

# GLUE DOWN LAYING GUIDANCE FOR DIAMOND, CONTRACT AND TRADITIONAL RANGE SOLID STRIP FLOORING



**Atkinson & Kirby**  
Real Wood Flooring for Professionals



**Approved Method**

## PRIOR TO LAYING

- ✓ Wood flooring should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions.
- ✓ Check that the sub floor is sound and suitable for a glue down installation.
- ✓ In new constructions all windows and doors etc should be installed, and all wet trades complete. Where a new concrete slab has been laid, the moisture content of the slab must not exceed 3% and the humidity level of the building must not exceed 60%.
- ✓ The optimum humidity range for Hardwood Flooring is 45% – 60%; temperature should be maintained at about 18°C.
- ✓ Unfinished Solid Hardwood Flooring packs should be opened and boards spread around the room in which they are to be laid and left to acclimatise for at least 5 days. Heating systems should be operating normally during acclimatisation and installation.
- ✓ Pre-Finished Solid Hardwood Flooring packs should be laid flat and unopened overnight, where they are to be laid.
- ✓ Using the following methods a larger waste factor should be allowed. Warped boards or boards that are not straight cannot be pulled in. These boards should be cut back and used at the end of the rows. (PLEASE NOTE: BOARDS ARE THAT ARE WARPED OR NOT STRAIGHT ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A MANUFACTURING FAULT AS THESE BOARDS WOULD BE USED IN A SECRET NAILING INSTALLATION FOR WHICH THIS FLOORING IS PRODUCED).
- ✓ Always consult the latest Sika Technical information sheet prior to use.

## 1. ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT

- ✓ Before beginning the actual installation, spread out short and long lengths equally over the area where the floor is to be installed.
- ✓ Work out of several packs at a time to ensure an even colour and shade distribution over the whole floor.
- ✓ Align the first row of planks to be sure that you have a good straight line from one side of the room to the other. Put a chalk line at the desired distance from the wall to help align the planks. The end joints of the flooring should be staggered (minimum of 150mm) to achieve the best appearance in the finished floor.

IMPORTANT: Leave at least 15mm for expansion at all vertical surfaces or at least what will be covered by the skirting board or quarter round trim.

## 2. INSTALLATION METHODS

### PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING METHODS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR USE

- ✗ On bitumen sub floors
- ✗ With under floor heating.
- ✗ We DO NOT recommend gluing down boards over 130mm wide. (NOTE: NARROW BOARDS ARE SUBJECT TO LESS CUPPING AND MOVEMENT)
- ✗ With Diamond Range Canadian Beech

If the floor area is greater than 5m in width it is advisable to leave a washer gap of 2mm every 6-7 rows to allow for extra expansion across the floor

Align the first piece on the chalk line. The groove side and end will be facing the starting wall.

It should be remembered that the floor layer is the last person to inspect the floor. Care should be taken to ensure that a balance is maintained when laying out the floor, ANY PIECES THAT ARE SUSPECT SHOULD NOT BE LAID. A normal waste factor of 5% is acceptable.

Lay the floor using one of the three following methods.

### METHOD 1: SIKA ACOUBOND SYSTEM

USAGE: Gives a reduction in impact noise, with the benefits of an acoustic underlay.

PRE-APPLICATION: Apply Sika Primer MB and allow to dry overnight.

#### APPLICATION

##### 1. Bulk Gun

- (i) The pre-cut nozzle will give a 'v' shaped profile approximately 10mm high x 8mm wide.
- (ii) Insert SikaBond T52 sausage into the bulk gun and screw on the nozzle.

##### 2. Laying Mat and Gunning Out

- (i) Roll out the SikaLayer mat at right angles to the proposed direction of the wood.
- (ii) Extrude triangular shaped beads of SikaBond adhesive approximately 10mm high x 8mm wide into all of the pre-cut slots.

##### 3. Laying The Wood

- (i) Lay the wood within 1/2 an hour to the required line and level, adjusting with a knocking block if required.

