BESWICK OAK
CIRENCESTER

Information Engineered Wood Flooring

Please take time to read through this information sheet before taking any action with your engineered oak flooring from Beswick Oak. It contains important information on correct storage, basic maintenance and the recommended glue-down method of installation. Please note this is a guide only and does not replace the need to employ a competent, experienced & insured installer. Beswick Oak is a supply only company and is not liable for any installation claim that may arise.

Engineered wood floors are suitable for all rooms other than those that are subject to excessive moisture and high levels of humidity.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All wood is hydroscopic (it will react to the moisture in the environment) and as a result will expand or contract accordingly. All sources of moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor, and moisture levels in rooms fitted with wood flooring should be maintained at a stable level, in line with normal living conditions. Any construction dampness must be completely dry. It is advisable to open a few cartons at a time to mix boards from each pack as they are installed.

Storage & General Information

- The flooring should be placed in the room where it is to be installed to acclimatise for 1week to 10days. It should be carefully stacked, in its packaging, to allow air to circulate. The boards should be stored and laid in a relative humidity between 45%-65% and at a room temperature of between 18°C and 21°C.
- All substrates must be structurally sound, flat and dry. The surface should be free of all contaminants and loose material. All potential sources of moisture e.g. walls, drains, damp proof courses, plumbing, fridges, washing machines etc. MUST be thoroughly checked and rectified if found to be an issue.
- The boards should be installed lengthways towards the main incoming light source and, where possible, down the length of the room.
- Engineered wood flooring is a natural product which will mature with age. The shade of your floor will change through exposure to sunlight.
- It is advised to install this floor glued down on a level and solid subfloor. The floor can be installed on most existing floors, e.g. wooden floors, concrete/screed floors. Make sure your concrete/screed subfloor is dry enough before you start. Use a hygrometer to check the humidity of the subfloor is less than 2%.
- In case of installation on floor with underfloor heating this should be less than 2%. Always use a moisture barrier. This oak floor is suitable for installation on under floor heating on condition that is a non-reversable or non-electrical floor heating with a maximum temperature of 27°C on the surface. There has to be a relative humidity between 45-65%. **Please refer to our Engineered Oak Floors Underfloor Heating Installation Information guide available to download from each oak product page on our websites.**

If installing onto a concrete or screed base

- In good drying conditions allow one day per 1mm of new screed/concrete to ensure it is dry. Further time may be necessary depending on site conditions.
- Existing screeds/concrete must be checked for moisture. This can easily be carried out using a moisture metre (hygrometer).

If installing onto a wooden subfloor

Engineered wood flooring can be fixed directly onto prepared floorboards. If the existing floorboards are sufficiently flat, the new boards can be laid directly on to them at 90°. If the existing floor is not suitably flat, then it must be made flat and level by overlaying with Exterior Grade plywood. All loose boards must be secured before overlaying with marine ply or the engineered oak floor or the new floor may squeak. Please note: If nails/staples/screws are being used, care must be taken not to damage pipes or electrical cables beneath. If the new boards are to be laid in the same direction as the old, plywood sheets (minimum depth 6 mm) should be nailed, stapled or screwed to cover the existing floor, allowing a 10 mm perimeter gap for expansion.

Installations Methods

There are a number of methods for fixing wood floors, nailing, gluing or floating. Apart from where specified in the following sections most existing floor finishes e.g. tiles, flags, lino, carpet etc., should be removed prior to installation of a new wood floor.

We recommend fixing engineered oak, where possible, with the Glue-down method. Using a high-quality adhesive will result in the most stable floor installation as the base of each board is bonded directly to the sub-floor. No underlay is needed and no gluing of the tongue and groove is required. We recommend Bona Quantum flexible wood flooring adhesive though many other brands are available – speak with your installer as they will likely have a tried and tested product they can supply.

In some cases existing floorboards can be removed to allow for nailing directly to the joists. This is only an option with 20mm thick engineered boards and a thorough inspection of the joists, their level, their fixing etc should be undertaken. Pay particular attention to the edge of rooms to ensure adequate support for the wood floor, installation of additional support is a common need in these areas.

