

tuscan engineered wood floors

# **Installation Instructions for Tuscan Engineered**

tuscan vintage Collection

## **Wood Floors**

# **Installation Instructions for your new Tuscan Engineered Wood Floor**

The key to long term performance of any floor is the quality of the installation and the immediate and ongoing care and maintenance procedures used on the floor.

**To help ensure the correct installation and care and maintenance for this floor please make sure this guide is fully read and adhered to by your floor installer prior to commencing installation.**

## **Section 1 – Installer Responsibilities**

Important points for the correct installation of your Tuscan Engineered Wood Floor

- Acclimatisation and Storage of Boxes
- Sub Floor Requirements

## **Section 2 – Installation Methods**

- Method 1 – Floating Floor
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## **Section 3 – Installation Over Underfloor Heating Systems**

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## INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITIES

The installer has **full responsibility** for checking suitability, quality, moisture condition and flatness of the sub floor that they are installing the flooring onto. The manufacturer will reject any claims of product failure that are a result of unsuitable sub floor conditions, environmental moisture conditions, incorrect installation and / or maintenance methods or non compliance with the instructions and recommendations provided.

The flooring must not be laid in unheated, humid or damp rooms such as bathrooms, saunas, laundry rooms, etc, or outdoors.

The storage room conditions for the flooring and installation room environmental conditions should be within a range of 18 – 24 deg c temperature and atmospheric humidity of 45 – 60% relative humidity.

**The boards must be individually checked both before and during the laying of the floor** with regard to recognising any visual, natural, or manufacturing faults. The installation of boards with clearly visible defects of any kind that would have been apparent at the point of installation will invalidate guarantee claims. If there are any doubts as to the quality of the boards, **clarify your concerns before** commencing or continuing the installation.

### Acclimatisation & Storage of Boxes

Flooring packs should be stored horizontally on level bearers in the room they are going to be laid in for a minimum of 48 hours **without opening the packaging**. The storage environmental conditions should be – temperature range 18 – 24 deg C & humidity range 45 – 65% relative humidity.

The box / packaging should only be opened on the day of installation.

### Sub Floor Requirements

Tuscan engineered flooring may be laid on any dry, clean, resistant and flat surface. Prior to installing your flooring the moisture content of the sub floor must be checked with an appropriate moisture meter, and readings of a maximum of 2% moisture content for a concrete sub floor, 8% moisture content for wooden or wood based sub floors and 0.5% for an anhydrite sub floor obtained. B.S. Guidelines, relating to sub floor checking and suitability, are contained within B.S. 8201:1987 / B.S 5325:2001 & B.S. 8203:2001.

Should there be any doubt as to the appropriate dryness or ongoing dryness of the sub floor then have the sub floor checked by an appropriate professional or install an appropriate damp proof membrane over the sub floor before installing the flooring.

Unsuitable levels of moisture or air humidity are the most common cause of wood floor movement issues resulting in cupping, distortion and expansion or lifting of boards.

The flatness of the sub floor surface should be measured with a minimum 2 metre long straight edge or spirit level. **The level difference should not exceed 2mm over 2 linear metres of the floor**. If the difference is larger it is vital that the sub floor is levelled to within the stated tolerance.

## INSTALLATION METHODS

Tuscan Engineered flooring can be installed in one of two methods:

### Method 1 - Floating Floor Installation

#### **Minimal Tools Required**

- Hammer (1000g)
- Tape measure
- Fine hand saw or electric saw
- Wooden wedges / spacers
- Tapping block for final positioning of boards

#### **Underlay**

Use a 3mm or 4mm foam underlay that has a polythene damp proof membrane incorporated into its design to give protection to the boards from the risk of sub floor moisture or humidity penetrating the underside of the boards.

Ensure the edges of the underlay are taped with a vapour tape to seal the joints of the underlay.

#### **Installation**

The direction in which the boards are to be laid is normally determined by the dimensions of the room. If none of the sides of the room exceed 8 linear meters, it is recommended that the boards are laid parallel to the longest wall.

Having established the direction, the width of the room should be measured. This number should then be decreased by 30mm (ie an expansion gap of 15mm at either side), and divided by the board width of the chosen product. This will then give the number of rows of boards to be assembled and the width of the final row. If the final board width is narrower than 70mm, then the first row of boards should be width trimmed accordingly to ensure the last row of boards exceeds 70mm in width.

Following installation of any sub floor DPM as necessary, and the recommended combination damp proof membrane / underlay, insert a spacer(s) of 15mm thickness against the starting wall to ensure a 15mm expansion gap is left. The first row of boards should be laid tongue facing the wall.

