Kite
Flooring

FOR FITTERS AND HOMEOWNERS

Installation & Care Guide

How we fit engineered oak floors, and how to look after one so it lasts for decades.

Plank · Herringbone · Chevron | Edition: November 2026



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Not sure about something?

Stop and call us before you fit, not after. Email **info@kite-flooring.com** or WhatsApp **+44 7377 358576**.

Read this first

> **Most wood floor failures aren't the wood. They're moisture, a bad subfloor or a rushed fit.** This guide is how we avoid all three. It's written for the person fitting your floor, but if you're the homeowner it's worth ten minutes of your time too — it tells you what a good fitter should be checking before they open a single pack.

It covers every Kite engineered wood floor: plank, herringbone and chevron, floated or glued. It follows BS 8201:2011 (the British Standard for timber flooring) and good practice from across the trade. Where we're stricter than the standard, we say so.

Who's responsible for what

- **Full Service** (our own team fits): we follow this guide and Kite Designs Ltd holds the 12-month installation warranty.
- **Vetted Fitter Introduction**: you contract the fitter directly and the 12-month installation warranty sits with them. We expect them to follow this guide.
- **Supply Only**: the fitter is responsible for the installation. Our product warranty still applies, provided the floor is fitted and looked after as set out here.



One of our team, mid-job. Every floor we fit follows this guide.

For the product warranty to stand, the fitter must:

1. Record site conditions and subfloor moisture readings before fitting (the checklist at the end does this).
2. Fit only into the conditions set out in this guide.
3. Inspect every board before it goes down. Fitted boards count as accepted.
4. Use the right adhesive and method for the floor and subfloor.

Not sure about something? Stop and call us before you fit, not after. It's a five-minute conversation versus a lifted floor. Email info@kite-flooring.com or WhatsApp +44 7377 358576.

01 Before your floor arrives

> **The floor goes in last. Not second-to-last, last.** Wood is hygroscopic: it soaks up moisture from the air and the subfloor, then gives it back when things dry out. Fit it into a building that's still drying and it will move.

Before we deliver, the site must be:

- Watertight, with all windows and external doors fitted.
- Finished with every wet trade: screeding, plastering, tiling, and ideally painting too.
- Running its permanent heating (or temporary heating, not gas) for at least 5 days, ideally two weeks.
- Between **18–22°C**, with the floor itself no colder than 15°C.
- Between **40–65% relative humidity (RH)**. 45–60% is the sweet spot.

Those conditions need to hold before, during and after fitting — for the life of the floor, really.

How long things take to dry

Screed and plaster always take longer than the build programme says. As a guide:

What	Typical drying time
Sand and cement screed, up to 50mm	1 day per mm (so about 7 weeks for 50mm)
Sand and cement screed, beyond 50mm	Add roughly 2.5 days per extra mm (a 100mm screed is about 6 months)
Fresh plaster	Up to 6 weeks

These are guides, not permission. **Only a moisture reading tells you a subfloor is ready** (see section 3). A dehumidifier helps; opening windows in November doesn't.

Watch out for

- Gas or paraffin heaters. They pump moisture into the room. Use electric.
- Hot water pipes under the floor. Insulate them, or they'll create hot spots that shrink and split boards above.
- Rooms that sit cold and closed, then get blasted with heat when used (holiday lets, guest rooms). That cycle is what cups floors.

02 Delivery, storage and acclimatisation

> **Leave the packs sealed, flat and in the room they're going into for at least 48 hours. 72 hours in winter, or for boards wider than 220mm.**

Our boards leave the factory at around 8% moisture content (±2%). Acclimatising just lets them settle to the temperature and humidity of your home before they're fixed down. It's not a magic ritual — if the site is wrong, a week of acclimatising won't fix it. If it's right, 48 hours is plenty.

How to store the packs

- Flat, on battens or a level floor, so the bottom packs are fully supported and don't bow.
- In the middle of the room: away from external walls, radiators and direct sun.
- Sealed until the day you fit. The packaging protects the boards; it doesn't stop them acclimatising.

- Never outdoors, in a garage, a van overnight, or anywhere damp or cold.
- On underfloor heating: switch it off before the packs go down (see section 9).

Can't take the floor yet? Don't store it on a building site. We'll hold your order in our warehouse for up to 6 months, free, and deliver when the site is ready.

03 Subfloors

> **A floor is only as good as what's underneath it.** Every subfloor must be clean, flat, dry and sound before a single board goes down. If it isn't, it gets fixed first. No exceptions, and no using adhesive or underlay to hide the problem.

Clean

Vacuum it. Remove paint, plaster, old adhesive, grease and any loose or powdery surface (screed "laitance"). Anything the adhesive sticks to that isn't firmly stuck to the floor will let go.

