Installation Instructions

Engineered Timber Click

ATTENTION:
This product is covered for a competitive warranty period. To enjoy the peace of mind that this warranty affords and ensure the optimum performance of your floor, the installation must comply with all instructions relating to preparation, subfloor, installation environment, installation method, and ongoing care and maintenance. Any faults that occur because of failure to comply with the above, will not be covered by the warranty.

A. GENERAL

1. It is highly recommended that all our flooring is installed by a qualified and experienced contractor.
2. It is the installer's responsibility to carry out an inspection of the delivered flooring product prior to installation to ensure the colour, grade, pattern irregularities, structural quality, gloss, and finish are acceptable. Again, prior to installing, confirm the correct product, as per viewed samples and code numbers, have been delivered to site. If the product is deemed not acceptable, do NOT install it and contact the supplier immediately. If the product is installed it will be considered as acceptable to the customer and Dunlop Flooring will take no further responsibility.
3. Wood flooring is a natural product, which will mature with age, and every board is unique in design. The planks may change shade over time as a reaction to exposure to sunlight and this is perfectly normal. It is recommended that you occasionally relocate rugs and furniture once installed to ensure even shading.
4. Calculate the total square meters of the space you are laying the floor and add 7% for cutting and waste.
5. Engineered timber products should never be stored outdoors, on a cement floor, in a garage or in any damp conditions. Care should be taken to store the packs flat, in a dry and safe environment. Packs should never be lent against a wall.
6. Although floating floors can be installed in any direction, as a rule, they are usually installed perpendicular to a window. Installing the floor parallel to the longest wall tends to make a room appear larger.
7. The boards in this pack are of random lengths and should be laid randomly across the floor to create the best effect. We recommend opening a few cartons at a time to mix boards from each carton as they are installed.

B. PREPARATION:

Acclimatisation

8. The optimal temperature and humidity conditions for Engineered Timber Flooring is 18-28 Degree C and 40-60% Relative humidity.
   Under these prevailing conditions the timber boards should be installed directly from the carton.

   If humidity drops below 40% and rises above 60% for an extended period, either humidify or dehumidify the environment where the floor is to be installed. Maintaining a consistent and correct in home environment is very important so the flooring will not suffer any potential structural damage or dimensional changes such as cupping, shrinkage,

checking or gapping. It must also be noted that creaking or squeaking can also be caused by dimensional changes to the product caused by poor humidity control in the environment.
Australia is a country with diverse climatic conditions (extremes in temperature and humidity). Individual regions and climates need to be considered and adjustments need to be made in regions outside these conditions. Boards to be installed in a high humid environment will need longer gradual acclimatisation.

9. Product moisture content (MC) should be checked by the installer before installation with a moisture meter to be certain that the flooring has not dramatically changed moisture content since it left the supplier warehouse. Timber is supplied between 8 to 10% MC. Installer or contractor is responsible for the products acclimatisation and moisture measurements.
10. Once the product is laid, the internal environment must be maintained to normal living conditions to ensure the expected floor performance. Refer to the Care and Maintenance instructions.

Subfloor

11. All substrates must be structurally sound, flat/even, clean and dry.
12. Structurally sound: Engineered timber flooring can be installed onto concrete subfloors and existing wood, tile floors provided they are dimensionally stable.
13. Flat/Even: Deviations in any subfloor level must not exceed 3mm under a 3 metre straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using a good quality cementitious levelling compound. Please engage a professional installer's services for these matters.
14. Clean: Ensure the subfloor is clean and free from all contaminants and loose material by vacuuming prior to installation. Do not wash subfloor or expose it to water prior to installation.
15. Dry: It is essential that the moisture content of any subfloor is a maximum of 75 % relative humidity for concrete subfloors and 10-14% moisture content for wood subfloors . All direct stick subfloors should be checked and logged for moisture content both timber or concrete subfloors. This information must be kept for later reference.
16. All potential sources of moisture (e.g., walls, drains, damp proof courses, plumbing, fridges, washing machines etc.) must be thoroughly checked and must be addressed prior to installation. The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the floor covering installer.

