

# Installation Instructions for Engineered Timber Flooring



STOCKMANS RIDGE  
AUSTRALIAN SPECIES TIMBER

## Important Notice Regarding Warranty:

Any faults that occur because of failure to comply with these installation instructions will not be covered by the product warranty. The products must be inspected prior to installation and any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate replacement prior to the flooring being installed. Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd will not be responsible for installation cost claims where flooring was installed with obvious defects. To enjoy the peace of mind of this product's warranty and ensure the optimum performance of your floor, you must comply with all instructions relating to preparation, subfloor, installation environment, installation method, and ongoing care and maintenance of the floor.

## APPROPRIATE SETTINGS:

Wood flooring is a natural product, which will mature with age, and every board is unique in design. The planks may change shade over time as a reaction to exposure to sunlight and this is perfectly normal. It is recommended that you occasionally relocate rugs and furniture once installed to ensure even shading. This product is not to be installed in wet areas that have a potential for flooding, such as bathrooms, laundries, saunas, or outdoor areas. Engineered timber floors are suitable for all rooms other than those that are subject to excessive moisture and elevated levels of humidity. All wood is hygroscopic, meaning it will react to moisture in its environment, and expand or contract as a result.

## Before You Start:

All sources of moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor, and level and re-levelled, rooms fitted with timber flooring should be maintained at a stable level; in line with normal living conditions. Any construction dampness (such as recently laid concrete slab, or wet paint) must be completely dry.

- If using an underlay, choose a recommended product.
- Calculate the total square meters of the space you are laying the floor and add 7% for cutting and waste.
- Measure the area to be installed. For a floating installation, the board width of the last row across the installation should not be less than 150mm in width. If possible, adjust the width of the first row to be installed, to avoid having to adjust the width of the final row later. For other installation methods, the final row should be no less than 100mm. • The

cartons of boards should be stored in a protected, dry place.

- The timber boards should be placed in the room in which they are to be fitted to acclimatise for 48 hours and planks should be carefully stacked (removed from packaging) to allow air to circulate.
- The product must be stored, installed, and maintained in a protected and dry place, with room temperature between 14°C – 28°C, and relative humidity between 40 – 65%. Rapid and significant temperature fluctuation must be avoided.
- Check each plank for any manufacturing defects prior to installation. Any faults must be reported back to the store of purchase for an immediate refund or replacement prior to the flooring being installed.
- The boards in this pack are of random lengths and should be laid randomly across the floor to create the best effect. We recommend opening a few cartons at a time to mix boards from each carton as they are installed.
- The boards should be fitted to run the length of the longest, straightest wall. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel to the length of the hallways.

## ALL SUBFLOORS:

The below requirements apply to all subfloor options detailed throughout this document and must be paid careful attention to minimise the risk of problems occurring with your flooring post-installation. All substrates must be structurally sound, flat/even, clean, and dry:

- Structurally sound: Engineered timber flooring can be installed onto concrete subfloors and existing wood, vinyl or tile floors provided they are dimensionally stable.
- Flat/Even: Deviations in any subfloor level must not exceed 3mm under a 3 lineal metre straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using an excellent quality cementitious levelling compound. Please engage a professional installer's services for these matters.
- Clean: Ensure the subfloor is clean and free from all contaminants and loose material by vacuuming prior to installation. Do not wash subfloor or expose it to water prior to installation.
- Dry: It is essential that the moisture content of any subfloor complies with the relevant standard. For Australian conditions, the recommended standard is a maximum of 75% relative humidity for concrete

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subfloors and 10 – 15% moisture content for wood subfloors. All potential sources of moisture (e.g. walls, drains, damp proof courses, plumbing, fridges, washing machines etc.) must be thoroughly checked and rectified if found to be an issue. The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.

Maximum Raft size for an Australian Wood Company Pty Ltd Timber Floor is 10m (L) & 8m (W).