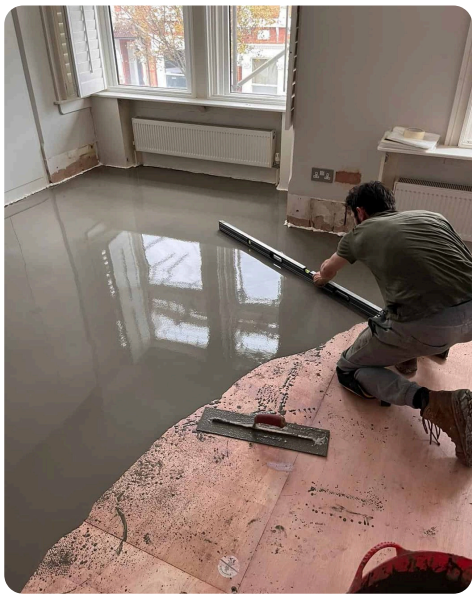
Flat

Put a 2m straight edge down in every direction. **No gap under it should exceed 3mm** (BS 8204 class SR1), and no more than 1mm under a 20cm edge. Pumped and poured screeds rarely hit this; a self-levelling compound usually does.

Out of tolerance? Grind down the highs, fill the lows with a levelling compound. A floor fitted over humps and dips will flex, creak and open up at the joints.

Dry

Test, don't guess. A screed can look bone dry and still be holding weeks of water. Use a hygrometer (hood) test for screeds as set out in BS 8201 Annex A, and a pin meter for timber. We use a Tramex meter for quick concrete readings. Record the readings.



Levelling compound going down over ply. An afternoon here saves a creaky floor for the next twenty years.

Subfloor	Floated floor	Glued floor
Sand and cement screed / concrete	Max 75% RH	Max 65% RH (or a DPM primer)
Anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screed	Max 0.5% CM, sanded and laitance removed	Max 0.5% CM, sanded, primed as the adhesive maker specifies
Timber (boards, ply, chipboard)	Max 11% moisture, within 2% of the new floor	Max 11% moisture, within 2% of the new floor

Screed over 75% RH (up to 95%) can still take a wood floor, but only after moisture suppressing primer is applied. Different primers perform in different ways, so speak to us for advice on this. This should be applied to the manufacturer's spec. An underlay's built-in vapour barrier is **not** a DPM.

Sound

No bounce, no rot, no woodworm, no loose boards. For each type:

- **Concrete or screed:** solid, no hollow spots or cracking. For a glued floor it needs to be strong enough to hold the adhesive (at least 1.5 N/mm² tensile strength); if it scratches away with a key, it isn't.
- **Joists and floorboards:** screw down anything loose. Movement under foot should be under 5mm. Old floorboards should be overboarded with flooring-grade plywood (at least 6mm, ideally 9mm or more), screwed at 300mm centres or closer.
- **Suspended timber floors:** the void underneath needs airflow. Air bricks clear, ideally adding up to at least 1.5% of the floor area. Never block them.
- **Tiles, vinyl, lino:** fine for a floated floor if they're well stuck and flat. Gluing over them is a call for the adhesive maker, and usually means mechanical keying and priming first.
- **Insulation boards (PIR, EPS, XPS):** too soft to fit onto directly. Overboard first.
- **Chipboard, particle board and OSB:** never glue a floor straight onto them. If one is present, fit 6mm plywood on top, screwed down at 300mm centres, and glue to that. Or float the floor instead.
- **Carpet, or another floated floor:** never. Take it up.

04 Floated or glued?

> **There's more than one right way to fit a floor, but there are plenty of wrong ones.** The subfloor, the format and whether there's underfloor heating decide it, more than personal taste.

	Floated	Fully bonded (glued)
How it works	Boards glued to each other along the tongue and groove, sitting loose on an underlay	Every board glued to the subfloor with a flexible adhesive; joints not glued
Best for	Sound concrete or timber subfloors, plank floors (including over underfloor heating), quicker jobs	Herringbone, chevron, plank floors over underfloor heating, large open-plan spaces
Feel underfoot	Slightly softer, a little hollower	Solid, quiet, like the floor is part of the building
Subfloor needs	Flat and dry. More forgiving of the surface underneath	Flat, dry, strong, clean and glueable (screed, ply or levelling compound)
Kitchens	Fit the kitchen first, floor up to it	Kitchen can go on top
Underfloor heating	Yes	Yes
Lifting it later	Easier	Harder

Our rules

- **Herringbone and chevron are always glued.** Always.
- **Over underfloor heating:** floors can be floated or glued, but check which method will work best with each system. Some systems cannot be glued to, which **is a problem for Herringbone and Chevron.**
- **Never float over carpet, another floated floor, or soft insulation.**
- **Secret nailing** to joists or ply is possible with some thicker boards, but it isn't our standard method. Talk to us before choosing it.