##### 4. Sanding and sealing

- (i) If laying Traditional Range Unfinished Flooring, the floor can be sanded and sealed after a minimum of 24 hours.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

#### PRODUCTS REQUIRED

SikaBond T52 Sausage  
Sika Silent Layer mat 3mm / 5mm  
Sika Primer MB (Moisture Barrier)  
Bulk Gun

Continued Overleaf



## METHOD 2: FULL SURFACE BONDING

USAGE: For use on smooth, sound and level sub floors.

PRE-APPLICATION: Apply Sika Primer MB and allow to dry overnight.

### APPLICATION

#### 1. Pouring

- (i) Apply sufficient SikaBond adhesive and ensure that the wood is laid within 1 hour or before a surface skin has formed.

#### 2. Trowelling Out

- (i) Using a notched trowel spread the adhesive evenly at a minimum consumption of 0.8kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

#### 3. Laying The Wood

- (i) Lay the wood without delay to the required line and level, adjusting with a knocking block if required.

#### 4. Sanding and sealing

- (i) If laying Traditional Range Unfinished Flooring, the floor can be sanded and sealed after a minimum of 18 hours.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

### PRODUCTS REQUIRED

SikaBond T52 (High Viscous) or  
SikaBond T54 (Low Viscous) or  
SikaBond T54 FC (Low Viscous Fast Cure)  
Sika Primer MB (Moisture Barrier)  
SikaBond notched trowel

## METHOD 3: BEAD APPLICATION (LIQUID BATTENS)

USAGE: Compensates for some sub floors unevenness.

PRE-APPLICATION: Apply Sika Primer MB and allow to dry overnight.

### APPLICATION

#### 1. Bulk Gun

- (i) The pre-cut nozzle will give a 'v' shaped profile approximately 10mm high x 8mm wide.
- (ii) Insert SikaBond T2 sausage into the bulk gun and screw on the nozzle.

#### 2. Gunning Out

- (i) Holding the nozzle at a right angle to the substrate, extrude a triangular shaped bead of adhesive approximately 10mm high x 8mm wide at 250mm centres.

#### 3. Laying The Wood

- (i) Within 1/2 an hour, lay the wood onto the SikaBond adhesive whilst it is still tacky.
- (ii) Firm to the line and level using a knocking block if necessary.
- (iii) Uncured adhesive can be easily removed using Sika Wipes.

#### 4. Sanding and sealing

- (i) If laying Traditional Range Unfinished Flooring, the floor can be sanded and sealed after a minimum of 18 hours.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

### PRODUCTS REQUIRED

SikaBond T2 Sausage  
Sika Primer MB (Moisture Barrier)  
Bulk Gun

## 3. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

### DOORWAYS

At doorways, the floor should be broken with an expansion gap. The expansion gap should be covered with a 'T' section moulding. This will allow individual rooms to expand and contract within their own area.

### 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 15mm expansion gap between the object and the flooring. Cover expansion gaps with mouldings, vent covers or pipe rings when the floor is complete.

### INSTALLATION ON STAIRS

Flooring on stairs should be fully nailed to the stairs or Sika AcouBond system used. 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.**

## AFTER INSTALLATION

Control of humidity remains vital in preserving the appearance and form of the wood. It is therefore important to maintain a stable humidity level all year round.

The appearance of spaces between the boards indicates a drying out of the wood and an insufficient degree of humidity. The appearance of waves or noticeable swelling in the finish of the wood floor indicates the presence of excessive humidity. Heating systems may have to be utilised throughout the year to maintain the correct humidity level. The installation of a humidifier or air exchange system can prove indispensable in controlling humidity.

Do not forget that wood is a natural, living material and that you must look after it for life. A proper maintenance program should always be carried out.

The advice and instructions given are based on general experience.  
The floor layer should establish that the conditions are suitable for this type of application

PLEASE CONTACT ATKINSON & KIRBY FOR GUIDANCE REGARDING MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS