

## LAY INSTRUCTIONS T&G

### WHAT SHOULD YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT!

- ✓ **Read these instructions carefully before you begin. Check the boards for faults or damage as the guarantee only applies to hidden faults.**
- ✓ **Attention:**  
Leave to acclimatise in the packaging for 48 hours in the room where it is to be laid. Lie horizontal and flat.
- ✓ **Storage:**  
You should leave the floorboards to acclimatise in the packaging for 48 hours in the rooms where the floor is to be laid. Lie horizontal and flat. The room in which the new floor is to be laid should be dry. If the building is a new building with a concrete floor, wait until the floor is completely dry. The floor boards should be laid at a minimum room temperature of 15 °C and maximum 22 °C. The relative air humidity in the room may not be lower than 40% or higher than 60% measured using a hygrometer. It shall also remain within these limits during and after laying. The wood itself shall have a moisture content of 9% with a tolerance of ± 2%. If you yourself are going to store the boards (in the packaging) for a long period of time, then they should always be stored at room temperature. The room in which they are stored should have a maximum average relative humidity of 60%. Do not store the boards in a room where the humidity is too high.
- ✓ **Before you lay the floor:**  
Wood is a natural product; no two pieces of wood are the same. No two trees are the same. Colours may differ; your floor may be given a natural look by mixing boards from various packs. The greatest possible care is taken to produce your floor. However we advise you to check the boards for visible defects such as damage, extreme differences in colour and deviations in shape or dimensions. No complaints regarding visible defects will be considered after the boards have been laid. Make sure that you have good lighting while laying the floor. You can remove the existing skirting boards and put them back after the floor has been laid. Side and end skirting boards should be fixed to the wall so that the floor can expand and contract freely below the skirting board. Therefore do not attach these skirting boards to the wood floor. Self – adhesive flat skirting boards can be stuck to the floor.
- ✓ **Sub - floors:**  
Wood flooring can be laid on virtually all sub – floors. However this sub – floor should be permanently dry, hard and level with good load – bearing properties.
- ✓ **Concrete sub - floors:**  
A concrete floor may not contain more than 2.5% moisture. You should apply wood floor insulation on top of this. From a technical point of view, 3mm foam underlay is sufficient. If you are unsure as to whether the floor will remain sufficiently dry, you should always apply a moisture – isolating film (e.g. plastic film used in the building trade). Seams should be completely sealed. Extend the film behind the skirting to the height of the skirting board.
- ✓ **Wooden sub - floor:**  
If you have a wooden sub – floor (wood moisture content of 9% with a tolerance of 2%), you should check that there are no loose pieces. Any loose pieces found should be screwed down. You can level out a floor using a piece of chipboard measuring 125 x 62 cm. Screw the chipboard to the sub – floor (using flat – headed screws) and make sure that the screws are well – sunk. The screws should be kept approximately 10 to 15 cm from the edge of the chipboard. The screws should be placed approximately 30 cm apart. The thickness of the chipboard (minimum 12 mm) should be selected according to the sub – floor. Lie the boards in a stretching bon with a gap of 5 mm in between to allow for possible expansion of the chipboard. You should apply wood floor insulation on top of this false chipboard floor. From a technical point of view, 3 mm foam underlay is sufficient. Do not lay the wood flooring if there is a wet crawl space.
- ✓ **Adjusting doors:**  
Check whether you can still open and close your doors with the height of the wood floor and any sub – floor. If not, then you will need to adjust your doors to fit the new circumstances (by shortening).

