



# HARMONY

## TIMBER FLOORS

### FLOORING INSTALLATION GUIDE

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES: INSTALLATION GUIDE MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

[The Australasian Timber Flooring Association | ATFA](https://www.atfa.com.au)

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#### Engineered Timber-Floating & Glue-down

##### Step 1: PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES:

Please handle, transport, and unload the flooring with care. Flooring should be stored in a dry place, with at least a 100mm air space under cartons. Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors in place, and until cement work, plastering, painting, and all other materials are thoroughly dry. **Acclimatize the flooring for at least 48 hours (preferably 3-4 days) prior to installation** In addition, the heating or cooling system should be operating and controlled at 40°–65° RH for at least 48 hours before, during and maintained after installing. Do not install in areas that are subject to extreme seasonal temperature changes where you cannot control the temperature.

##### Step 2. MOISTURE TEST:

Before installing over concrete or a wooden sub-floor, check the floor for moisture in several areas using an appropriate qualified commercial moisture meter.

The acceptable moisture level of Concrete sub floors should be no more than 3-5%, if the test is within the specified range, then you may proceed the installation. this applies to engineered floors that are manufactured using ply-wood as its structure.

**Engineered flooring is not to be confused with solid timber as engineered is more dimensionally stable.**

##### Step 3. SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION:

**ACCEPTABLE SUBFLOORS:** The sub-floors must be structurally sound.

**Note:** The sub-floor must be structurally sound and checked for moisture content. Movement and squeaks should be well fastened with ring nails or screws to the floor joists. If gluing the Floor down direct to the concrete then the sub-floor must be clean and free of paint. Wax, oil and other debris must be removed; In addition it must be flat and level within 3mm inside a 3meter radius. High spots must be sanded/ground flat and low spots must be filled with a leveling compound recommended by your dealer. On old or uneven wood floors, apply 15-20mm Plywood, glue & screw every 150mm to avoid squeaking & hollowness – gluing is essential if sub floor was uneven

##### Step 4. BEFORE INSTALLATION:

Unpack 80% of the required flooring that you will be installing for the day, sort the boards into colures/shades and sizes as most timber flooring is approximately 70% full length with the balance random sizes, lay out the flooring where it is to be installed, that is, lay the boards down roughly as they will appear after installation, taking care to mix in a color pattern pleasing to the eye, Our quality control procedures at the factory ensure that very few, if any boards are defective when delivered to the consumer, remember that all natural flooring comes in a range of colors and shades, the Installer should inspect each plank at this time for finish and quality, check for damaged or defective boards if any are found these should be removed and returned to your supplier for exchange or you may choose to fit these boards in areas out of site such as cupboards, you can also cut the damaged section out

##### INSTALLATION METHODS: FLOATING METHOD:

Use 3mm foam padding Underlay we suggest using TIMBERWALK Silent Step high density acoustic underlay; you can also install over sound deadening underlayment's with this method. Apply a 2mm bead of PVA CROSS LINKED ADHESIVE:

**NOTE: when installing by floating method, then you must use a D3-4-PVA suitable for Timber Floors:** the glue must be placed on the upper top edge of the groove, both the long and short side of the boards MUST be glued, this is done by turning the board with the face pointing down, the glue is applied in the groove then the board is turned back and is ready to install. Use a tapping block if necessary to gently tap the boards into place, a tapping block can be made with a 150mm" piece of scrap timber flooring. Remember to allow at least 10-15mm for expansion around the perimeter walls. Do not tap on the tongue or groove directly, as you will damage the floor. Be sure to remove all excess glue as quickly as possible, as once it dries it may be more difficult to remove. You can use a watered damp cloth when removing the PVA glue.

**NOTE: Failing to use sufficient glue will cause movement & squeaking.**

#### **EXPANSION:**

**NOTE :expansion is critical to installation methods, more so with the "Floating Method" when compared to "Glue-down Method.**

With Floating method it is important to leave 10mm expansion, expansion required is 10mm, this expansion is covered by the placing of skirting's or scotia's, if you have areas greater than 6 meters, you need to add an additional 1.5 mm per meter.

