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P. 09 440 9625

Oak Oiled Wood Floors G5 Locking System Installation Guidelines

INSTALLER'S RESPONSIBLITY

It is the installer's responsibility to carry out the final inspection of the floor to ensure the colour, grade, quality, manufacture and factory finish of the product is acceptable. Additionally, the inspection of all flooring must be done before installation. Carefully examine the flooring for colour, finish and quality before installing it. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause. If the product is deemed not acceptable for any reason, do not install it and contact your supplier immediately. The product must be checked with the end user to ensure the correct product has been supplied. Once a product has been laid, and later discovered to be incorrect, or any boards deemed to be defective, no financial assistance can be given, nor can the product be returned.

IMPORTANT !

To keep the wood in excellent condition it is imperative that the humidity level be controlled at all times, from delivery to laying the floor, and during the years that follow installation. The optimal humidity range for hardwood flooring is 45-60%; temperature should be maintained at about 18^{o}C.

Flooring should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions. Care should be taken to store the wood flat; packs should never be lent against a wall. Pre-finished, engineered boards should be left in the packaging in the room where it is to be laid until you are ready to lay the floor (at least 48 hours). Upon delivery, check wood flooring moisture content with a moisture meter to establish a baseline for required acclimatisation. All flooring contractors should possess a moisture meter.

A waste factor of 5-10% should be taken into account. The expansion required for any hardwood flooring installation will vary depending on the type of flooring, timber species and the size of the room. As a general rule we recommend at least 10-15mm expansion gap for Engineered floors around the perimeter of the room, at doorways and any other vertical surfaces. These expansion gaps can be covered by mouldings e.g. skirtings and undercutting the Gib wall lining if necessary.

-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. If floors are 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 10-15mm 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 or glued to the stairs. Stair Nosing mouldings should be installed using either screw type fasteners, nails or suitable strong glue.

FOR EASE OF INSTALLATION THE FOLLOWING TOOLS ARE REQUIRED
Saw, D3 Cross Linking PVA Glue (for where any end or side joints need modifying), Hammer (500g minimum), Tape Measure, Pencil, Professional Knocking Block, Professional Pull Bar, Drill, Wedges and a "T" square.

PRE INSTALLATION

The choice of installation method depends on the specific circumstances and the requirements of the final floor.
Before selecting an installation method the floor must be assessed for the following criteria:

Is the subfloor wet? Moisture tests should be carried out on all ground floor installations and all new build upper floor levels where a screed has been used. Moisture readings above 70% relative humidity (RH) indicate a damp floor. If the floor is to be glued down, in all cases it is advisable to use a moisture retarding system that is matched to the brand of glue being used.

Is the subfloor smooth? If the subfloor is not smooth enough to accommodate the wood flooring, apply a smoothing compound to level out the floor. Industry standard is no more than 3mm variance over a 3m radius.

Is the substrate a sound, strong material?
If not screeding of the floor will need to be carried out.

Is there a requirement for improved acoustics?
Consider acoustic underlays. Creative Flooring supplies acoustic underlay for such proposes.

For heated slabs we only recommend the use of water borne systems. Please request our installation guidelines for such situations.

Before beginning the actual installation, spread out short and long lengths equally over the area where the floor is to be installed.

Work out of several packs at a time to ensure an even colour and shade distribution over the whole floor.

GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION

Ensure the sub floor is checked and prepped according to the pre installation instructions above.

ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT
Align the first row of planks to be sure that you have a good straight line from one side of the room to the other. Put a chalk line at the desired distance from the wall to help align the planks. Important: Align the first piece on the chalk line. The groove side and end will be facing the starting wall. Work out of several packs at a time to ensure an even colour and shade distribution over the whole floor.

Apply the adhesive as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Flooring must be adjusted with a block and mallet immediately after laying and before glue hardens.

G5 locking systems are preferred by many installers for their ease of the drop down end locking system.

See the floating floor instructions for further details and guidelines for installation.

FLOATING INSTALLATION

Before floating installation of the floor begins, ensure all necessary sub floor checks and floor prep have been completed as explained in the Pre-Installation section.

Install an underlay that incorporates a polythene moisture barrier membrane. Run the underlay in the same direction as the flooring. The underlay should be butted side by side with no overlap. Tape seams together with an appropriate vapour joint tape. Your floor has a drop lock profile and can be installed as a floating floor without using adhesive on the board joints.

Leave an open expansion gap of 10mm around the whole perimeter edge of the floor (use wedges or spacers) and around any pipes, stairs, columns, doorframes, doorway thresholds and where the flooring meets any fixed object.