Moisture Barriers

17. For a floating installation, we strongly recommend the use of Dunlop Timber underlays with a built-in moisture barrier: Timbermate, Thermoacoustic Timbercushion, and Aquacoustic.
18. For a glued-down installation, we recommend the use of a topically applied liquid moisture barrier, where a moisture barrier is required. Please follow all manufacturer's instructions in regard to application.

Concrete Subfloor

19. The moisture content of a concrete subfloor must not exceed 75% relative humidity.
20. Freshly laid concrete bases require adequate curing time to avoid moisture

related problems with your floorcovering.

21. Existing concrete subfloor's moisture content must be checked using an industry recognised test method and recorded. Your floor must not be fitted until the moisture content reading complies with the above guidelines.
22. For a successful floating floor installation use a recommended timber underlay with a built-in moisture barrier or a 200-micron black plastic
23. For a glue down installation, please consider the flooring conditions and consult your adhesive manufacturer for recommended adhesives for adhesion between the sub floor and the timber flooring.

Wood, or Tile Subfloor

24. The moisture content of a wood subfloor must not exceed 10-14%.
25. Engineered timber flooring can be fixed directly onto pre-installed wood (particle board, yellowtongue, conventional timber or tile subfloors, provided this subfloor meets all the requirements detailed at the beginning of the Subfloors section. If the subfloor is not flat and even, then you will need to overlay it with structural grade plywood (min 20mm thick). All existing floorcoverings must be securely fixed to the subfloor, to minimise the risk of squeaking. Where poor adhesion between the subfloor and existing boards, planks or tiles exist, secure, if possible, otherwise remove the existing floorcovering completely.
26. On a wood subfloor, your new timber boards should be laid in a direction that is 90 degrees (perpendicular) to the direction of the boards below. If this is not possible, then plywood sheets (minimum depth 6mm) should be nailed, stapled, or screwed to cover the existing floor, allowing a 10mm perimeter gap (against walls) for expansion. The new floor can then be laid directly onto the plywood sheet.
27. If nails, staples or screws are being used, care must be taken not to damage pipes or electrical cables beneath.
28. For a glue down installation onto a conventional strip timber or tile subfloor (provided all boards/tiles are securely fixed) you will first have to lay a Masonite, particle board or yellowtongue underlay before the product. Once you have ensured that the subfloor is flat/even and provided the moisture content of the subfloor does not exceed the specified 10-14%, you may glue down a rubber underlay onto the Masonite. We recommend the use of Dunlop Advantage 3. Your timber floor is then glued to the rubber underlay .
29. For a floating installation, follow the same process as above, but in lieu of a rubber underlay, you will have to use a moisture proof underlay We recommend Dunlop Aquacoustic. Your timber floor will be floated on top of this underlay.
30. Heavy objects on a floating floor need to be compartmentalised .

Underfloor heating

31. Due to the speed of sudden temperature changes, which have the potential to negatively affect your floor, it is not recommended to install engineered timber floors over an electrical radiant heating system. Doing so will not be covered by the manufacturer's warranty. The instructions below are for hydronic

heating systems for Oak veneers ONLY. Ensure the radiant heat surface temperature never exceeds 28°C. Before installing over a newly installed radiant heating system, the system should be run at maximum capacity to remove any residual moisture and turned off 48 hours prior to the installation day. Once the flooring is installed, the heating should be turned on and the temperature increased by approximately 2°C per day until desired temperature is reached. Please note, UNDERFLOOR HEATING IS NOT RECOMMENED FOR AUSTRALIAN SPECIES (BLACKBUTT, SPOTTED GUM etc.) BECAUSE OF SURFACE CHECKING.

