

Engineered Timber Flooring: Direct Stick Installation Guide

This guide outlines the professional requirements and procedures for the **Direct Stick (Glue Down)** installation of engineered timber flooring. These guidelines are informed by **ATFA (Australasian Timber Flooring Association)** industry standards to ensure a high-quality, durable finish.

1. General Information & Pre-Installation

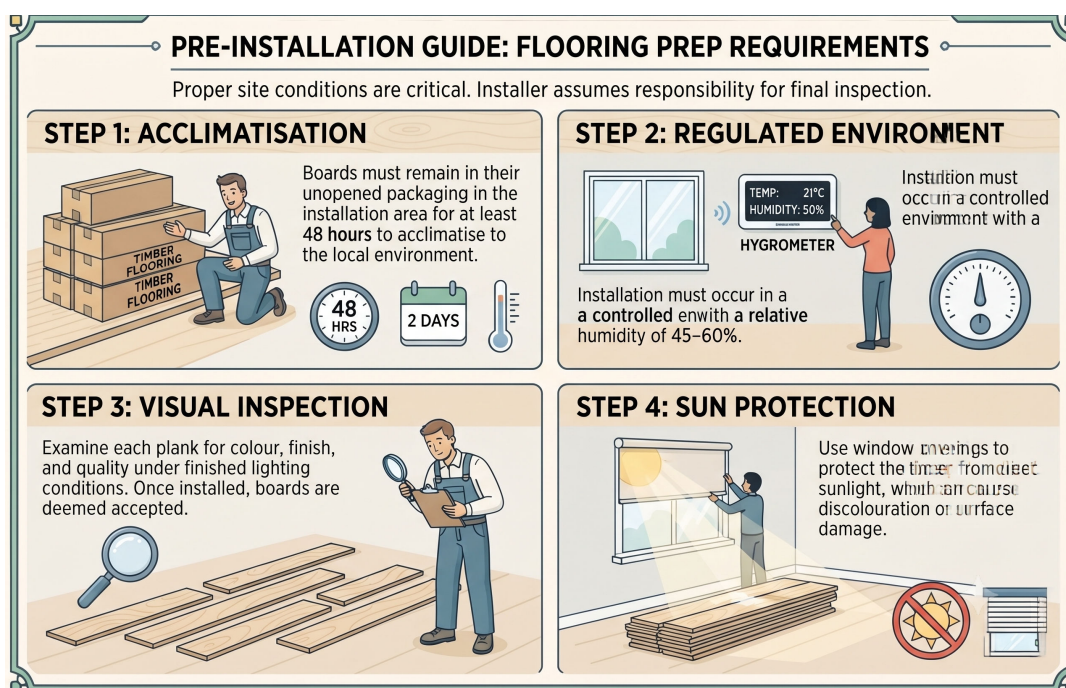
Proper site conditions are critical for a successful installation. The installer assumes all responsibility for the final inspection of product quality before boards are fixed to the subfloor.

Acclimatisation: Boards should remain in their unopened packaging in the installation area for at least 48 hours to acclimatise to the local environment.

Regulated Environment: Installation must occur in a controlled environment with a relative humidity of 45–60%.

Visual Inspection: Examine each plank for colour, finish, and quality under finished lighting conditions. Once installed, boards are deemed accepted.

Sun Protection: Use window coverings to protect the timber from direct sunlight, which can cause discolouration or surface damage.



2. Subfloor Requirements & Preparation

The subfloor must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of any deflection.

Moisture Content (ATFA Standards)

Consistent with ATFA guidelines, moisture levels must be verified using an approved moisture meter prior to installation:

Concrete/Screed: Maximum 4.5%.

Wood Subfloors: Maximum 14%.

Flatness & Surface Prep

Levelling: The subfloor must be flat. Deviations must not exceed 3mm under a 3 lineal metre straight edge.

Contaminants: The surface must be vacuumed and free of any wax, grease, or loose material that may inhibit adhesive bond.

Do not install over unstable slabs or Hebel slabs.

FLOORING SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS & PREPARATION

CRITICAL STEPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL, LONG-LASTING INSTALLATION

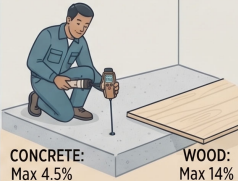
STEP 1: SUBFLOOR SOUNDNESS



The subfloor must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free of any deflection. Test for bounce or weakness.



STEP 2: MOISTURE CONTENT (ATFA STANDARDS)

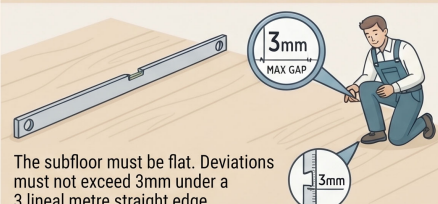


Verify moisture level with an approved moisture meter prior to installation. Must meet ATFA guidelines.

CONCRETE: Max 4.5% WOOD: Max 14%



STEP 3: SUBFLOOR FLATNESS (3mm / 3m)



The subfloor must be flat. Deviations must not exceed 3mm under a 3 lineal metre straight edge.



STEP 4: SURFACE PREPARATION



Vacuum thoroughly. Surface must be free of wax, grease, and loose material. Do not install over unstable slabs or Hebel.



3. Installation Procedure

Getting Started

1. Moisture Barrier: Apply a suitable liquid moisture barrier membrane to the subfloor and allow it to dry completely.

2. Layout: Open several cartons simultaneously to blend natural colour and grain variations throughout the floor.

3. Orientation: Install boards lengthways toward the primary light source or down the longest length of the room.

Installing the Rows

First Three Rows: Start against a straight wall with the groove side facing the wall. Use a 6mm V-notched trowel to apply professional-grade direct stick adhesive.