Where the flooring run exceeds 10 linear metres in width or length, insert an "in floor" 10mm expansion gap by using an appropriate T mould section. The floor must be able to naturally expand so do not install any boards tight to any construction part of the building or adjoining floors.

Measure the width of the room to be fitted and divide the size by the surface width of the boards to be installed. From this calculate the width of the final row of boards and if the width of this row is less than 50mm cut the width off the first row of boards to an appropriate width size so as to ensure the final row of boards exceeds 50mm.

Fig 1. First Row
Leave a 10mm expansion gap and begin in one corner working from left to right with the tongue sides of the board towards the wall.

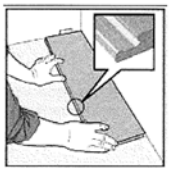

Fig 2.
Place the second floorboard at an angle at the end of the first row.

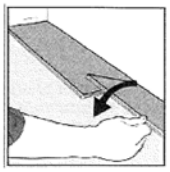

Fig 3.
Fold the panel down in a single movement, making sure the panels are tight against each other. Afterwards press or slightly knock at the end you have just installed.

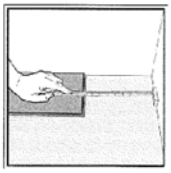

Fig 4.
Put a 10mm expansion gap at the wall and measure the distance needed for the last plank.

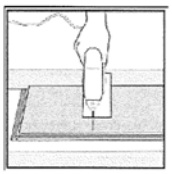

Fig 5.
Cut down to the required size with a jigsaw or a hand saw.

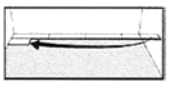

Fig 6.
Begin the second row with the piece left over from the previous cut.

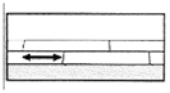

Fig 7.
Ensure header joints are no less than 400mm apart.

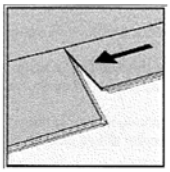

Fig 8a.
Place the second floorboard at an angle at the end of the first row.

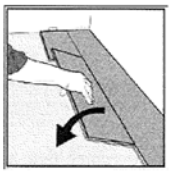

Fig 8b.
Fold the panel down in a single movement, making sure the panels are tight against each other. Afterwards press or slightly knock at the end you have just installed.

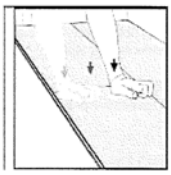

Fig 8c.
Press or knock slightly along the short end of the installed panel.

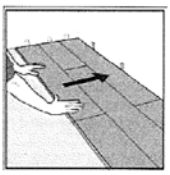

Fig 9.
After 2 to 3 rows adjust the distances to the front or back wall by 10mm.

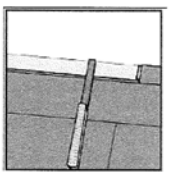

Fig 10.
When it comes to the last row leave a 10mm expansion gap and make sure the pieces installed are of a minimum width of 50mm.

Disassembling (without a tool) your floor can easily be disassembled, which enables a quicker replacement during installation.

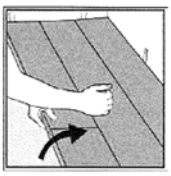

Fig 11.
Separate the whole row by carefully lifting it up and gently knocking just above the joint. Lift up and release the whole long side.

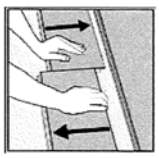

Fig 12.
Disassemble the panels by sliding horizontally (do **not** lift up).

Further Laying tips

Where there are pipes or anything else protruding from the floor, place a board into the next row, take exact measurements and mark the sections to be cut on the back of the board. Drill or cut out the area needed, remembering to leave an expansion gap. Cut the board from the hole to the edge at an angle of 45 degrees. Apply PVA adhesive to the edges of the cut board and fit into place. Care should be taken to leave an expansion gap between the board and the wall.

Door frames and other wooden elements should be sawn off to allow the board to slide underneath. Again, remember to leave expansion gaps.

INSTALLATION OVER UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Hot Water Pipe Systems - Engineered Hardwood Flooring Only

GENERAL GUIDANCE

The maximum temperature at the point of contact (where the heating meets the underside of the hardwood floor) is 27^{o}C. In order to ensure that this is adhered to, we recommend the use of an underfloor heating system that is controlled by floor sensors - a probe - and allows for a gradual increase of the temperature. Please refer to the Underfloor Heating Manufacturer's instructions and our guidelines for heated floor installations (available on request) for more details.