The individual boards should be joined at their shorter ends by locating together the profiled elements of the joint into the adjoining boards. Use the tapping block to locate the short edge tongue into the short edge groove of the previously laid board.

The last floorboard in the first row should be length cut to suit, remembering to maintain an expansion gap of 15mm into which wooden wedges/spacers should be inserted, and its end joint located and tapped into the previous board end joint using a heel iron.

The following row of boards should commence with the cut-off fragment of the board remaining from the first row, provided its length exceeds 50cm. **It is important to maintain a minimum of 50cm overlap between the ends of boards in the adjacent rows of flooring.**

The cut fragment of board from the previous row should be located into the grooved long edge of the previous row by inserting its tongue into the groove to commence the next row and pressed by hand towards the floor. Once this board is located correctly into the groove of the adjacent board, the next new board can be placed and located in the same manner and finished by tapping the short end of the board into the end joint of the previous laid board.

The subsequent rows of boards should be installed in the same manner **ensuring that the 15mm expansion gap is left at all perimeter edges of the flooring and around pipes or any other obstacles.** This is to accommodate normal seasonal movement of the product.

**ATTENTION:** No assembling belts or straps should be used when assembling the floor.

In the case of having to overcome an obstacle, such as central heating pipes, a fragment of the board needing additional manoeuvring or facilitating ought to be marked and appropriately cut out whilst remembering to maintain the 15mm expansion gap around the element to be avoided. The resulting gap between the pipes and the floor may be covered with a pipe rosette.

At door thresholds an appropriate "T" mould expansion profile must be installed to separate and accommodate any varying movement between floors in different rooms.

The last row of boards should be very carefully measured prior to laying. The final row of boards should be located and pushed together with the help of the heel / tapping iron. A 15mm expansion gap must remain between the edge of the final row of boards and the wall.

Having laid the floor, all spacers / wedges used must be removed and the remaining expansion gap should be covered with skirting boards or an appropriate edge trim or scotia bead. These must always be fastened to the wall - NEVER to the floor.

Immediately after installing the skirting or edge trims, your new floor should be cleaned, as per the care and maintenance procedures stated below, and following cleaning your new floor is ready for use.

### **Additional Installation Notes**

When assembling the floorboards, it is recommended that the maximum laid floor area without additional in-floor expansion facility is 8 linear metres across the width of the laid boards, and 15 linear metres down the length of the boards.

The following microclimatic conditions should exist within the end use room both prior to and following installation:

- Air temperature - 18-24°C
- Relative air humidity - 45-60%

Damage to the flooring caused by incorrect assembly or excess moisture / damp **does not constitute grounds for complaint.** Noises, ie occasional creaking, due to natural seasonal movement or heating cycles when using the floor are a natural feature of wooden flooring and should be regarded as such - therefore they also do not constitute grounds for complaint. Colour variation and change of hue (darkening) - which is the result of exposure to light & sun rays - is also a natural feature of wood and as such is also not grounds for complaint.

## Method 2 - Full Glue Down Installation

### **Sub Floor Checking and Preparation**

**The sub floor must be checked for suitability in all respects as per the information previously stated above - including flatness, soundness and suitable moisture content - with the appropriate equipment and as per guidelines given in B.S. 8201: 1987 / B.S. 5325:2001 & B.S. 8203:2001.**

Take appropriate measures to resolve any sub floor issues prior to installing the flooring.

**Note!** An un level sub floor could result in the boards not connecting with the adhesive and flooring deflecting excessively, and squeaking or creaking of the joints may occur.

An unsound sub floor surface can result in the sub floor surface being weak which may lead to separation of it and the floor becoming detached from the sub floor.

**If the appropriateness of the moisture content of the sub floor can not be determined or guaranteed, install an appropriate liquid damp proof membrane that is compatible with the adhesive to be used.**

Failure to protect the boards from unsuitable levels of moisture can result in the flooring cupping, expanding and distorting.

The sub floor should also comply with the following resistance requirements:

- Peel strength min. 1Mpa
- Compression strength min. 25Mpa

### **Adhering the Boards**

**For a glue down installation we recommend that an appropriate Tuscan wood flooring adhesive is used. The recommended Tuscan adhesives for this product are listed on the Tuscan flooring website - [www.tuscanflooring.co.uk](http://www.tuscanflooring.co.uk)**

**Note!** A moisture dispersion cure adhesive must not be used. If a non Tuscan recommended adhesive is used confirm the curing action of the chosen adhesive with the adhesive manufacturer.

The glue should be applied to the sub floor and spread with the recommended trowel but only apply and spread an appropriate amount of adhesive at any one time so that laying and locating the boards is workable. The boards should be laid in the same manner as the floating floor method previously advised.