C. INSTALLATION:

Floating Installation

32. Ensure you have undertaken all necessary steps as detailed in the Preparation section. Ensure your subfloor is structurally sound, flat/even, clean, and dry as per the Subfloor section.
33. The need for compartmentalisation is based on two factors. One is maximum length and width of an individual area / room and the second is the complexity of the floorplan shape. The more complex the shape, the more compartmentalisation is required If an area exceeds 15m x 10m or moves into adjoining areas of different dimensions, compartmentalisation is necessary to ensure adequate expansion.
34. For a floating installation, an expansion gap of 10mm around the entire perimeter of the floor needs to be maintained. This also applies around pipes, pillars, frames, and fixtures. Undercut door frame so that the planks can be installed underneath, being mindful of the requirement for a 10mm gap. Ensure that any underlay being used in the installation is underneath the product when you perform this step, so that cut is at the correct height.
35. The 10mm between the first row of boards and the wall should be maintained using spacer wedges regularly along the length of the wall. When measuring for the layout of the floor, remember to factor in this expansion gap. Do not fill these expansion gaps , with caulking or similar products that will restrict the expansion and contraction of the floor. MAINTAN A CLEAR VISIBLE GAP BETWEEN SKIRTING AND FLOOR ALL THE TIME FOR ADEQUATE RAFT MOVEMENT.
36. In areas of high humidity for example Northern QLD, it is recommended to leave extra expansion of min 15mm – 20mm around the perimeter. Each situation should be reviewed on an individual basis and testing conducted by the installer regarding expansion and contraction prior to installation. The standard Dunlop Flooring warranty does not apply to areas where the humidity cannot be controlled in the installed environment (40-60 % relative humidity).
37. When installing a click based engineered timber product no adhesive of any kind should be applied to any part of the locking mechanism.
38. First plank, first row. Place a spacer of 10mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances ≈ 10mm

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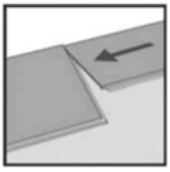
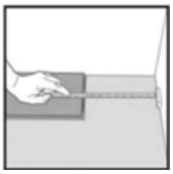
39. Second plank, first row place this plank gently and tight to the short end of the first one.

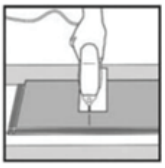


40. Fold the panel down in a single action movement. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other. Afterwards press down or slightly tap down at the short end just installed till it clicks. No major force is required.

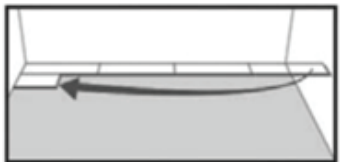
41. At the end of the first row, put a spacer ≈ 10mm, to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.



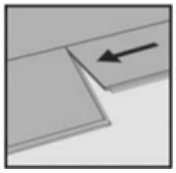
42. Cut with a jig saw - hardwood turned down to eliminate/ reduce damage to the face of the panel. Or if cutting using a hand saw, cut it with the hardwood visible face up. Then install it as previous plank.



43. General distances between short ends. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 500mm. This is for stability of the floor.



44. Second plank, second row place the panel at an angle into the groove of the previous row making sure that the end of the panel is tight/flush to the short end of the previous panel.



45. Fold the panel down in a single action movement with a slight press to the left to the short end of the previous panel. Again, using the tapping block tap it against the long end into the previous row. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other.

46. As it flattens itself to the floor, press or gently tap the top of the short end of the installed panel until it clicks. Finish installing this plank by tapping it with a tapping block on the long side to ensure secure installation.

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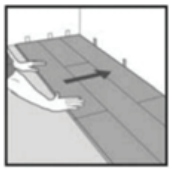
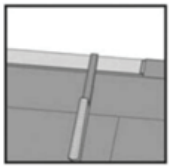
47. After 2-3 rows, adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacers ≈ 10mm. Once the adjustment is done against the main wall, continue to install till the last row.



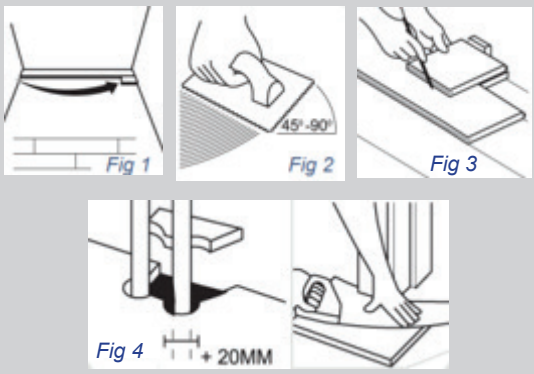
48. Last row (and perhaps also first row). The minimum width of the last plank should be NOT LESS than 100mm. Remember distance to wall is 10mm. TIP: Put a spacer before measuring. Cut the panels lengthwise and glue the short ends.



