





# HERRINGBONE

# FLOOR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



These instructions can be downloaded from our website [www.wrg.ie](http://www.wrg.ie)

Beautiful floors are a product of nature and therefore, not perfect. Hardwood floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type. Prior to the installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the job-site environment and the subfloor surfaces involved, meet or exceed all requirements as stipulated in these installation instructions.

We do not accept any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with subfloor surface or job-site environment deficiencies. The installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. He must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects, whatever the cause. Use of stain, filler or putty stick for defect correction during installation should be accepted as normal procedure. When hardwood flooring is ordered, on average 15% must be added to the actual square metres needed as allowance for cutting waste and/or mis-manufacture. Should an individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece.

**DO NOT INSTALL ANY QUESTIONABLE OR DEFECTIVE PRODUCT.**

**NOTE: IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED THAT YOU EMPLOY A PROFESSIONAL FLOORING CONTRACTOR WHO OWNS A MOISTURE METER TO LAY YOUR FLOORING. IT IS THE INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE MOISTURE OF THE CONCRETE AND OTHER CONDITIONS IN THE HOUSE BEFORE LAYING THE FLOOR**

## **STAGE 1: BEFORE YOU START – JOB SITE INSPECTION**

### **Acclimatisation and Storage**

The floor should be stored horizontally in the room that is being fitted for at least 7 days before installation – the longer the better. Failure to acclimatize may cause excessive expansion and contraction. Do not open the packs prior to installation.

The room temperature should be 18 - 22°C and the relative humidity between 40 - 60% for a minimum of 14 days prior to the installation of the flooring as well as during and after the fitting. The fitter should carry out these tests. Do not install timber flooring in rooms where the heating system has not been commissioned. Never bring flooring into a house which is not to the above conditions. It is vital that the packs are stacked correctly and horizontally. Place at least 3 laths between the ground and first row. The best way to stack the packs is to place laths between each row.

### **Sub-floor Evenness and Cleanliness**

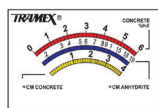
It is imperative to ensure that your cement or wood sub-floor is level (to within 3mm over a 1 metre span) and that it is clean, dry and secure. Failure to do this may result in edge damage to the boards or noise related issues e.g. squeaking. It is the fitter's responsibility to ensure that the floor is level and clean. Any remaining residues or dirt should be removed.

### **IMPORTANT: Sub-floor Moisture Cement Screeds (See Scale):**

The moisture of the concrete floor must not be over 3% (2.0% C.M.) based on Traxem Concrete Encounter Red Scale in diagram - this should be tested with an appropriate moisture meter e.g. Traxem Concrete Encounter. If the cement sub-floor moisture level is too high, either wait until it is dry or use a Liquid PU Primer such as Vermeister Primer SF which will seal cement floors up to 6% moisture on the Traxem Concrete Encounter Red Scale (4.0% C.M.).

### **Pump / Anhydrite Screeds:**

For pump/liquid (calcium or anhydrite) screeds, the moisture level should be 0.3% CM for underfloor heating (Use Traxem Concrete Encounter blue scale). Our Vermeister Primer SF can be used for anhydrite liquid screed to max 0.5% CM (One coat only).



### **Timber Subfloor:**

Suitable timber subfloors include flooring grade plywood or OSB Grade 3 (Kiln Dried approx. 12%). Construction Plywood is not a suitable sub-floor due to its high moisture content. A moisture check should be done on all timber board subfloors prior to installation and moisture content should be between 10-12%.

### **Inspect Flooring**

Prior to installation, the fitter should inspect each board in daylight for any visible faults or damage and also check the colour, structure and finish. The installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture and factory finish. They must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects, whatever the cause. Once a board is fitted, it is deemed to be acceptable. It is the responsibility of the fitter and the end user to ensure that the grading of the floor is correct. Always select boards from different bundles to ensure an even appearance.