Example; you have an living room which is 12 meters long, you will need 10mm for the first 6 meters plus 1.5mm for every meter=  $6 \times 1.5\text{mm} = 9\text{mm} + 10\text{mm}$  total 19mm, you would need to have a skirting of more than 20mm as the floor also shrinks (contracts with climatic changes) you will need to do the following; Have an expansion joint & cover with a cover strip; if this is not suitable you can undercut the Gyprock, which will give you an extra 12mm this will m give you 10mm + 12mm total 22mm in this case you will need to use at least an 18mm skirting

**GLUE-DOWN METOD -ADHESIVE:                      SNAKING OR "S" METHOD: RECOMMENDED FOR ENGINEERED TIMBER**

Snake or Zig Zag: this method is done by applying a continues bead of glue on the back of the floorboard, the glue bead must not be more than 70mm apart. The board is glued and then put in place by firmly pushing/moving the board in position which will take up any unevenness in the sub floor, it is very important that sufficient adhesive is used at all times, if not, movement could occur resulting in drumming or squeaking. Be sure to clean up any adhesive on the surface immediately, as once it dries, it may be very difficult to remove. Always follow manufacturers' instructions using their suggested adhesive and installation instructions for their adhesive warranty to be in effect. Remember to leave at least 10-15mm "expansion gap around the perimeter. This method is suitable for ENGINEERED TIMBER The ADHESIVE is applied using a sausage gun

SUGGEST ADHESIVE: available from HARMONY TIMBER FLOORS – we recommend ADESIVE which is a flexible polyurethane glue. Water based and VOV FREE: (manufactured in Italy)

**ADHESIVE: TROWEL METHOD: RECOMMENDED FOR ENGINEERED TIMBER**

The adhesive is poured onto the sub floor/concrete in small amounts, a cup size is sufficient, then using a **3- 6mm notched trowel** the adhesive is spread evenly over the sub floor, this must be done in small areas as the adhesive has a tendency of sinking, the board is then placed in position by firmly pushing/moving the board in place. Be sure to clean up any adhesive on the surface immediately, as once it dries, it may be very difficult to remove. Always follow manufacturers' instructions using their suggested adhesive and installation instructions for their adhesive warranty to be in effect. Remember to leave at least 10-15mm "expansion gap around the perimeter. This method is suitable for ENGINEERED TIMBER

**NOTES:** Timber flooring are a natural and environmentally friendly product take care to install this flooring correctly; taking all precautions suggested in this guideline, the flooring will give you many years of satisfaction. Please note that it is always best to have your floor installed by a professional licensed floor installer even though it is possible to install yourself. This is only a guideline regarding the installation of this flooring HARMONY TIMBER FLOORS cannot be responsible for the installation under any circumstances, unless installed by an employee of HARMONY TIMBER FLOORS or by a fully licensed installer

**NOTE: FOR GLUE-DOWN METHOD IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU SEAL THE SUB FLOORS.**

**INSTALLATION TIPS: DIRECTION OF THE TIMBER:**

Usually you will want to orientate the boards with the major source of incoming light (windows) so that light is shining down the length of the boards, or install the floor with the length of the room.

**CLAMPING:**

Blue masking tape, available from most hardware shops is ideal if you need to hold the boards in position, in most cases the floors do not require clamping

**SKIRTING & SCOTIA'S:** Remove skirting if possible and undercut door jambs to insure a quality installations if the skirting's are left on then you need to finish of using a Scotia trim

**FINISHING THE JOB:** Replace original skirting, or install matching scotia's. Install matching transitions as needed or recommended by your dealer.

**INSTALLING OVER EXISTING TIMBER FLOORS:** Floating is the preferred method, installation must be in opposite direction to existing panels, the floor must be sound, level and without creaking or squeaking, if you decide to glue-down then you will have to lightly sand the floors to ensure that you get a good solid adhesion

**VINYL TILES-LINO:** Floors cannot be glued down unless suitable floor preparation has been performed; floating method can be applied on top of vinyl tiles using appropriate membrane

**Concrete:** Floating system or Glue-down method can be applied: for Glue-down seal sub floors and do a moisture test

**RECOMMENDED AREAS:** Timber flooring IS not RECOMMENDED to be installed in wet areas such as bathrooms (with tub/shower), wet rooms, outdoors, in direct sunlight, or areas that allow water to be carried in, unless you are very particular about the way you treat your floors such as rubber mats in bathroom then it is up to you, some people have been very successful with timber floors in these areas, but no manufacture will warrant these areas.