Glue-Down Installation

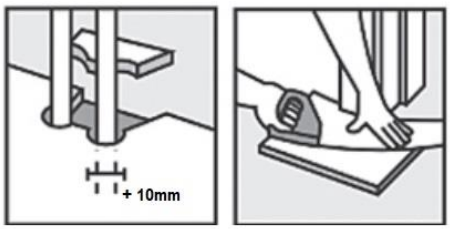
A suitable method for fixing on top of concrete or screed subfloors. Also suitable for installation over existing suitably firm and secure wooden floors. Screed floors must be dry and level with no surface lumps and/or depressions in their surface. Uneven floors must be levelled to ensure even, uniform installation of the wood flooring. The floor can be levelled up to a maximum depth of 5mm with a good quality-levelling compound. This must be allowed to dry out completely before gluing the wood boards to the screed. The adhesive is applied directly to the screed subfloor.

- Mark out a straight line parallel to the chosen wall, allowing a 10mm gap for expansion. It may be necessary to scribe the first row of boards to achieve correct alignment.
- Once the first row of boards is correctly aligned and glued in place, weigh them down while the glue sets. Any surplus glue that may seep out onto the surface of the wood must be removed immediately with a damp cloth. The glue should not be applied in the groove or tongue of the flooring.
- Continue to fit the boards from left to right. Always stagger the end joins by a minimum of 150mm and a maximum of 300mm. Measure and trim the last board to fit, allowing for the 10mm expansion gap. Where possible, use cut-offs to start the next row.
- Flooring straps can be used to pull the boards together and hold them in place whilst the glue dries.

- The expansion gap of 10mm must be maintained during installation.

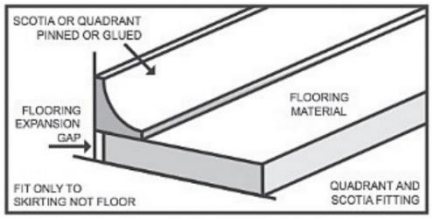
- For the last row of boards, you can use the sandwich technique to measure the width of the board required, ensuring that the row is not less than 10cm in width.

- All pipes, pillars, frames etc must be cut around to provide suitable expansion gaps.



Finishing Off

Once the flooring is installed, whichever method you have used, the expansion gap can be covered by re-fitting the skirting boards. Alternatively, if the skirting has been kept in place attaching some molding trims to the skirting using glue or panel pins will also achieve the desired results. At doorways a door threshold strip should be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.



Care and Maintenance

This flooring is, as any other wooden floor, subject to small impressions and scratches. Please take the following precautions to minimise them.

- It is recommended that you use soft protective felt pads under chairs, table legs and other furniture (a plastic mat should be used with office chairs on wheels). Wood floors will mark with use, which adds to its character.
- Rubber based castor cups should be used for heavy load furniture such as armchairs and pianos.
- Doormats should be used inside and outside of all external doorways to prevent grit from being carried across the floor, protecting the surface from excessive wear and tear. Be sure that the backing of the mat is not rubber.
- For regular cleaning just hoover* or sweep and mop up any spills as they occur with a dry or damp cloth (we recommend that cloths be rung until no more drips are present before wiping the floor), do not apply cleaning products to the cloth.
- Avoid prolonged contact with water.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring powder as this may damage the surface of your floor. Your floor has a surface layer protecting the wood from damage, which is durable and easily maintained.

*ensure your hoover attachments are in good condition and are not jagged, cracked, broken or made of metal as this can scratch the wood floor.

For weekly maintenance (or for use as much as you like) the Bona Premium Spray Mop for Oiled Wood Floors is the easiest and most effective way of cleaning oiled wood floors in the home. Simply spray and wipe the floor clean. It cleans and nourishes your oiled wood floor while providing extra protection. The cleaner contains oil so it keeps the floor nourished constantly and delays the oil from drying out. Its only when the oils dry out that stains can occur as when fully oiled this protects spills from staining.

DO NOT clean your oiled floor with a polish or classic detergent. It is also not recommended to mop the floor with water only.

Colour Fade Information:

All oak flooring products go through colour development within the first 6 months of being laid, it is during this time that rugs, furniture etc. should be moved around to allow sunlight to hit the previously covered areas of your floors. This will equalize the UV and IR light exposure and even out the fading process so a consistent colour will be achieved within the entire room. It is good practice to remove rugs from your oak floor whenever you can, for example if you go away on holiday, giving it even more opportunity to equalize out. It makes sense that if you can keep sunlight off your floor, it won't fade as much. Drapes, curtains, shutters or blinds are some of the best defences against fading hardwood floors. If you keep them closed on the side of your house when the sun is hitting the windows it will drastically cut down on any UV and infrared light reaching the floor.