

CONCEPT II

The Next Generation

by Atkinson & Kirby

BASIC FITTING GUIDELINES

Atkinson & Kirby only recommend fitting by a fully trained professional flooring contractor. The floor layer is the last person to inspect the floor. 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. A waste factor of 5% should be taken into account.

PRIOR TO LAYING

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

In a new construction all windows and doors etc should be installed and all wet trades complete. Where a new concrete slab has been laid, its moisture content should not exceed 5% and the humidity level of the building should not exceed 60%.

The optimal humidity range for hardwood flooring is 45% - 60%; room temperature should be maintained at approximately 18°C.

Pre-Finished solid hardwood flooring packs should be laid flat and unopened overnight in the room in which they are to be laid.

DO NOT lay a hardwood floor in areas that are wet or humid such as bathrooms or shower rooms etc.

In areas where the flooring will come 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 flooring.

SECRET NAILING (For solid and 22mm engineered flooring ONLY)



*Please click here for the full
LAYING GUIDELINES*

FLOATING (For engineered boards ONLY)



*Please click here for the full
LAYING GUIDELINES*

UNDERFLOOR HEATING (Hot Water Pipe Systems) ENGINEERED FLOORING ONLY

The maximum temperature at the point of contact (where the heating meets the underside of the hardwood floor) is 27°C. In order to ensure that this is adhered to, we recommend the use of an underfloor heating system that controls this temperature by way of floor sensors (a probe).

The radiant heating system must not exceed 8 watts/sq.ft, heating capacity and the running water temperature should range between 38-49°C at the most.

To preserve the integrity of the Hardwood Flooring the room temperature must not vary more than 9°C between seasons and the humidity must be maintained between 45 and 60 % relative humidity throughout the year. A humidifier should be used to maintain relative humidity if necessary.

During the heating period small hairline cracks may appear. These hairline cracks are generally evenly spread and are not cause for concern. They may also appear under rugs and furniture.

Please Note that Beech and Maple are LESS suitable for use over underfloor heating due to having greater movement potential.

PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

Before installing the Hardwood Flooring radiant heat slabs must be activated to normal living temperatures for a minimum of 21 days. This will ensure that the slab is dry. During this period the temperature should be gradually increased until the maximum recommended temperature is reached. The maximum temperature should be maintained for at least a week.

Before installation reduce the temperature gradually by 5°C per day. At the time of installation the subfloor temperature should be between 16– 18°C.

The installation can now be carried out.

After installation the temperature of 16–18°C should be maintained 3 – 4 days before it is increased gradually over a further 3 – 4 days to the recommended subfloor surface temperature of 24– 27°C. Despite the season the recommended temperature of 24– 27°C should be maintained for a further 3 – 4 days. Please keep a daily heating log during the installation period; this may be useful at a later date.

INSTALLATION METHODS

The R – Value of the Hardwood Flooring installed in the glue down method using Laybond L19 is lower than that of flooring installed in the floating method.

*Only glues recommended for the installation of Hardwood Flooring over radiant heat should be used, other glues might lose their adhesive strength due to radiant heat.

Fixing can be done using one of three methods.

METHOD 1

Laid floating (using Gripfill PVA on all four edges) over a suitable underlay (recommended by Atkinson & Kirby) loose laid on the sub floor.

METHOD 2

Laid floating without underlay, using Gripfill PVA glue on all four edges.

METHOD 3

Glued down using Laybond L19 adhesive.

PLEASE NOTE: The radiant heat (R Value) transfer is greatest using method 2 and least

UNDERFLOOR HEATING (Electric Systems) ENGINEERED 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.

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.

AFTER INSTALLATION

The control of humidity remains an important factor 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 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 may be required.

Wood is a natural, living material and you must look after it for life. A full maintenance program should always be carried out.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

EVERY CONCEPT II FLOORING ORDER IS ACCOMPANIED BY A COMPLIMENTARY MAINTENANCE KIT.

Before a new floor is in use it is recommended that you buff it (by hand or machine). The final buffing provides a hardwearing surface.

Oiled floors should be maintained regularly (normally once a year). This may be more often for floors that are exposed to extremely hard wear, when maintenance can be carried out locally.

CLEANING

Clean the floor with 125ml Wood Cleaner mixed into 5l water. Leave the floor to dry for at least 8 hours. The floor must be completely dry.

In the case of extreme dirt scrub the floor manually using a pad or by machine. Wipe clean with mop or cloth. Always wipe a second time in order that as little water as possible remains on the surface. Repeat this cleaning procedure if necessary.

(Always work with two buckets, one with wood cleaner mixed with water and one with clean water).

APPLICATION

Leave the floor to dry for at least 8 hours after cleaning. The floor must be completely dry.

Apply a thin coat of Maintenance Paste onto 1-2m² of floor at a time with a white polishing pad or a cotton cloth. (Use a buffing machine for the distribution of Maintenance Paste in large areas).

POLISHING

Make sure that the Maintenance Paste is polished evenly into the wood. Buffing continues until the wood appears saturated and silk-mat. Apply more paste if necessary.

FINAL POLISHING

If a very matt finish is required, buff with cotton cloths under the polishing pad.

Leave the surface for 4 hours. Do not expose the floor to water for 48 hours after finishing.

DUE TO THE RISK OF SELF IGNITION IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SANDING DUST AND OIL-WETTED CLOTHS ARE SOAKED IN WATER AND DISPOSED OF IN A TIGHTLY CLOSED CONTAINER AFTER USE.

REGULAR CLEANING

Natural Soap White is recommended for light wood species, while Natural Soap Natural is ideal for dark wood. Natural Soap is a quality soap, which due to its nourishing properties quickly closes the pores of the wood and protects against dirt and penetration of liquids.

Ensure that the Natural Soap White is shaken carefully before use. 125ml Natural Soap is mixed into 5 litres of lukewarm water. (It is always recommended to work with two buckets, one with soap water and one with clean water). Clean the floor with the minimum quantity of water; leave the soap water on the floor briefly in order to dissolve the dirt. Remove the dirty soap water with a hard wrung mop or cloth and rinse in the bucket of clean water.

Always wipe the floor with soap water using a hard wrung mop or cloth in order to re-establish the protective Natural Soap film.

NOTE: Very dirty floors may be cleaned with Wood Cleaner and subsequently with Natural Soap. Areas with heavy wear may be maintained with Maintenance Paste after cleaning. Particularly difficult stains may be removed with Spot Remover.

OCCASIONAL CARE & MAINTENANCE

WOCA Oil refresher natural is typically used for natural oiled and coloured oiled floors, and WOCA Oil Refresher white, for white oiled wood floors. WOCA Oil Refresher combines efficient cleaning with reoiling as additional oil penetrates the wood forming a matt protective layer on the surface.

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:

1. Shake the bottle well before use.
2. The floor must be free from dust before treatment.
3. Mix WOCA Oil Refresher with lukewarm water: 1:40 (125ml WOCA Oil Refresher into 5 litres of water). The mixture ratio may vary depending on wear requirements.
4. (Use two buckets). Dip the floor cloth or mop into the Oil Refresher mixture and clean the floor with the lightly wrung cloth or mop lengthways on the floor. Rinse the cloth or mop in the clean water, wring hard and dip it into the Oil Refresher mixture again. This time the cloth or mop needs to be extremely hard wrung before wiping the floor again lengthways on the floor, in order to leave as little moisture on the floor as possible. It is recommended to clean an area of approximately 10m² at a time. By doing it this way, the floor is only exposed to moisture for a short period of time.
5. Leave the floor to dry for approximately two hours before use.
6. If a light shine is required, polish the dry floor with a white pad.