

**Kite**  
Flooring

# Installation and Maintenance

**Jan 2023**

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Our hardwood flooring is made of wood that is subject to variations in colouring. Depending on their source and the way the wood is cut, the boards can show differences in tones and shades that can be more or less important, even when compared to the reference sample.

All woods tend to darken or lighten when exposed to daylight. Wood is also a live material and it expands and contracts depending on the heat. We therefore recommended maintaining a constant humidity level between 40 and 65%. A lack of ventilation, notably in holiday homes, can cause some warping to your hardwood floor. The same is true if the floor is over-exposed to high temperatures (for example, in front of bay windows).

Please note our installation guidance is advisory and is based on established good practice and the **BS-8201-2011** standard. It is the fitter's responsibility to follow these procedures before, during and after installation

For our warranty to be valid, the following must be adhered to:

## Introduction



## Storage on site

The parquet floor should be stored flat at its destination, in the original packaging for at least 48 hours before starting the installation. The bundles should be opened only at the time of installation and the subfloor should be perfectly dry. All the windows should be in place, and any major building or finishing work should be completed.

The room must be perfectly dry, closed, and the temperature between 18 and 22°C.

Humidity must be maintained at a constant 40% to 65%.

## Underfloor heating and air-conditioning

The room temperature and humidity levels need to be stable before the flooring is delivered to site.

Make sure underfloor heating is turned off for at least 48 hours prior to fitting. Once the floor has been fitted, the underfloor heating should not be switched on for another two to three days. Then the temperature should be raised gradually at no more than 1°C per day. This is called “commissioning” the underfloor heating.

The temperature of the floor should never exceed 27°C.

## Fitting strategy

Our wood floors can be fitted **floated** (where the tongues are glued into the grooves, and the floor is floated on an underlay) or **glued**, where the underside of the planks is fully bonded to the subfloor.

Which strategy you go for will depend on your subfloor, the type of flooring you are choosing, and your personal preference.

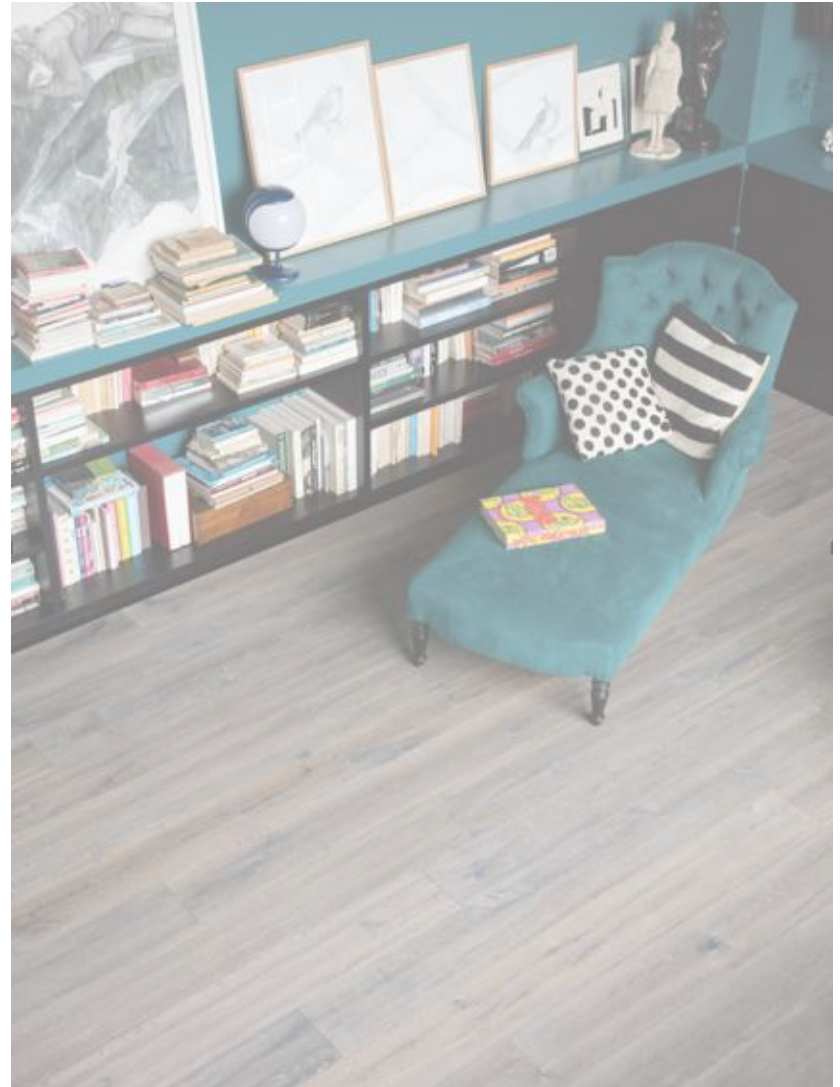
Quality underlays can make a big difference to the ultimate performance of your floor.

