

# HEARTWOOD FLOORING

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU COMMENCE INSTALLATION OF YOUR HARDWOOD FLOORING

Check that the floor boards are not damaged and fault free. The guarantee only applies to hidden defects.

Place ensure the boards are stored in the room in which the installation is to be done, without opening the packaging ; allow it to acclimatise for at least 48 hours. The material should be placed flat on the floor in a horizontal position, at a distance of at least 500mm from the wall.

## **MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

The floor panels have a tongue and groove all round that enables the floor panels to be fitted into each other mechanically. The only tool that you need is a hammer, a fine-toothed saw, a folding ruler, also a tensioning wire (cord) along the length of the room, a set square, and an installation set that consist of a stop block, a stop iron and spacer blocks.

## **STORAGE:**

The room in which you will be installing the floor panels should be dry. In case of new builds with a concrete floor, one must wait until it is dry.

Moisture content (CM) limit:

Cement screed max. 2.0% CM

With underfloor heating 1.8% CM

Anhydride screed max. 0.5% CM

With underfloor heating 0.3% CM

When laying the flooring over newly installed concrete screed or cast plaster sub-floors, after a curing time of at least 6-8 weeks, or over underfloor heating, always use 0.2mm PE film as an underlayment for additional moisture protection. The overlap seams with 300mm and tape.

## **STORAGE OF FLOOR BOARDS – TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY**

The floor panels should be installed at a room temperature of at least 16 degrees Celsius and a maximum 20 degrees Celsius. The relative air humidity in the room, should not be less than 40% and not exceed 65%. The humidity should also remain within these limits during and after the installation. If floor panels will be stored (in the packaging) for a lengthy duration, storage should

always be at room temperature. The storage space should have an average relative humidity not exceeding 65%. The floor panels should not be stored in a room with a high level of humidity.

### **BEFORE STARTING THE INSTALLATION PROCESS**

Your floors have been manufactured with the best possible care at the factory.

We would still strongly advise you to check the floor panels for visible deviations such as damage, extreme colour differences and shape or dimensional deviations. Complaints concerning visible deviations will not be entertained after floor panels have been installed. Ensure there is good lighting when installing the floor.

Existing skirting boards can be removed and reinstalled after installation. To enable the floor to shrink and expand freely under the skirting boards, end-piece and transition skirting board should be fixed on the walls. Skirting boards should not be fixed to the floor panels other than horizontal (flat) self-adhesive skirting boards, which may be affixed to the floor panels.

### **SUB-FLOORS**

Floor panels can be installed on practically any sub-floor. The sub-floor should however be permanently dry, hard, clean, and have adequate load-bearing capacity. A floor is defined as flat if there is less than 2mm height difference over a distance of one linear metre. Unevenness exceeding 2mm per linear metre should be levelled out.

### **CONCRETE SUB-FLOORS**

A concrete floor should not contain more than 5% moisture. You should install an insulating layer on top of this. A 3mm rubber underlay will be adequate. You should also always install a moisture insulation foil (for example building foil). Joints should be thoroughly sealed. The foil should extend behind and up the full height of the skirting board.

### **WOODEN SUB-FLOORS**

If the sub-floor is wooden (moisture content of wood 10%, with a tolerance of  $\pm 2\%$ ), check for loose parts and tighten. The installer can carry out the required measurements using an OM meter. You may level the floor by sanding it down or installing a chipboard sheet. A 3mm rubber underlay will be adequate. (A 7mm soft board plate has a better levelling effect and is recommended for floors with slight differences in height).

Do not lay the boards if the crawl space is wet - (basement where someone cannot stand up in)  
Always make sure there is sufficient ventilation to allow the sub-floor to 'breathe'. Do not install floor panels in a wet crawl space.

### **UNDER-FLOOR HEATING**

If you want to lay a wooden floor on top of under-floor heating, there are certain rules you must follow.

It is important to know what type of under-floor heating is used, also type of sub-floor underlay and type of floor board. We advise that before buying engineered flooring you ask your supplier for advice.

## **REQUIREMENTS WITH REGARD TO NOISE REDUCTION**

There are situations where a sound-damping sub-floor is required. Your supplier has various types of sub-floor underlay that meet these requirements.

