



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

ENGINEERED TIMBER / HERRINGBONE

It is highly recommended that all TFL flooring is installed by a qualified and experienced contractor.

The following instructions must be followed correctly for the warranty to be honored. Please read the entire document before proceeding with the installation

General Information

- It is the installers/customers responsibility to carry out an inspection of the delivered flooring product prior to installation to ensure the colour, grade, pattern irregularities, structural quality, gloss and finish are acceptable.
- The installer must use reasonable selectivity and remove any faulty boards that should not be laid or dock any faults to ensure the finished floor meets industry and customer standards. This includes bow and spring that should not exceed 18mm over the length or width of the board.
- If you are unsure about the product and how it will respond to the environment, then please contact the manufacturer for guidance.
- A waste factor of approximately 5 to 10% should be ordered to complete any sorting, cutting or visual selection during installation.
- TFL Herringbone should be ordered with a 20% waste factor

Before Installation

TFL Flooring packs should never be stored outdoors, directly on a cement floor, or under any damp conditions. Care should be taken to store the packs flat, in a dry and safe environment. Packs should never be leant against a wall.

The product must be stored and transported in optimal humidity conditions of 40 to 60% RH and temperature conditions of 18 to 27 degrees Celsius. Extended storage outside these levels can damage the flooring. It might be noted that storage in a van can exceed these levels.

Acclimatisation

The floorboards will need at least 48 hours to acclimatize to the temperature of the room where they will be installed. Do NOT open the packs until the day of installation to avoid moisture affecting the floorboards. The product should be checked by the installer before installation with a moisture metre to be certain that the flooring has not dramatically changed moisture content since it left the The Flooring Lab warehouse. It should be approximately 8 to 10% MC.

Levelling & Subfloor Requirements

Subfloors are to be made flat through grinding and/or levelling to the following ATFA and Australian Standards AS 1884:2012.

Floating Engineered Floors: Not to exceed 3mm variance under a 1-metre straight edge.

Direct Stick Engineered Floors: Not to exceed 3mm variance under a 3-metre straight edge.

Concrete subfloors must be protected by a moisture barrier or 200-micron plastic sheeting if above 75%RH – ASTM 2170-02. Timber subfloors must also be checked for high moisture prior to installation. High readings can be caused by poor underfloor drainage or leaks and will affect the finished flooring if not rectified.

- **TFL Herringbone Flooring can only be installed using the Direct Stick method.**

Floating Installation Instructions

During installation, no adjacent end joints should be closer than 200mm or any end boards less than 200mm in length.

It is also highly recommended that during the installation process the correct PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) is used by the installer. These include P2-rated face masks, protective glasses or face shields, steel-capped boots and protective work gloves.

The length of any run, end on end, should not exceed 20 metres without an internal expansion joint. If this occurs it is highly recommended that The Flooring Lab is contacted for advice re expansion allowances. A copy of the floorplan or drawing should also be sent to the supplier to assist this assessment.

Expansion joints should be fitted to compartmentalise a larger floor area so it can move correctly as a raft. This can be done in doorways or natural transitions from one area to another.

At doorways or transitions, the door jambs, architraves or door frames need to be undercut well and all material removed for the timber floor to slide under and move freely. A gap of 1 mm is recommended above the surface of the flooring.

The Flooring Lab recommends at least a 10-15mm expansion gap be allowed around the perimeter of a floating floor. At no point should the flooring be in contact with any solid structure. The flooring must be allowed to move freely with no side pressure.

A 2 or 3mm closed cell foam underlay, fitted with the plastic moisture barrier must be installed prior to any floating floor installation. Also be aware that the moisture barrier on underlays can be ineffective against moisture within the concrete slab, in excess of 75% RH-ASTM 2170-02. In this case, it is strongly advised that you first install a 200um plastic moisture barrier sheet first on the concrete and then the underlay. Overlap the plastic moisture barrier sheet by at least 150 mm and tape joins fully with moisture-proof tape. All underlay joints should be sealed with a moisture-proof tape.

When installing a TFL product on stairs the product must be directly stuck with the appropriate polyurethane / MS adhesive to the existing tread & riser. Matching stair nosing to be fitted on the front edge of each step. Also please make sure that the stair nosing meets the slip test guidelines for each state in Australia.

Apply Crosslinked PVA adhesive to groove of plank (length-wise & end groove). Insert into Tongue of previously laid plank. Use blue painters tape across the planks to prevent any creeping of the timber (remove after 3 hours). Allow 24 hours for complete curing of the glue before use of your floor.

Direct Stick Installation Instructions

All direct stick subfloors should be checked and logged for moisture content of both timber or concrete subfloors. If installed over a concrete slab it is vital that the Relative Humidity (RH) of the slab be checked using the ASTM F 2170 test method/ AS 1884:2012. This information must be kept for later reference.

If a timber substrate is high in moisture, this suggests that there is an issue with water or moisture under the subfloor and must be addressed prior to installation.

If installed directly over a solid strip timber floor, TFL flooring must be laid perpendicular to the direction of the current flooring.

The subfloor surface should be checked for any contamination or structural damage prior to installation that might affect the adhesion or performance of the floor.

TFL highly recommend that the flooring be installed using an industry level flooring system including a vapour moisture barrier and polyurethane /MS timber floor adhesive. The installation instructions of the manufacturer must be followed fully. It must be noted that the correct trowel is replaced regularly to ensure the correct coverage.

The installer must ensure the timber adheres to the subfloor. This might require extra weights or temporary fixing in some circumstances to ensure full contact with the adhesive bed. It might be noted that 80% of the flooring must be in direct permanent contact to the glue line.

The length of any run, end on end, should not exceed 20 metres without an internal expansion joint. If this occurs it is highly recommended that The Flooring Lab is contacted for advice re expansion allowances. A copy of the floorplan or drawing should also be sent to the supplier to assist this assessment.

If the TFL flooring is installed over a heated slab the additional use of PVA adhesive in the joins is recommended to lessen the chance of gapping. *See floating floor PVA instructions.*

Installation Over Hydronic Underfloor Heating

After floor installation is complete, your flooring requires gradual acclimatisation in conjunction with the heating system.

The underfloor heating system temperature is to be increased by 2 degrees increments each day until the desired temperature is reached. When heating is turned off, it should also be decreased by 2 degrees increments. This will allow the flooring to acclimate to the home.

The Timber flooring surface temperature must not exceed 27 degrees Celsius at any time.

Shrinking between boards, desiccation, cracking and minor cupping can be expected when installing over hydronic underfloor heating and does not constitute a product defect.

Only in-slab underfloor heating, such as hydronic heating, is recommended.

On-slab heating, installed on the surface of the subfloor is not recommended.

Never place floor covering or rugs immediately after installation, or when using Under Floor Heating.

Post Installation

After installation, if other trades are still to complete their work, a breathable or permeable protective covering should be installed over the flooring. The flooring must be clean and clear of any debris prior to the fitting of protection. The product should only be taped at the joins and should not be taped to the flooring.

The Floorig Lab does not recommend using any kind of adhesive tape (even low tack) directly on a pre-finished flooring surface. The chemicals in the tape can react with the coating, causing it to peel off when the tape is removed.

Care should be taken if the exterior of the home is not paved as gravel and debris can damage the surface of flooring as other trades enter the building. Walk off mats or protection is recommended during this period.

Excessive use of corrosive chemicals such as turpentine, ammonia or large amounts of water to complete a builders clean will damage the product surface.

Prior to handover any direct sunlight from unprotected windows should be covered to avoid damage.

Should floor coverings be used, it is recommended to remove them every three weeks to avoid differentiation in colour.