Glue Down Installation

49. Ensure you have undertaken all necessary steps as detailed in the Preparation section. Ensure your subfloor is structurally sound, flat/even, clean and dry as detailed in the Subfloor section. For a glue down installation on a concrete subfloor or an existing wood, or tile subfloor, you will need to apply a DPM (Damp Proof Membrane) or a MPU (Moisture Proof Underlay) (see Moisture Barriers section). Please note that if you opt for a MPU, you will need to glue it to the subfloor, and your timber will in turn be glued to your MPU. Should an underlay be required for acoustic reasons or improved comfort underfoot, we recommend Dunlop Advantage 3 and Technics 5.
50. The need for compartmentalisation is based on two factors. One is maximum length and width of an individual area / room and the second is the complexity of the floorplan shape. The more complex the shape, the more compartmentalisation is required. If laying the floor in several adjoining rooms or in a space in excess of 20 lineal meters in length, and 15 lineal meters in width, expansion joints must be installed.
51. An expansion gap of 10mm around the perimeter of the floor should be maintained where easily accommodated, e.g. Under skirting boards. This also applies around pipes, pillars, frames and fixtures. The 10mm between the first row of boards and the wall should be maintained using spacer wedges regularly along the length of the wall. When measuring the layout of the floor, remember to factor in this expansion gap.
52. In doorways against solid flooring I.e., ceramic or stone tiled floors, a c-channel is preferred TO MAINTAIN THE EDGE AND THE EXPANSION GAP.
53. The Dunlop Advantage 3 and Technics 5 should be laid at 90 degrees to the direction of the timber with the joins taped. PLEASE CONSULT YOUR ADHESIVE MANUFACTURER AND UNDERLAY MANUFACTURER FOR RECOMMENDED ADHESIVES FOR ADHESION TO THE SUB FLOOR AND FOR THE TIMBER FLOORING.
54. Begin your installation against a sound, straight wall, starting in the left corner and working right. It may be necessary to scribe the first row of boards to achieve correct alignment.

55. With this system use a one component, solvent-free, moisture curing polyurethane timber flooring adhesive for gluing your timber boards to the subfloor. When applying, comply with all instructions provided by the adhesive manufacturer. (Figure 2)



Tools Required: (not supplied)

Knee pads, goggles, square, tape measure, pencil, saw, utility knife, one component solvent-free moisture curing polyurethane timber flooring adhesive, PVA wood glue, fitting straps.

56. Once the first row of boards is correctly aligned and glued in place, weigh them down while the glue sets (or use wedges against the wall).
57. Continue to fit the boards from left to the right. Always stagger the end joins by a minimum of 300mm. Measure and trim the last board to fit. Where possible, use cut offs to start the next row.
58. For the last row of boards, you can use the sandwich technique to measure the width of board required, ensuring that the row is not less than 100mm in width. Place the board for the last row on top of the previous row. Using a full width off-cut board and spacer wedges placed up against the wall, scribe the last row to mark the correct cutting line. (Figure 3)
59. It is recommended that you use felt pads under chairs and furniture, and plastic mats under office style chairs with wheels. When shifting furniture, never drag heavy items across the surface of your floor.

D. FINISHING OFF

60. Once installation is complete, any spacing wedges used can be removed. If a plastic moisture barrier has been used, the edges that have been turned up the wall can now be cut off; it is recommended to leave approximately 20mm extra to put behind the scotia or skirting to prevent moisture penetrating the material through the wall.
61. The expansion gap around the perimeter of the floor can be covered by re-fitting the skirting boards, either by nailing, screwing, or gluing directly to the perimeter walls. Never fix them directly to the installed floor. If the skirting boards were not removed for installation, you can cover the expansion gap using moulding trims that attach to the skirting with glue or panel pins. 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.

E. STAIR NOSINGS

62. Flooring on stairs must be directly stuck with the appropriate polyurethane / MS adhesive to the existing tread & riser, with matching stair nosing to be fitted on the front edge of each step. Also please make sure that the stair nosing meets the slip test guidelines for each state in Australia.

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F. POST INSTALLATION

63. After installation, if other trades are still to complete their work, a breathable protective covering should be installed over the flooring. Non-permeable product should not be used as this will damage the product due to an increase in moisture. The flooring must be clean and clear of any debris prior to the fitting of protection. We do not recommend adhesive tape is applied to any of ourflooring products.