Also, note, with glued floors and underfloor heating make sure a compatible adhesive is used

Patterned floors should always be glued down.

A blog details which strategy you should choose here -

**There's more than one way to fit a floor**





## Subfloor Characteristics

If you are gluing your floor to the subfloor, it should either be a flooring grade ply, or a suitable latex or levelling compound.

If you are floating a floor, there is more flexibility, and provided the subfloor is level and sound the following subfloors are suitable: fibreboards, particle boards, pressed wood, or plywood, ceramic tiles, cement screeds, glued down PVC floors, linoleum, or parquet flooring. **Note, you cannot float a floor on another floated floor.**

This subfloor must be clean, flat, dry and sound.

-Clean: Clean the surface of the subfloor to eliminate all waste.

-Flat: Check the evenness with a 2-meter rule. Any deflections (dips or peaks) should be no more than 5 mm, and with a 20 cm meter rule, deflections should be maximum 1 mm. Sand or fill in with smoothing mortar, if necessary.

-Dry: For cement screed or smoothing mortar, moisture should not exceed 3% for 2 cm thickness or 4% for 4 cm thickness. (On average, leave for normal screeds at least 15 days drying per cm thickness (1 week can be enough in dry weather). In case of smoothing mortar, leave at least 5 days drying for 3 mm (of thickness). Using a professional moisture meter such as a Protimeter MMS will tell you whether or not it's safe to go ahead with the installation. According to British Standards the screed must be allowed to dry to a maximum of 75% relative humidity before installation takes place.

-Sound: Remove all dust and greasy substances from the subfloor. The surface must be free of powder, pattern cracking or surface crust. This is particularly the case for the following subfloors; old parquet floors, old timber floors, pressed wood fibre boards or plywood beams and floor runners, Carpets, PVC floors, Linoleum and Tiles.

Wooden subfloors: the moisture content must not exceed 11%. For the fluid screeds containing calcium sulfate, the residual water content must be lower or equal to 0.5%. In all cases, we advise you to use an insulating barrier consisting of a polyethylene plastic sheeting with edges overlapping at least 20 cm (Important: This barrier is designed to stop any rising damp. It is not, however, a completely hermetic barrier in case of a significant rise in humidity).

Hot pipes should be well insulated to prevent localised hotspots, which can cause wood flooring to warp or shrink.

To improve acoustic performance, floated floors can be installed on underlay material. The type of underlay you need will depend on the subfloor condition. However, for most installations we recommend using an underlay with a built in damp proof membrane. Underlay should be laid edge-to-edge perpendicular to the direction of floorboards and stuck together with tape.



## Opening bundles

Wood is not a uniform material. In order to manage variations in colour, we recommend opening 2 or 3 bundles at the time of installation, so as to obtain the best end result.

The natural texture of the flooring will come to the fore if the planks are laid in the same direction as the light entering the room. However, if the floor is being fitted over existing glued down parquet, it should be positioned at right angles to the previous flooring planks (unless underlay is used).

Pay attention while handling the planks. Our hardwood floor has undergone stringent quality controls at every step of its manufacture, but if you come across a board with a visible defect, do not install and contact Kite assistance.

Installed boards are considered accepted and cannot be the subject of a claim at a later date.

## Peripheral Expansion Gap

The boards will be installed parallel to the length of the room. A peripheral expansion gap of 8mm minimum should be left around the entire periphery, along all the walls and around any obstacle like piping, staircase, rails, fireplaces, thresholds, etc.

Expansion gaps are maintained using wooden wedges placed at 50 cm intervals. The wedges are removed when the installation of the parquet is completed. This gap must always be left in each doorway to a room.

To allow the parquet floor to expand and contract freely, the total width of the boards should not be more than 5 metres; for any greater width, arrange to leave an intermediary expansion gap, that will be hidden by a T-junction strip. It is imperative that a break be incorporated between each adjoining room having parquet flooring: this break will be hidden by a threshold strip.

## Fitting The Floors

The majority of our engineered wood floors are “tongue and groove”.

If the floor is fitted floated, it is imperative that the side tongues and grooves, are glued using a good quality wood glue, such as PVA. The end of the boards should also be glued.

Failure to do this will result in the boards moving apart over time, as the floors expands and contract.

If the floor is glued to the subfloor, it is not necessary to glue the tongues into the grooves.

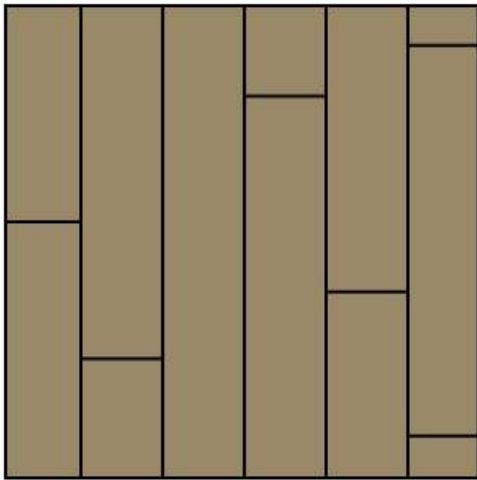
If there is any doubt as to whether the floor joints should be glued you should speak to Kite Flooring for advice.



