



**Atkinson & Kirby**

Real Wood Flooring for Professionals



## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

### Contract Click

**NO GLUE**

**This product is suitable for laying over (certain types of) underfloor heating systems. Please contact your supplier for technical information prior to laying.**

#### **STORAGE**

Wood Flooring should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions.

Pre-Finished Hardwood Flooring packs should be laid flat and unopened where it is to be laid at least overnight.

#### **SITE CONDITIONS**

The optimal humidity range for hardwood flooring is 45%-60%; temperature should be maintained at about 18°C. To keep the wood in excellent condition it is imperative that the humidity level and temperature be controlled at all times, from delivery to laying the floor, and during the years that follow installation.

In a new construction all windows, doors etc should be installed, and all wet trades should be completed. The heating must also have been in operation for at least 10 days before the floor is laid. Where a new concrete slab has been laid, the moisture content must not exceed 5%. Surface drainage should direct water away from the building. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry. For further information regarding crawl spaces, please contact Atkinson & Kirby.

Upon delivery, check wood flooring moisture content with a moisture meter (all flooring contractors should possess one). Prior to installation over a wood subfloor, ensure that wood flooring to be laid is within acceptable range of moisture content with the wood subfloor. If not within the acceptable range, then a suitable Damp Proof Membrane should be installed, over the wood subfloor.

In on ground and below ground applications, always add a suitable Damp Proof Membrane. A Damp Proof Membrane must also be present underneath the concrete subfloor, if present, as well as over it.

All subfloors must be flat, clean, dry and structurally sound, free of squeaks, and free of protruding fasteners. All subfloors should be flat to within 3mm over a 3 metre length, or 2mm over a 2 metre length.

Hardwood Flooring should not be glued or secret nailed to a Chipboard subfloor. Solid board subflooring should consist of boards no wider than 150mm. Adequate ventilation must exist beneath the wood flooring e.g air bricks around the perimeter of the building.

DO NOT lay a wood floor in areas that are wet or humid, e.g. bathrooms, shower rooms etc.

#### **EXPANSION**

The expansion required for any hardwood flooring installation will vary depending on the type of flooring (solid or multi-layer), timber species and the size of the room. As a general rule we recommend at least 12-18mm expansion around the perimeter of the room and at doorways. At least 12-18mm expansion must also be left where the floor comes in to contact with any other vertical surfaces. These expansion gaps can be covered by mouldings after installation. Allow 15mm minimum expansion space at all vertical obstructions.

## **CONTACT WITH HEAT**

In areas where the flooring comes into contact with a fireplace, stove, heating system or un-insulated hot air vents a layer of asphalt or wax paper should be laid first. This will prevent excess drying out of the wood flooring.

## **DURING INSTALLATION**

The floor layer is the last person to inspect the flooring. Care should be taken to ensure that a balanced look is maintained when laying out the floor; any pieces that are suspect should not be laid.

The manufacturer cannot be held responsible for defects due to incorrect installation or boards with defects that have been installed. A waste factor of at least 5% should be taken into account.

## **ATKINSON & KIRBY RECOMMEND FITTING BY A PROFESSIONAL FLOORING CONTRACTOR.**

## **LAYING**

### **IF THERE IS UNDERFLOOR HEATING PRESENT PLEASE REFER TO THE UNDERFLOOR HEATING GUIDELINES PRIOR TO LAYING**

Begin in one corner and work from left to right with the tongue sides of the boards towards the wall. The gap between the long side and the wall can be adjusted later when three rows have been laid. Remember that it is often simpler to start the row of boards at the door.

1. Place the first row of boards in position, and knock together by tapping the headers with a knocking block
2. Cut the last board of the first row to the correct length and begin the next row with the left over piece. The end joints between boards must be staggered by a minimum of 500mm (Min 300mm for 1.2m boards).
3. Press the floorboard in at an angle against the board in front. Using a knocking block, lightly tap the board while pressing it down.
4. Press the end of the next board into position at an angle.
5. Using a knocking block, tap on the long side while carefully pressing the board down. This will locate it more easily.
6. Using a knocking block, tap the header joint up to the adjacent board.
7. The gap between the floor and the walls can be adjusted when three rows have been laid. Place wedges between the floor and the wall.
8. The first row sometimes requires adjustments to suit a wall that is not true. Draw the contours of the wall on the floorboards then detach the boards in the first row by gripping the long side and pulling upwards while tapping gently against the joint. Saw along the line you draw.
9. Then replace the sawn floorboards from left to right. Press the board in at an angle on the long side as described in points 5-7. Place wedges between the floor and the wall.
10. Mark holes in the boards for radiator pipes. The diameter of the holes must be at least 10mm bigger than the pipe. Cut out accordingly. When fitting the boards, glue and cut out in position and cover the holes with pipe collars.
11. If you need to trim an architrave use a floorboard as a guide to get the correct height. If you need to tap the boards lengthways use an end off cut to protect the joint.

12. The last row of boards must be cut to the correct width. Rest the last board on top of the last but one row of boards, offset towards the wall by about 5mm. Mark where the saw cut should be. Lay the cut board. Do the same with the next one. Fit the skirting boards without trapping the floor.
13. If necessary you can lay the boards from any direction. Contract Click is also easy to take up; this helps when laying at doors.
14. Proceed as follows if it is not possible to angle a board in under the architrave or low radiator. Cut away 2/3 of the locking edge, glue and push the board into position.

### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

It is important to leave expansion gaps around the perimeter of the room, in doorways between rooms and at all vertical surfaces.

#### **PERIMETER OF THE ROOM**

If the skirting board has not been removed, the expansion gap can be covered using a Scotia or Quadrant moulding.

#### **DOORWAYS**

At doorways the floor should be broken with an expansion gap. The expansion gap should be covered with a Twin or Ramp moulding this will allow individual rooms to expand and contract within their own areas. Which moulding to use is determined by the floor covering on the other side of the doorway. Floors equal in height a Twin should be used, if floors have differing heights a ramp should be used.

#### **PIPES, VENTS AND OTHER FIXED OBJECTS**

Each can be unique, but the general rule is to measure very carefully before you cut and remember to leave a 12-18mm expansion gap between the object and the flooring. Cover the expansion gap with mouldings, vent covers or pipe rings when the floor is complete.

#### **INSTALLATIONS ON STAIRS**

Flooring on stairs must be fully nailed to the stairs. Stair Nosing mouldings should be installed using either screw type fasteners or nails.

A FULL RANGE OF HARDWOOD TRIMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ATKINSON & KIRBY TO FINISH YOUR FLOOR.