## **MODIFICATION OF DOORS**

Check whether your doors can open and close with the combined height of the flooring and your sub-floor . You may need to modify (shorten) your doors according to the changed situation.

## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

### **FLOATING OF ENGINEERED PLANK WOOD FLOORING**

The boards are laid by gluing the panels together using a water proof wood glue. If the humidity level and /or temperature change ; the floor may shrink or expand .

For this reason, a play of 15mm should be maintained with respect to all fixed boundaries ie. walls, thresholds and columns

Movement joints should be installed if floors are more than 10m long and more than 6m wide .

This also applies to door openings, between rooms, at turns in passages, etc.

These movement joints may be finished using specially developed joint profiles. There should be an offset of at least 400mm between the top ends of the floor panels in consecutive rows.

1. After the Sub-floor underlay has been laid, the next step is to start laying the boards. We recommend that you start in a corner of the room which is immediately visible when entering the room.

First calculate the number of rows that you will be laying. You will obtain best results if the first and the last board are of approximately the same width. Now, lay the first panel with the groove of the length facing the wall. Usually, the panels are laid lengthways in the house (in the direction of the light).

2. An expansion joint of around 15mm should be installed all around the floor. Place a spacer block at every 600mm. Remove them 24 hours after the floor has been laid. Now place the second floor panel, and so on, until the installation of the first row of floor panels is completed. Now check whether the first row is completely straight by tensioning a rope along the length. After the third row has been laid, check floor levels again

3. If the wall is not straight, you should transfer the unevenness to the floor panels. This may be done using a spacer with a lead pencil. After the floor panels have been marked out, saw the same as required so that the recesses fit together. Keep in mind the expansion joint. Use a fine-toothed saw for the purpose. If a hand saw is used, make sure the décor side is facing upwards; if a jigsaw is used, keep the décor side facing downwards.

4. Lay the first row of panels by gluing each subsequent panel on the short side. In the second row, start with the remaining part of the first row. This part however, must be at least 400mm in length,

so as to ensure that the floor has optimum stability and also to ensure minimum loss of material. The panels should be glued along the entire length and width. Do not use too much glue.

5. To tighten, use the stop block of a laying set. You can also use a wood fillet of at least 300mm. This is to avoid damage to the panels. After the panels have been tightened, remove any residual glue immediately with a slightly moist cloth. After the glue has dried, it will be almost impossible to remove any residue.

6. While fitting the last row of floor panels, lay the floor panels with the decorative side down with the groove against the wall. Now make the required markings and cut with a saw. Also keep in mind the prescribed expansion joint of 15mm, and that the floor should be free all round. If it is difficult to reach the last row, lay the boards one by one as close as possible against the boards of the last row but one. Then push them together lengthwise using a pull iron and hammer.

### **AFTER INSTALLATION**

You may start using the floor immediately after installation. You may now start finishing operations on the floor. The spacer block should be removed immediately. You may also start installing skirting boards. In the case of pre-oiled floors, it is advisable to apply maintenance oil to the floor after installation.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Good maintenance will increase the life of your floor. For proper maintenance, we refer you to your sales consultant. Protect your floor by placing a good floor mat near the door in order to prevent the entry of sand. We also advise you to protect your furniture and chair feet with felt.

In case of doubt concerning the correct processing of the floor panels, you may always contact your sales consultant before continuing with the installations. The final result depends largely on the conditions under which the floor panels are laid.

### **PRODUCT GUARANTEE**

#### **10 YEAR**

Our engineered flooring has been manufactured with due care. If, however hidden material and/or manufacturing defects appear within 10 years from the date of purchase, please contact us with proof of purchase. Heartwood Flooring undertakes to replace floor panels with manufacturing defects FOC and to pay all reasonable costs related to uplifting the defective panels and installation thereof. This guarantee will not apply if damage is due to improper use, falling objects, abrasion by grit or sand or gauging by sharp objects. The guarantee will also not apply where damage or distortion was caused by dampness or by rough or improper use.

In addition the guarantee does not cover defects due to incorrect installations or defects clearly noticeable prior to installations.