**NO CLAIMS ARE ACCEPTED ONCE THE FLOORING BOARDS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.**

## **STAGE 2: INSTALLATION - ENGINEERED FLOORING**

### **METHODS OF INSTALLATION**

- 1: Glue Down Installation**
- 2: Installation over Under-floor Heating**
- 3: Installation details**

### **1: GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION**

**Engineered herringbone flooring must be glued down fully to subfloor - no exceptions** Suitable subfloors for glue down installation include cement screeds, ceramic tile, flooring grade plywood or OSB Grade 3 (Kiln Dried approx. 12%). Construction Plywood is not a suitable subfloor due to its high moisture content. All cement screeds must be properly cured, clean, dry and free of contaminants such as sealers and old adhesive residue. All subfloors must be structurally flat within industry standards of 3mm variance across 1mt. All subfloor surfaces must have a sound but still 'rough' or porous surface in order to ensure a good bond with the adhesive. Old adhesive residues should be removed. A slick or sealed surface should be pre-sanded.

Glue down installation requires that a quality low water solvent free based adhesive be used, using a trowel and spread rate as specified by the adhesive manufacturer. The recommended adhesive for most installations is Griptight 50 PRO PLUS Adhesive or equivalent. See adhesive manufacturer's installation instructions for specific rules and guidelines regarding installation procedures and acceptable subfloors. Any questions regarding the acceptability of a concrete slab or any other type of subfloor or subfloor coating for application of an adhesive, is the sole responsibility of the adhesive manufacturer and the flooring contractor. Remove wet adhesive immediately as it can be very difficult to remove once cured. The recommended trowel is a 5.5mm V Notch trowel to ensure maximum coverage and a good bond between the subfloor and wood flooring. Larger notch trowels will result in less m2 coverage per kg.

Expansion: Always remember to leave an expansion gap of 15mm at walls, pillars, doorways or fixed objects etc and around the entire perimeter. For pipes: Drill a hole with a diameter about 15mm larger than that of the pipe. In the case of solid flooring or large areas of engineered flooring, it may be necessary to leave additional expansion through the floor as well as around the perimeter. It is the fitter's responsibility to calculate what additional expansion may be required.

### **2: UNDERFLOOR HEATING:**

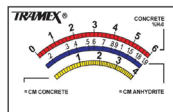
Your engineered floors are suitable for use over underfloor heating. Please follow below guidelines and information. It is very important that the moisture content of the subfloor which your floor will be laid onto is at the correct moisture level. To avoid cracks in new subfloors, you need a natural drying time of approx. one week per cm thickness of the screed. You can turn on the heat after the above has been achieved. Raise the water temperature by 5 degrees per day till you reach maximum capacity and leave the heating on for 14 days. This is important as a relatively small moisture percentage can cause movement issues with your floor.

After these 14 days, switch the heating off for at least 1 week. If necessary, the floor can be levelled and primed at this stage. A floor should be levelled with a high quality latex levelling compound if outside tolerances of 3mm over 1 metre. A moisture check must also be done on the screed prior to any installation. The surface temperature below the floor must never exceed 27 degrees and the maximum difference of room temperature per 24h is 3 degrees Celsius.

### **Glue Down Installation Recommendations (Please follow below guidelines and glue down installation instructions):**

- Liquid PU primer – Vermeister Primer SF (see below guidelines for use)
- Griptight 50 PRO PLUS Flexible Adhesive Glue

**Note: For a glue-down installation, please turn heat off / to minimum 2 days before installation. You can turn on the heating system again two days after installation - again with maximum increments of 3°C room temperature per day. We recommend that a high quality flexible glue (suitable for U/F Heating) such as Griptight 50 PRO PLUS Adhesive is used for glue down installations.**