Locate the boards click profile and lay the boards in the same manner as for the floating installation method and firmly press the located boards into the adhesive ensuring that a minimum of 80% of the reverse of the board is in full contact with the adhesive. If necessary weight down any boards that may have slight natural bow or springiness in them.

It is important to avoid getting adhesive onto the surface of the boards, and any adhesive or "finger dabs" of adhesive that do get on the surface of the boards should be removed **immediately** (while uncured) with an appropriate adhesive cleaner. Adhesive wipes for Tuscan recommended adhesives are available via your Tuscan adhesive supplier.

Once the installation is complete the floor may be walked on **only after the recommended curing time of the adhesive used has been reached**. Please refer to the adhesive manufacturer's instructions in this respect.

**Note!** Due to some adhesives containing solvents and active chemicals during curing, when adhering Tuscan flooring directly to the sub floor the installation room should be well-ventilated.

**Always follow the use health and safety recommendations given by the adhesive manufacturer.**

The adhering of the boards directly to the sub floor does not eradicate the occurrence of natural movement of the wood flooring. Therefore the recommended 15mm expansion gaps must be retained at all perimeter edges of the flooring.

If the flooring is being adhered to a sub floor that contains a radiant heat underfloor heating system, then **the chosen adhesive must be compatible for use over such heating systems.**

**Please check or clarify the suitability of the chosen adhesive BEFORE commencing the installation.**

## **INSTALLATION OF TUSCAN ENGINEERED FLOORING OVER UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS**

### **CAUTION**

**There are many types and manufacturers of underfloor heating systems, so please ensure that the suitability and recommendations, in relation to use over a wooden flooring product, of the particular manufacturer of your system are sought out and adhered to BEFORE commencing installation of your Tuscan engineered flooring.**

Tuscan engineered flooring is suitable for use over both water and electric underfloor heating systems that are equipped with electronic temperature controls including a thermostat /temperature reader beneath the flooring which determines the temperature immediately beneath the flooring.

You should **always** consult the manufacturer or supplier of your heating system to confirm its suitability in terms of laying a wooden floor over it, and to confirm if any specific commissioning processes in relation to your specific system should be employed - both when turning on the system for the first time, and for its use after the flooring has been installed.

Wood species of high contraction coefficient react more to temperature and air humidity changes, which, when combined with a light colour species of wood, may create or emphasise gaps more than other species. Accelerated colour change of some light species more sensitive to heat is also possible, so please clarify any queries in this respect prior to purchasing or installing your chosen Tuscan engineered flooring.

Special attention should be paid to evenly distributing the heating system under the entire surface of the floor. This will help prevent any irregular heating of the flooring, and therefore avoid any issues relating to board movement between heated and unheated areas of flooring and cold patches within the laid floor.

### Prior to Installation of the Flooring

**These instructions must be followed in conjunction with the heating system manufacturer's commissioning instructions.**

15 days prior to installation, switch on the normal heating cycle / programme for the underfloor heating system, and gradually increase the temperature setting to achieve 18°C on the surface of the sub floor for the remainder of the specified period. Then switch the heating off for 48 hours prior to commencing installation of the flooring.

The flooring should be located in the end use environment and temperature conditions prior to commencing installation.

**NOTE!** The maximum recommended underfloor heating unit power output is 100W/m<sup>2</sup>.

### Following Installation

Re-introduce the heating system beneath the flooring in a **slow, controlled manner,** using small incremental staged increases of temperature.

Switch the system on in normal operating mode and at a low operating temperature (less than 18°C). Gradually increase the temperature to 18°C **at the installed floor surface** and leave at this temperature for a minimum 48 hours. Then, if required, gradually increase the temperature by 1 or 2°C a day until your normal / optimum temperature has been reached.

**Do NOT under ANY circumstances raise the temperature of the flooring surface above 26°C as this may induce movement and distortion of the boards.**

Regardless of the heating system within the property / room, the atmospheric relative humidity in the room should be kept between 45– 60% **at all times.** Small, inexpensive room hygrometers are widely available to monitor this.

## **CARE & MAINTENANCE OF YOUR TUSCAN ENGINEERED FLOOR**

Correct care & maintenance of your Tuscan engineered floor will help ensure your floor always looks its best and will aid its long term reliability and performance.

For routine care and maintenance please follow these simple instructions:

### **INITIAL CARE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION**

Tuscan **lacquered or UV Oiled finished** floorings

- Dust the floor and if your flooring has been glued down clean off any adhesive residue with an appropriate adhesive cleaner.





- Clean the floor with “Bona - Wood Floor cleaner” taking care to use the correct type of flat mop and to follow the instructions on the container. This cleaner is available through your supplier of your Tuscan flooring.
- A Bona – “Wood Floor Cleaning Kit” is also available which includes the Bona cleaner and mop.