POST INSTALLATION

Heating systems may have to be utilised throughout the year to maintain the correct humidity level. The installation of a humidifier or an air exchange system can prove indispensable in controlling humidity.

Above all don't forget that wood is a natural, living material and that you must look after it for life. A proper maintenance programme should always be carried out. Barrier matting should be placed at all exterior doorways. Remember that pet's claws, stiletto heels, and dirt/grit left on the floor can scratch wood; regular maintenance should be carried out to prevent this. Refer to our maintenance instructions included in this pack or refer to our website, **www.creativeflooring.nz**.

PLEASE LEAVE FOR FLOORING OWNER TO READ

Thank You for Purchasing

Hardwax Oiled Wood Flooring

PLEASE DO NOT INTRODUCE ANY MOISTURE TO THE FLOOR FOR THE FIRST 10 DAYS AFTER LAYING

This wood floor has been finished with Hardwax Oil and will take up to 10 days from being laid, to fully cure.

Please dry clean only using a vacuum cleaner, soft bristle broom or dry microfibre mop for the first 10 days after the wooden flooring has been laid.

Once the floor has cured it is:

- Resistant to Saliva and Perspiration per DN V 53160/ 1-2.
- Resistant to staining from Water, Coffee, Beer, Cola & Red Wine.
- Wood treated with Hardwax oils are safe and suitable for toys.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE
Cleaning and Maintennce of floors treated with Hardwax Oils

Protecting the oiled floor: Place felt mats under chairs and tables. Never place plants directly onto a wooden floor. Always use a pot stand or dish.

Dry cleaning of the floor: Preferably remove loose dirt with a vacuum cleaner. Any remaining grains of sand may cause scratches in the surface. Only dry clean the newly oiled floor during the first 10 days.

Wet cleaning of the floor: Mop stubborn dirt away with appropriately diluted Wash and Care Cleaner and a microfibre spray mop. Allow the floor to dry completely before walking on it. It is best to use our Wash and Care product (or a Ph neutral cleaner) as it is 100% compatible with our Hardwax Oils. Avoid anything that has any ammonia in its ingredients as this strips oils from the floor.

Maintenance of the floor: Depending on the intensity of use, treatment with Maintenance Oil must be carried out periodically in order to keep the floor in optimum condition. First thoroughly clean the floor with Wash and Care Cleaner and allow it to dry completely. Apply Maintenance Oil to small areas in an even layer with a cloth with the grain of the wood. For larger areas we recommend using a buffing machine. Dribble the Maintenance Oil in the shape of a snake and polish it in with a buffing machine with a thick white pad. 1 litre of Maintenance Oil is sufficient for approximately 70 to 100m2. Drying time: 6 to 12 hours (depending on temperature and ventilation).

For detailed product information, refer to the packaging and technical product sheets available from Creative Flooring.

Frequency of maintenance and cleaning	Regular cleaning	Maintenance for normal use of the floor	Maintenance for intensive use of the floor
Oiled floor	Wash and Care / Micro Fibre Spray Mop	1 x every 2 years Maintenance Oil	1 x a year Maintenance Oil

YOUR OILED WOOD FLOORING

Oil is a traditional finish for wood flooring. Wood finished by this method possesses a soft, natural sheen and mellows with age.

It is more forgiving of scratches and scuffing, as more oil can be rubbed into the odd scratch, virtually erasing it.

It is important to remember that wood flooring is a living material.

The wood, although no longer growing as part of a tree, is still very much a part of its environment, responding to light, temperature, humidity and wear.

The general rule is that a wood floor takes four seasons to settle into its environment.

It is normal to see some movement in the boards, as some gaps do open up owing to changes in temperature and humidity, which are brought about by heating and the naturally changing seasons of the year.

As the floor ages, the colour will mellow and oak up. This is no cause for alarm as it is a natural process due to the oxidation of the wood and finish and the ultraviolet light present in sunlight.

This same process is occurring to your painted surfaces, upholstery, furniture and rugs.

With the correct care, your floors will stay beautiful for many years to come. Common sense and a few preventative steps can lengthen the life of your floors.

A regular cleaning routine will simplify your floor care. Good Preventative maintenance lengthens the time between major renovations, such as re-oiling, re-coating and re-finishing.

Dust and dirt are your floor's worst enemy. Dust mop, vacuum or sweep regularly.