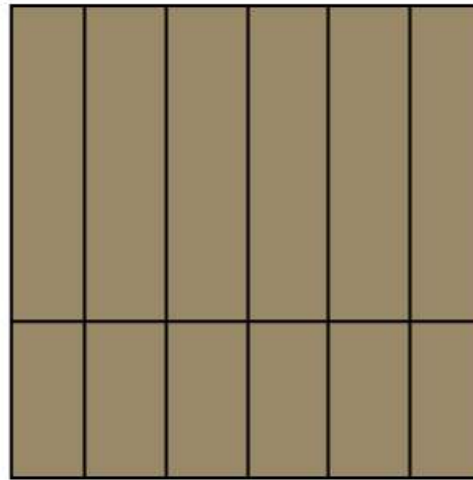
## Staggering plank floors

Planks should be staggered when fitting to create a better looking floor. Staggered floors are also structurally more stable, as it spreads any pressure across different joints.

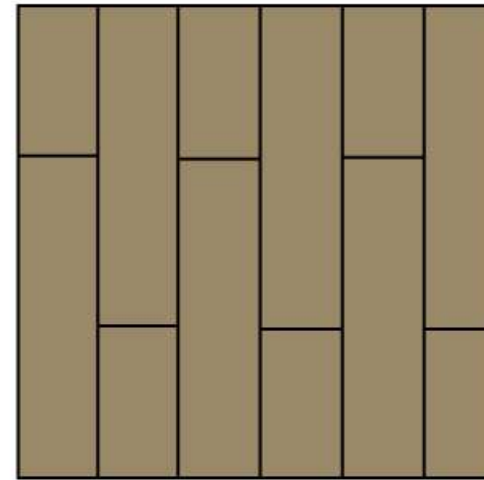
WHAT STAGGERED JOINTS SHOULD & SHOULDN'T LOOK LIKE



EVEN DISTRIBUTION WHICH PROVIDES A  
NATURAL LOOKING FLOOR



THE PLANKS ARE TOO EVENLY LAID.  
INCORRECT FITTING



THE PLANKS ARE TOO EVENLY LAID.  
INCORRECT FITTING



## Installation on an Electric Underfloor system

Laying parquet on an electric heated floor can create problems unless further technical steps are taken. For this reason, please contact Kite before ordering a product for this scenario, and we will advise.

## Installation in areas exposed to water

Note wood floors are not suitable for areas where there is a regular flow of water such as wet rooms. Kitchen areas, are however fine.



## Maintenance of Hardwood floors

### Prevention

Place bristle-rug type doormats both inside and outside the house to retain gravel and sand, and felt pads under the furniture to avoid scratches. Regularly remove all dust with a vacuum cleaner (with a special brush suitable for parquet floors) or dust mop.

### Maintenance for lacquered parquet

- Clean the parquet with a cloth soaked in water combined with **special detergent** for lacquered parquets. Thoroughly wring the cloth out.

### Maintenance for oiled parquet

Oiled parquet requires more maintenance.

- After the fitting, a thin film **of maintenance oil** can be applied.
- For routine cleaning **100% natural soap** should be used.
- Further applications **of maintenance oil** can be applied to renew the protective layer.

### To remove specific stains take the following steps

- Fruit, fruit juice, beverages, coffee, tea, milk, blood, urine: with a cloth or sponge, rinsed in water and thoroughly wrung out.
- Chocolate, wax, greases, oils: with a thoroughly wrung out cloth and a small amount of **special detergent**.
- Printing and pen ink, shoe polish, lipstick, tar: use methanol (white spirit) or methylated spirit.

Never clean the grooves of our parquets with bevelled edges with a pointed object!

**NEVER USE EXCESS WATER WHEN CLEANING YOUR PARQUET FLOOR. THOROUGHLY WRING OUT CLOTHS AND SPONGES SEVERAL TIMES.**

## Recommended Cleaning Products For Oiled Floors



### MAINTENANCE OIL

£24.95 - £28.95

Ciranova Maintenance Oil is a universal maintenance oil for refreshing all types of oiled interior wooden surfaces. Ciranova Maintenance Oil nourishes the surface and provides extra protection whilst refreshing the appearance.

- Coverage: 50m<sup>2</sup>/ltr

Size: 1L

[Click here for application instructions](#)

Colour

Clear Matt

Clear Satin

White Matt



### FLOORING SOAP

£13.95 - £67.95



Ciranova Flooring Soap is a universal soap based on natural oils for the regular maintenance of oiled wood finishes. Ciranova Flooring Soap cleans and nourishes the wood finish and provides extra water repellency.

Flooring Soap White was formulated for use on white finished surfaces. Flooring Soap Clear can be used on any colour surface.

[Click here for application instructions](#)

Size

0.75L

5L