### **ONGOING CARE & MAINTENANCE**

- Vacuum or sweep the floor weekly, or more frequently if required. The vacuum head must be brush or soft felt. Do not use a vacuum that has beater bars or a hard metal head.
- A floor swivel head flat mop with replaceable cloth cover is highly recommended to eliminate finer particles of dirt and grit that may build up on the floor.
- Spillages and tracked in dirt should be wiped off the floor immediately.

Periodically, or as is deemed necessary based on dirt build up etc, thoroughly clean your lacquered or UV Oiled floor by using the “Bona –Wood Floor Cleaner”.

For occasional “refreshing” of your floor surface the following products are available:

Lacquered finish : Bona – “Wood Floor Refresher”



UV Oiled Floor : Carl`s – “Hardwax Oil Refresher”



**Both these refresher products should be applied using Bona – Refresher applicator pad beige.**



All these maintenance items should be available through you flooring supplier.

### **Things to “do” and be aware of:**

- **DO** - Make use of door mats at all external entrances and over high traffic areas of the floor as this will significantly help to avoid dirt and grit being walked on to the floor.
- **DO** - Use furniture protection pads under all furniture legs and feet as this will avoid damage being caused by the movement of furniture across the floor. Use work station mats at desks, under chairs and in front of any furniture where footfall is continual in a small specific area. This will avoid damage and excessive or accelerated wear from castors, chair feet and specific continual footfall in these areas.
- **DO** – Try to keep the relative humidity within the room between 45–65% as this will minimise the floors natural tendency to move during the seasons of the year. Small humidity meters can be purchased via many online companies and should be relatively inexpensive.
- **DO** - Protect your floor from constant direct sunlight where possible using curtains and blinds as areas subjected to prolonged constant sunlight will age and discolour at an accelerated rate compared to shaded areas of the floor.
- **DO** – Check the recommendations given by the manufacturer of any type of under floor heating system if there is an UFH system to be laid, or is an existing system in place, before the flooring is installed.

- **BE AWARE!** – If mats or rugs are laid on the floor, occasionally reposition them to avoid edge discolouration forming beneath them and at their edges as the flooring ages.
- **BE AWARE!** – That your floor is a natural product and as such will show signs of movement, i.e minor gapping, during the various seasons of the year as it reacts normally to its environmental conditions.
- **BE AWARE!** – That shade and colour variance is also a normal feature of wooden flooring and that “blending” of the boards is a normal part of the wood floor installation process to ensure an overall blended acceptable appearance is achieved when fitted.

**Very important “don’t’s” and things to avoid:**

- **DON’T** - “Wet mop” the flooring, as this will cause excessive expansion of the floor and possible damage to the lacquered and / or oiled surface finishes.
- **DON’T** - Walk on the floor in narrow hard, or stiletto type, heels as this may damage the surface of the flooring.
- **DON’T** – Slide heavy furniture or objects across the floor as this may also damage the surface.
- **DON’T** – Use ammonia based cleaners, acrylic finishes, wax based products, detergents, bleaches, polishes, abrasive soaps or cleaners, or any acidic based cleaners. These type of cleaners can etch, pit and discolour the surface of your flooring.
- **DON’T** – Use rugs or mats on the floor where an under floor heating system is in place as hot spots may be created under them which can affect the floor stability.
- **AVOID** - Letting pets with claws run across the flooring and always keep pets claws trimmed as animal claws may scratch the surface of the floor.
- **AVOID** – Letting sunlight shine on the floor for long periods of time as this will accelerate ageing of the floor, particularly if your room has large windows or patio doors. The use of curtains & blinds is recommended to reduce the effect of U.V. light ageing the floor.

If the relative air humidity in the room drops below 40% (eg in the heating season), air humidifiers should be utilised to keep the relative air humidity between 45–60%. Small domestic room hygrometers are commonly available for monitoring air humidity at a relatively small cost.

## **WARRANTY INFORMATION**

Your Tuscan engineered flooring has a limited 25 year residential warranty against manufacturing defect.

To maintain the validity of your warranty, your Tuscan flooring must be installed, cleaned and maintained in accordance with the published care & maintenance advice.

**Please Note!** Any long term renovation of your floor involving sanding and re-sealing will render the original warranty invalid.

Should you encounter a problem with your Tuscan engineered flooring then firstly contact your supplier of the product and advise them of your concerns as your installer / supplier should in the first instance investigate your concerns.

A copy of your Tuscan warranty is available via the Tuscan flooring website – [www.tuscanflooring.co.uk](http://www.tuscanflooring.co.uk)