### **GUIDELINES:**

- Moisture of cement must not be higher than 3% (2.0% C.M.) based on Traxem Concrete Encounter Red Scale in diagram - this should be tested with an appropriate moisture meter e.g. Traxem Concrete Encounter.
- If the cement sub-floor moisture level is too high, either wait until it is dry or use a Liquid PU Primer such as Vermeister Primer SF, which will seal cement floors up to 6% moisture on the Traxem Concrete Encounter Red Scale (4.0% C.M.).
- For anhydrite or calcium screeds (pump screeds), the moisture level must be 0.3% CM or below based on Traxem Concrete Encounter Blue Scale). Our Vermeister SF Primer can be used for anhydrite liquid screed to max 0.5% CM (One coat only).
- The floor needs to be level – (Max 3mm deviation over 1mt)
- Bring flooring into house in normal living conditions i.e. Temp >18°, Humidity 40-60%
- Surface temperature of screed not to exceed 27° degrees Celsius
- Use a quality flexible glue such as Griptight 50 PRO PLUS that is suitable for under-floor heating (if glue down)

**IMPORTANT: RETAIN SEVERAL LEFTOVER BOARDS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE REPAIRS**

## **CARING FOR YOUR PREFINISHED FLOOR**

Prefinished floors are among the easiest floor finishes to care for. The floor finish consists of resistant, UV-hardened acrylic varnish. It is formaldehyde-free and environmentally friendly. We recommend cleaning and maintenance as follows:

### **REGULAR CARE**

#### **Dry cleaning:**

It is usually sufficient to dry-clean prefinished surfaces with a mop, brush or vacuum. Heel streaks or grease stains can be easily removed with clean & green® active.

#### **Damp cleaning:**

For protection of the prefinished surface a treatment is necessary. Your floor should be cleaned regularly depending on the wear and tear of the surface with clean & green® natural diluted in water. Add ½ dosage cap of clean & green® natural to 5 litres (1.3 gal.) of water. Then wipe the surface with a well-wrung, slightly damp cloth. Don't clean the floor surface too damp, always avoid letting water stand on the surface. By polishing the floor with a cloth afterwards, you can optimize the shine of your floor's surface. Steam cleaning machines are not suitable for cleaning prefinished flooring.

#### **INTENSIVE CARE**

#### **Damp cleaning:**

As the floor will be subject to high traffic, the floor surface will need to be deep-cleaned periodically, depending on dirt build-up. Please use clean & green® active for deep cleaning. Add ½ dosage cap of clean & green® active to 5 litres (1.3 gal.) of water. Then wipe the surface with a well-wrung, slightly damp cloth. Do not clean the floor too damp, always avoid letting water stand on the surface. If required, repeat the process.

### **Refreshing:**

To optically refresh the floor and improve durability, we recommend that you use Clean & Green AquaShield. Start by thoroughly cleaning the floor (dust-free). We recommend Clean & Green Active for this job. Clean & Green AquaShield is applied on diluted with a rectangular/square cotton cover mop. Evenly apply the AquaShield in overlapping lines. Wait about two hours before subjecting the floor to traffic and load. The application of Clean & Green AquaShield can lead to changes in the gloss level.

### **BASIC PROTECTION**

In maintaining the appearance of your prefinished floor it is always beneficial to use protective felt pads under chairs and table legs. A further recommendation is to use the polycarbonate mats under chair wheels at areas of extreme concentration and wear.

### **ENTRANCE BARRIER MATTING**

We recommend that good quality entrance barrier mats are used at all external entrances to the hardwood flooring to collect grit and moisture from the underside of footwear. We strongly recommend that at least 2 - 3 foot falls are allowed for. Vacuum and clean the mat regularly. If you must move heavy pieces of furniture (e.g. refrigerator, sofa etc), never slide them directly over the flooring. Instead, place a piece of carpet face down between the legs and the floor and pull on the carpet to move the furniture.

### **SPILLAGES**

Engineered floors have a level of water resistance; however damage can occur if spillages of liquid onto the surface are not wiped up immediately. Extra coats of site applied lacquer will increase the water resistance of the floor. However it will not be waterproof.