



Atkinson & Kirby

Real Wood Flooring for Professionals

Uniclass L532: P511	EPIC E411: X52/3
CI/SIB (43)	H13



INSTALLATION OVER UNDERFLOOR HEATING Electric Systems

Engineered Hardwood Flooring Only

As a manufacturer of Hardwood Flooring we (alongside many other manufacturers) cannot guarantee the suitability of the use of Hardwood Flooring over electric under floor heating.

The main reasons for this are as follows;

1. Electric under floor heating is able to supply an almost instantaneous heat that warms up the flooring over a very short period of time. This can cause tension in the wood with the risk of splits appearing in the face of the veneer.
2. The main problem with electric under floor heating under Hardwood Flooring is the accurate control of the maximum temperature reaching the surface of the Hardwood Floor. The producers of electric under floor heating systems limit themselves to a maximum heat output of 120 watt/m², which is lower than that which they propose for the same system below ceramic tiles. However, with such capacity, end users have the tendency to give full power to the system as the ambient temperature drops.

We believe, providing the maximum temperature of the heating system DOES NOT EXCEED 27°C AT THE POINT OF CONTACT with the Hardwood Flooring (this temperature should be reached in gradual stages by gentle increments over a period of time, we can only generalise as all systems will differ) and the cable carrying the heat is protected from direct contact with the Hardwood Flooring and the subfloor surface temperature is controlled by way of floor sensors (a probe) then some electric under floor heating systems should be compatible.

We would also recommend that the under floor heating system should be operating at all times to avoid dramatic increases and decreases in temperature, this will limit the amount of expansion and contraction in the Hardwood Flooring.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27°C AT THE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE HARDWOOD FLOORING AND THE SUBFLOOR BE MAINTAINED BY A FLOOR THERMOSTAT. DURING COLD PERIODS A ROOM THERMOSTAT CANNOT BE RELIED UPON TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE CONTROL OF THE MAXIMUM FLOOR TEMPERATURE.

PLEASE CONTACT ATKINSON & KIRBY PRIOR TO ALL INSTALLATIONS OVER ELECTRIC AND HOT WATER PIPE UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS FOR SPECIFIC GUIDELINES.