## MOISTURE BARRIERS

For a floating installation, we recommend the use of an Acoustic Underlay

For a glued-down installation, we recommend the use of a topically applied liquid moisture barrier. Please follow all manufacturer's instructions regarding application.

### IF INSTALLING ON A CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

- The moisture content of a concrete subfloor must not exceed 75% relative humidity.
- Freshly laid concrete bases require adequate curing time to avoid moisture related problems with your floorcovering. In good drying conditions allow one day per 1mm of the depth of the concrete to ensure it is dry. Further curing time may be necessary depending on site conditions.
- Existing concrete subfloor's moisture content should be checked using a moisture meter. Your floor must not be fitted until the moisture content reading complies with the above guidelines.

### IF INSTALLING ON WOOD, VINYL OR TILE SUBFLOOR

- The moisture content of a wood subfloor must not exceed 10 – 15%.
- Engineered timber flooring can be fixed directly onto pre-installed wood (particle board, yellow tongue, or conventional timber), vinyl or tile subfloors, provided this subfloor meets all the requirements detailed at the beginning of the Subfloors section. If the subfloor is not flat and even, then you will need to overlay it with structural grade plywood (min 20mm thick). All existing floorcoverings must be securely fixed to the subfloor, to minimise the risk of squeaking. Where poor adhesion between the subfloor and existing boards, planks or tiles exist, secure, if possible, otherwise remove the existing floorcovering completely.
- On a wood subfloor, your new timber boards should be laid in a direction that is 90 degrees (perpendicular) to the direction of the boards below. If this is not possible, then plywood sheets (minimum depth 6mm) should be nailed, stapled, or screwed to

cover the existing floor, allowing a 15mm perimeter gap (against walls) for expansion. The new floor can then be laid directly onto the plywood sheet.

- If nails, staples, or screws are being used, care must be taken not to damage pipes or electrical cables beneath.
- For a glue down installation onto a conventional strip timber, vinyl, or tile subfloor (provided all boards/tiles are securely fixed) you will first have to lay a Masonite, particle board or yellow tongue underlay before the product. Once you have ensured that the subfloor is flat/even and provided the moisture content of the subfloor does not exceed the specified 10 – 15%, you may glue down a rubber underlay onto the Masonite. Your timber floor is then glued to the rubber underlay.
- For a floating installation, follow the same process as above, but in lieu of a rubber underlay, you will have to use an MPU. We recommend an Acoustic underlay. Your timber floor will be floated on top of this underlay.

## IF INSTALLING ON SUBFLOORS WITH RADIANT HEAT

- Due to the speed of sudden temperature change, which has the potential to negatively affect your floor, it is not recommended to install over an electrical radiant heating system. This will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. The instructions below are for radiant heating systems using water. Ensure the radiant heat surface temperature never exceeds 28°C. Before installing over newly constructed radiant heat systems, operate the system at maximum capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the radiant heat system.
- Before installing over a newly installed radiant heating system, the system should be run at maximum capacity to remove any residual moisture and turned off 48 hours prior to the installation day. Once the flooring is installed, the heating should be turned on and the temperature increased by approximately 2°C per day until desired temperature is reached. Installation Methods 1.

## FLOATING INSTALLATION

Floating floor system needs to be able to move. Ensure expansion gaps allow for movement, and furniture items exceeding 200kg are not placed on the floor

Tools Required: (not supplied) knee pads, goggles, square, tape measure, pencil, saw, utility knife, hammer.

Suitable Subfloors: Concrete or pre-installed wood, vinyl, or tile subfloor (see Subfloors section for further detail on suitability and preparation of subfloors).

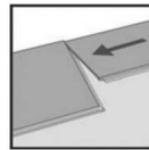
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Preparation: Ensure you have undertaken all necessary steps as detailed in the Before You Start section. Ensure your subfloor is structurally sound, flat/even, clean, and dry as per the Subfloor section. If laying the floor in several adjoining rooms or in a space more than 50m<sup>2</sup>, expansion joints must be installed. It is recommended that installations over 10 lineal meters in length, and 9 lineal meters in width, utilise expansion joints. For your moisture barrier and underlay needs, we recommend a Aquacoustic as most products will provide both a foam underlay and

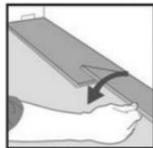
a 200-micron polyethylene vapour barrier (just check with your supplier). For a floating installation, an expansion gap of 15mm around the entire perimeter of the floor needs to be maintained. This also applies around pipes, pillars, frames, and fixtures. The 15mm between the first row of boards and the wall should be maintained using spacer wedges regularly along the length of the wall. When measuring for the layout of the floor, remember to factor in this expansion gap.



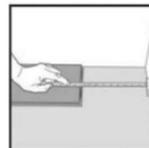
- 1 First plank, first row. Place a spacer of 15mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances = 15mm.



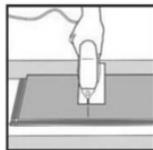
- 2 Second plank, first row place this plank gently and tight to the short end of the first one.



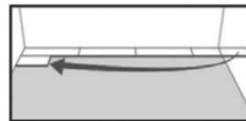
- 3 Fold the panel down in a single action movement. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other. Afterwards press down or slightly tap down at the short end just installed till it clicks. No major force is required.



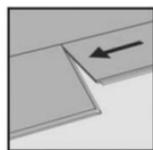
- 4 At the end of the first row, put a spacer = 15mm, to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.



- 5 Cut with a jig saw - hardwood turned down to eliminate/ reduce damage to the face of the panel. Or if cutting using a hand saw, cut it with the hardwood visible face up. Then install it as previous plank.



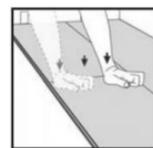
- 6 **General distances between short ends.** Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 500mm. This is for stability of the floor.



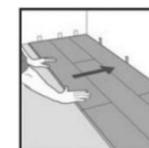
- 7 Second plank, second row place the panel at an angle into the groove of the previous row making sure that the end of the panel is tight/flush to the short end of the previous panel.



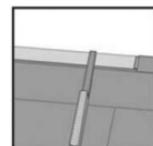
- 8 Fold the panel down in a single action movement with a slight press to the left to the short end of the previous panel. Again using the tapping block tap it against the long end into the previous row. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other.



- 9 As it flattens itself to the floor, press or gently tap the top of the short end of the installed panel until it clicks. Finish installing this plank by tapping it with a tapping block on the long side to ensure secure installation.



- 10 After 2-3 rows, adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacers = 15mm. Once the adjustment is done against the main wall, continue to install till the last row.



- 11 Last row (and perhaps also first row). The minimum width of the last plank should be NOT LESS than 50mm. Remember distance to wall is 15mm. TIP: Put a spacer before measuring. Cut the panels lengthwise and glue the short ends.

See *Finishing Off* section on next page.

**Please Note:** Regardless of whether you are gluing or floating your timber floor, it is extremely important that you follow the guidelines laid out in the **Subfloors** section.

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## Finishing Off:

Once installation is complete, any spacing wedges used can be removed. If a plastic moisture barrier has been used, the edges that have been turned up the wall can now be cut off; it is recommended to leave approximately 20mm extra to put behind the scotia or skirting to prevent moisture penetrating the material through the wall.

The expansion gap around the perimeter of the floor can be covered by re-fitting the skirting boards, either by nailing, screwing or gluing directly to the perimeter walls. Never fix them directly to the installed floor. If the skirting boards were not removed for installation, you can cover the expansion gap using moulding trims that attach to the skirting with glue or panel pins. At doorways, a door threshold strip should be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.

Any visible joints or gaps should be filled with a non-silicon based filler (e.g. *Fuller Caulk In Colours*) to match the colour of the timber.

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