**FOR CREATING A RANDOM EFFECT:** To avoid creating a joint pattern in the floor, it is necessary to begin installation using starter boards. To create a starter board, cut the board at 2/3 the length. Start with the 2/3 length, and then install the full lengths and continue across the room. Use the 1/3 length to start the next row and continue as above keeping at least a 250mm distance between the end joints. Cuts made at the opposite wall should be used for starter boards. If necessary, use the pull straps -clamp at 1meter. Intervals to hold the planks firmly together. Be sure to allow at least a 10-15mm expansion gap around perimeter.

**RECOMMENDED ADHESIVES:** HARMONY TIMBER FLOORS recommend

- Glue-Down Method **ADESIV** - Sika T-55 -Bostik Ultraset- Mapei P9901K
- Floating Method- Engineered D3 PVA Adhesive

**SEALING-COATING:** The floors come pre-finished in a factory environment, it is not necessary to apply additional sealing or waxes

**TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION:**

1. Read all instructions first: Get all your questions answered before you start installing the floor.
2. Amount of needed: Buy enough flooring to equal at least 105%to 110% of the square meterage of your room, for waste allowance.
3. Before installing, with closed boxes let flooring sit in room for 3 to 4 days to acclimatize to temperature and moisture. Run air conditioning or heat, as it will be in normal living conditions.
4. Be aware of moisture problems: Moisture can ruin any floor. Always look out for potential moisture problems, especially in basements.

5. Dealing with moisture before installation: If you have or suspect moisture problems, don't install your floor yet. Contact a professional flooring installer to improve sub-floor to an acceptable level of moisture.
6. Room/entryway preparation: Undercut door casings are much better than trying to scribe the flooring to fit there.
7. Leave expansion gaps: Leave a 10-15mm +1.5mm for every additional meter over a length or width of 6 meters, this expansion must be uniform and includes all perimeters, Island benches, beneath door jambs (these can also be scribed) and at transitions for expansion of flooring, skirting and Scotia's will cover any gaps. Tapping block: You can use a trimmed piece of flooring for this, or buy a pre-made tapping block.  
**NEVER HIT FLOORING DIRECTLY AND BE CAREFUL NOT TO FRACTURE FLOOR EDGES.**
8. Old glue on the board can be removed using Methylated Spirits or Turps, gently wipe with a soft cloth.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM:**

- 1) Bending or bowing of the boards in length direction. These boards might be a little harder to install, but will NOT be a problem after they are installed, or in the future. They will lay flat WITH THE OTHER BOARDS
- 2) Color Variations may occur as timber are natural products be sure to select the colors accordingly before installing.

**NOTE:** It is normal for all hardwood Timber floors to expand and contract with the seasons. This means that small gaps may form during low humidity conditions. You can prevent this from happening by controlling the humidity year-round. All floors will scratch and dent depending on your living conditions.

**CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR TIMBER FLOORS:**

This guide is part of the manufactures program and wear layer warranty, failure to comply fully, will result in the warranty being null & void.

The key to quality maintenance and protection of your floor; the following floor care recommendations are necessary. Please follow this procedure

1. Place quality mats at all entrance ways, always ensure that these mats are cleaned
2. Ensure that anybody walking on the floor has wiped their feet and that there are no stones or fine grit or nails on the soles of their shoes, sand and dirt can be abrasive to the timber surface
3. Place mats in front of the sink in the kitchen or laundry areas
4. Protect your floor by placing protective pads on all furniture
5. Protect chairs with protective pads
6. Casters must have a matt under the chairs that have casters, you can purchase rubber casters, these do not require protection as they are softer and will not damage the floors
7. Do not drag furniture across your floor
8. Maintain proper humidity levels between 40-65% throughout the year, in certain countries this may require the use of a humidifier
9. Vacuum your floor regularly
10. When cleaning a micro fibre mop is preferred, always mist spray the floor
11. Do not saturate or pour water directly onto the timber floor
12. Do not use a steam mop or hot water
13. Use a mild cleaning solution when cleaning your floor
14. Never apply abrasives chemical or wipe with abrasive cloths
15. Remove spills promptly, avoid excessive water on the floor
16. Do not use wax polishes on your timber floors
17. Direct sunshine will fade your floors & can possibly dry them out causing cracking, ensure that you have tinted windows or blinds
18. Timber is a natural product and will oxidise over time(darken) if you have rugs /matts it is advisable to move these to allow the floor to naturally oxidise, if not you will likely have light patches on the floors when you move the matts