To keep your floors as beautiful as the day they were installed or re-finished, simply follow these easy steps and always use the manufacturer's recommended cleaning product:

- **Wood and Water DON'T mix!!!** Excessive amounts of water (moisture) can cause your wood floor to swell and cup.
- Only use a slightly damp mop to clean your wood floors.
- Vacuum beater bars can cause damage to your floor's surface. If possible, turn off the beater bar, or use the hose or wand attachment with a soft upholstery nozzle for your wood floor.
- Never place potted plants directly in contact with your wooden flooring, even if they are placed in waterproof saucers as condensation can develop under the saucers and damage your floor. To avoid this, place your plants on trivets or stands, so that air can circulate underneath.
- Dog and cat nails can scratch and dent your floor's surface. Keep nails trimmed regularly, and immediately clean up pet urine, as it will damage the floor's finish if allowed to dry.
- Use dirt-trapping, walk-off mats at all exterior doors to prevent dirt and sand (which can act like sandpaper) from entering the building.
- Vacuum, sweep or dust mop as needed to remove dirt and grit prior to cleaning your wood floor.
- Use area rugs on high traffic pathways and pivot areas; at ends of steps, near doorways, etc.
- All rugs should allow your wood floor to breathe.
- Avoid rubber-backed or non-ventilated rugs.
- Wipe up food or other spills immediately, using the manufacturer's recommended cleaner and a soft cloth.
- Use a vacuum or broom for dry spills and abrasives.
- Keep high heels in good repair. Heels that have worn down or lost their protective cap, exposing the steel support rod, will dent and pit wood.
- **Do not wear stiletto heels on any wooden floor!**
- Certain chemicals in wood oxidize in sunlight causing the floor to change colour. To avoid any uneven appearance, move area rugs occasionally and drape or shade large sun-facing windows.
- Always put felt protective pads on the legs of your furniture, this allows the furniture to be moved easily without scratching or denting your floor's finish. This also provides a sound deadening barrier but remember to replace your felt pads often, as dirt and grit can become embedded in them as they become worn.

The method for re-oiling your floor:

Thoroughly clean the floor first using Wash and Care Cleaner.

Apply a thin coat of maintenance oil either by hand, with a soft cloth, brush or buffing machine.

Let it dry, it may take a number of hours, then buff to the desired sheen either by hand, with a soft cloth or with a buffing machine if required.

All materials mentioned above, including low speed buffing machines and pads, can be obtained from your local flooring supplier or hire centre.

Will my floor age or change in colour?

Yes.

You can expect to see shade differences in your floor over time. The cause is usually from exposure to the ultra-violet rays of the sun, whether direct or indirect. This colour change will be more noticeable in lighter shades, which will darken over time. These changes are due to the natural characteristics of wood and are not covered by manufacturer's warranties.

Movement of wooden flooring:

The most important point to realise is that a wood floor is subject to expansion and contraction of the boards themselves according to the amount of moisture in the local environment.

All houses have their own indoor climate, with that we mean the amount of moisture in the air (humidity), the temperature, the type of heating and the amount of ventilation. Some factors you can control yourself, some are caused by outside conditions.

In a comfortable home with slight humidity variation through the seasons, wooden floors will react by expanding and contracting, and in some instances splits in the top layer.

These changes may be noticeable during:

- Humid weather, the wood floor may expand.
- Dry weather, the wood floor may shrink.

This seasonal movement is a normal characteristic of wooden floors and it never stops, regardless of the age of the wood floor.

The expansion and contraction is magnified when dealing with under-floor heating as the wood is subject to a higher than usual temperature and degree of moisture loss, this is intrinsic with wood flooring and not a fault.

If you notice gaps appearing between your boards 9 out of 10 times there is nothing to worry about, these gaps will reduce again when the humidity gets higher.

If your wood floor is expanding in a normally dry season (Spring/Summer), then you might have a moisture problem (leak, large spillage of water or perhaps one of your pets had an accident).

Most important to keep your wood floor healthy, is to provide a stable building humidity.

The optimum temp for wooden floors (and humans) is 18 to 20^{o}C. When humidity is higher wooden floors expand. The optimum humidity range is 40-70%.

A simple way to help prevent excessive movement is to open window(s) every day, even for 10 - 15 minutes, to allow the accumulated humidity to disappear.

Alternatively, when you are away for a whole day, keep a small window upstairs open and keep all other internal doors open.

In Winter and early Spring try to keep the humidity between 50 - 65%.

**** Do not use a steam mop on Oiled Wood Floors***

For more information contact your nearest flooring retailer or go to **www.creativeflooring.nz**

PLEASE LEAVE FOR FLOORING OWNER TO READ