Expansion Gaps: A perimeter expansion gap must be maintained. Refer to the specific product requirements (typically 3–5mm for direct stick to subfloor or 10–12mm for dual bond).

Staggering: End joints must be randomly staggered by at least 450mm. Step or brick patterns are not permitted.

Weighting: Use spot weights on any "hollow" or "drummy" areas to ensure 100% contact between the board and the adhesive during curing.

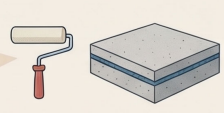
FLOORING INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

PROFESSIONAL STEPS FOR A PERFECT TIMBER FLOOR

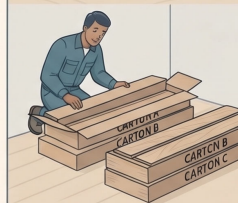
STEP 1: MOISTURE BARRIER



Apply a suitable liquid moisture barrier membrane to the subfloor and allow it to dry completely.



STEP 2: LAYOUT & BLENDING



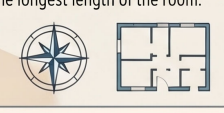
Open several cartons simultaneously to blend natural colour and grain variations throughout the floor.



STEP 3: INSTALLATION ORIENTATION



Install boards lengthways toward the primary light source or down the longest length of the room.



STEP 4: FIRST THREE ROWS & ADHESIVE



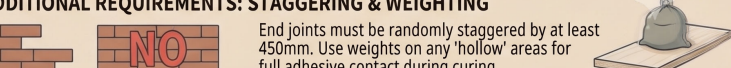
Start against a straight wall with the groove side facing the wall. Use a 6mm V-notched trowel for adhesive. Maintain perimeter expansion gaps (e.g., 3–5mm).



ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: STAGGERING & WEIGHTING



End joints must be randomly staggered by at least 450mm. Use weights on any 'hollow' areas for full adhesive contact during curing.



4. Finishing and Maintenance

Adhesive Removal: Remove any adhesive residue from the surface immediately using the manufacturer's approved wipes.

Curing: Allow 12–24 hours for the adhesive to cure before allowing foot traffic.

Trims: Cover expansion gaps with skirting boards or scotia. Do not fix these directly to the flooring; they must allow for natural movement.

Cleaning: Avoid harsh solvents, bleach, or ammonia. Use only pH-neutral cleaners to avoid damaging the surface finish.

FLOORING FINISHING AND MAINTENANCE

PROFESSIONAL STEPS FOR A LONG-LASTING PERFECT TIMBER FLOOR

STEP 1: ADHESIVE REMOVAL



Remove any adhesive residue from the surface immediately using the manufacturer's approved wipes.



STEP 2: ADHESIVE CURING

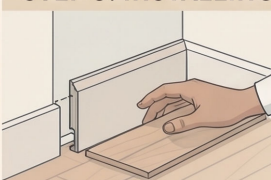


Allow 12–24 hours for the adhesive to cure before allowing foot traffic.

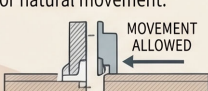
NO FOOT TRAFFIC



STEP 3: INSTALLING TRIMS



Cover expansion gaps with skirting boards or scotia. Do not fix these directly to the flooring; they must allow for natural movement.

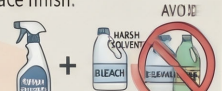


STEP 4: CORRECT CLEANING



Avoid harsh solvents, bleach, or ammonia. Use only pH-neutral cleaners to avoid damaging the surface finish.

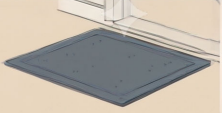
AVOID



ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE: PREVENTATIVE CARE



Use felt pads on furniture legs and place walk-off mats at exterior entrances to prevent scratching and debris.



Installation on Radiant Heated Concrete Slab

All engineered timber floors can be installed using either the floating or direct stick installation method, using an approved adhesive for radiant heating.

When you follow the “installation on Radiant heated concrete slabs” installation instructions, engineered timber flooring is fully covered under warranty for use over radiant heat. However, failure to meet **all** the requirements specified will void the warranty. Please note that in engineered timber flooring moderate surface checking, cracking (especially at board ends and around knots), shrinkage, slight gapping between boards and minor cupping are normal and do not indicate a product failure or defect.

- Only White Oak (European or similar) is approved for use on radiant heat applications. **Do not** use Australian Hardwood or other Exotic hardwood species. Warranty will be voided if anything other than the approved specie or correct installation method is used.
- Radiant heating systems used must be designed by the system manufacturer for hardwood flooring, specifically controlled for hardwood flooring and must include an outside temperature probe and surface temperature controls.
- A moisture test of the flooring must be performed and documented prior to installation.
- At the time of installation, the concrete subfloor must be 18 - 20°C.
- Use an adhesive approved by the system manufacturer for edge and end joins.
- Do not change the radiant heat setting for 48 hours after installation.
- Gradually increase the heat in 2-3°C increments daily to adjust the heating system temperature up or down to allow the flooring to adjust to the temperature changes.
- The maximum temperature of the concrete subfloor under normal use should not exceed 29°C (Check with the heating system manufacturer)
- Check with the heating system manufacturer’s guidelines for the correct water temperature inside the pipes.
- Heating pipes must be covered with 30mm of concrete.
- Room temperature should be maintained between 16-27°C and not vary more than 8°C from season to season.
- Relative humidity must be maintained within the range of 35-55% humidity in the home for radiant heated rooms.
- Always refer to the manufacturer of the radiant heating system for detailed instructions.