and relative air humidity between 45 – 65%) YES / NOIs the sub-floor suitable and within specification as set out in these installation instructions? YES / NOWhat sub-floor is the floor being installed on? <p>Concrete Sub-Floor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Is the concrete sub-floor moisture reading below 65% RH? YES / NOHas a DPM been installed? YES / NOIs the sub-floor flat and to specifications?The flooring will not be installed below Ground Level. YES / NOMoisture testing of the concrete subfloor began no sooner than 30 days after the slab was poured. Test results indicate the wood floor is safe to install and all readings have been documented. YES / NO <p>Wood Sub-Floor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Is the wood sub-floor suitable and is the moisture content within guidelines? YES / NO	<p>What type of testing equipment was used?</p> <p>Make & Model.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Results / Readings:</p> <p>Subfloor RH %.....</p> <p>Subfloor Temperature.....</p> <p>Relative Humidity.....</p> <p>Floor Temperature.....</p> <p>Floor Moisture Content.....</p> <p>Installer Name.....</p> <p>Company.....</p> <p>Address.....</p> <p>Tel.....</p> <p>I verify this jobsite is suitable for this wood flooring to be installed in line with these installation instructions and guidelines.</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Date.....</p> <p>For the installers benefit it is very important these guidelines are met and followed. If not someone responsible (Builder, Owner, Installer, or all) needs to sign off that these guidelines have not been followed.</p> <p>That person is ultimately responsible for this flooring installation and failure to install this flooring within the required jobsite conditions will result in the warranty being null and void.</p>
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