### ADVICE ON LAYING / BONDING

- ✓ **Laying:**  
Floor boards flooring is described as being suspended, i.e. the boards are not stuck or nailed to the sub – floor but stuck to each other on all sides using water – resistant wood glue (PVC). Solid parquet flooring can also be laid by means of bonding. If the moisture or temperature level changes, the floor can sometimes expand or contract. Therefore it is necessary to observe a minimum clearance of 10 mm (for solid flooring min. of 15 mm) at all fixed boundaries such as walls, thresholds, columns or central heating pipes. In the case of floors more than 12 m long or 6 m wide, you should fit settlement joint as well as in door openings, between rooms, bends in corridors, etc. These settlement joints can be finished using specially designed aluminium profiles, flat skirting or side skirting. The correct relative air humidity during after laying wood flooring is 40 – 60 %

- a. Start by installing the false floor after any uneven sections of the floor have been removed.
- b. Once the whole false floor has been installed, you can start laying the boards in a corner of the room which is directly visible when you enter the room. First of all calculate the number of rows that you are going to lay. You will get the best results if the first and last rows are of approximately the same width. Now you lay the first board with the groove along the long side in the direction of the wall.
- c. You should give the floor a minimum expansion seam of 10 mm (for solid flooring 15 m) on all sides. Place a spacer every 40 cm. Attention: remove the blocks no earlier than 24 hours and no later than 30 hours after installation. Now fit the second board, etc., until the first row of boards has been laid. Now check whether the first row is perfectly straight by stretching out a rope. Check again after laying the third row.
- d. If the wall is not totally straight, you should carry the unevenness over to the boards. You can do this using a spacer fitted with a pencil point. After the boards have been marked off, saw the pieces to fit the recesses and suchlike. Do not forget the expansion seam. Use a fine – toothed saw. If you are using a handsaw, decor side up., if you are using a fret sawing machine, décor side down.
- e. Fit the first row of boards. Apply glue along the whole of the short side and stick the second board in place. Repeat with the third board, etc. Only use water – resistant wood glue (PVAC). Use approximately 500 cc per 15 m<sup>2</sup>. start the second row with the remainder from the first line. However this piece should be at least 30 cm long to give the floor optimum stability as well as minimum loss of material. The boards should be bonded along the whole of the long and short groove side.
- f. You need to use the stop block from the flooring installation kit or a wooden bar of at least 30 cm to knock the boards into place. This is to prevent damaging the boards. If you have to use a disproportionate amount of force to get the boards to fit together, you may have applied too much glue in the groove. After knocking the boards into place, use a slightly damp cloth to remove any excess glue. It is virtually impossible to remove the glue once it has dried.
- g. Before fitting the final row of floorboards, lay the boards with the decor side under and the groove against the wall. Then mark and saw. Again, do not forget the prescribed expansion seam as there must be a clearance all round the floor (10 mm and for solid flooring 15 mm). Finally press on the final board with a block.
- h. Also keep a clearance for expansion around heating pipes and suchlike.

✓ **After laying:**

Leave the glue to dry for 12 hours before using the floor. Do not forget to remove the spacer blocks after specified time (24 to 30 hours).

✓ **Maintenance:**

Correct maintenance will prolong the life of your floor. Wood floors are vulnerable to stiletto heels and / or sharp objects.

- a. Only clean with a slightly damp cloth. Too much moisture will affect the wood floor so do not use a wet mop. Vacuum regularly using the brush attachment so that sand and other impurities do not have chance to damage the finish layer. We advise the use of a doormat with anti – slip backing. Always use felt mats under furniture.
- b. Clean the parquet with a damp cloth and a special product. (Cleaner for floors, that are finished with oil. For example Bona Carl's cleaner)
- c. Wrap the parquet in with a polisher every year (for example Bona Carl's 23) to feed the wood. Please follow the instructions from the producer. It is necessary to use a polisher on regular basis in crowded places.

✓ **Emergency repairs:**

If a board is damaged, you can repair it as follows: saw the damaged piece in the centre using a circular sawing machine set to the correct depth (depth in accordance with the thickness of the material). Keep 2 cm from the edge of this damaged board! Break off the damaged piece by hand. Remove the tongue (long and short side) from the new piece. Apply mounting glue to the underside of the new piece and press into place.

✓ **Note:**

If you have any doubts on how to install the wood floor properly, always contact the place where it was purchased before proceeding any further. The end result depends heavily on the circumstances under which the wood floor is laid.

✓ **Important:**

Keep your receipt as your guarantee.