Still weighing it up? We've written a longer piece on this: *There's more than one way to fit a floor* on our blog.



A glued herringbone floor going in before the joinery and skirting. Solid underfoot, and nothing to fix through later.

05 Planning the layout

> **Ten minutes with a tape measure saves years of regret.** Plan it before the glue comes out.

Check every board

You are the last line of quality control. Look at each board in good light before it goes down. Natural character — knots, filled knots, colour change, grain — is what you're paying for in real oak. A cracked face, a broken

tongue or a finish defect isn't. Put those aside.

Once a board is fitted, it's accepted. We can't take a claim on a visible defect that is fitted.

Mix the packs

Work from 3–4 open packs at once and pull boards from all of them. Oak varies board to board; mixing spreads it evenly. Lay from one pack and you'll get a light patch by the window and a dark one by the door.

Which way to run it

- **Planks:** usually with the light from the main window, or the direction of the property. In a hallway, down its length. In some properties, especially two sided flats, you can do both, you just need to make a call.
- **Over existing floorboards:** at right angles to them, where you can, but plywood should always be fitted before fitting.
- **Herringbone and chevron:** run the pattern with the light or with the direction of the room. Set it off a centre line so it's symmetrical where people look.

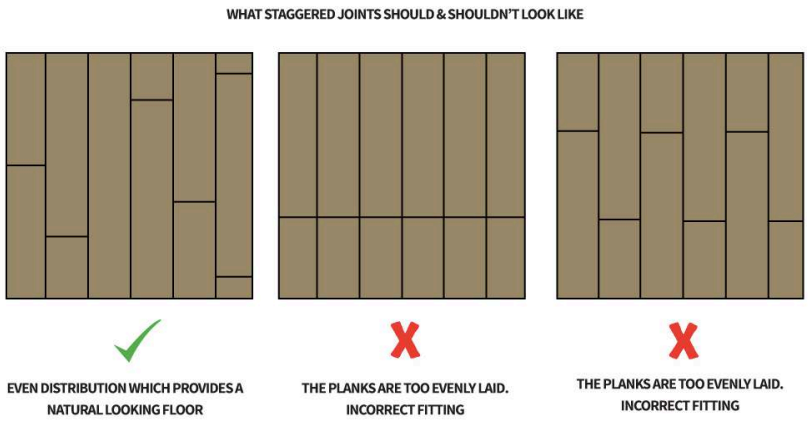
Balance the room

Measure across the room and divide by the board width. If the last row comes out narrower than about 50mm, trim the first row so you end up with similar widths on both walls. Thin slivers look wrong and are hard to fix down.

Stagger the joints

End joints in neighbouring rows should be **at least 300mm apart, ideally 500mm**. Avoid "H" patterns, where joints line up two rows apart, and any repeating stair-step. Start each row with the off-cut from the last, as long as it's over 300mm.

Staggered joints look better and they're stronger: the load is spread across the floor rather than along a line of weak spots.



Left: what we want. Middle and right: joints lined up or in a repeating pattern. Both are wrong.

Order enough

Format	Allow for waste
Plank	10%
Herringbone and chevron	15%

That covers cuts, character you'd rather put in a cupboard, and the odd awkward room. **Keep a spare pack.** If a board ever gets damaged, you'll want one from the same batch, not one made three years later.

06 Fitting a floated floor

> **Glue every tongue and groove joint, sides and ends, with a continuous bead.** Skip it, or spot-glue it, and the boards will drift apart as the floor moves through the seasons.

Underlay

The underlay does three jobs: evens out tiny bumps, takes the edge off footfall noise, and (over concrete) stops moisture coming up. Use a good one — it makes more difference to how the floor feels than people expect.

- Over concrete or screed, use an underlay with a built-in vapour barrier, or lay 250-micron polythene first, overlapped 200mm and taped.
- Lay underlay edge to edge, at right angles to the boards. Tape the seams with vapour tape. Don't overlap the underlay itself.
- Turn the vapour barrier 50mm up the wall; trim it off after the skirting goes on.
- The finished floor shouldn't deflect more than 2 to 3mm under foot. Thick, squashy underlays fail this. Ask us before using anything over 5mm.

Step by step

1. Check and record site conditions and subfloor readings (sections 1 and 3).
2. Lay the underlay.
3. Set out from the straightest long wall, tongue facing out into the room. Use spacers to hold your expansion gap (section 8). Snap a line and check the first row is dead straight. A wonky first row means gaps everywhere after it.
4. Run a continuous bead of D3 wood glue along the **upper edge of the groove**, on the long side and the end. Glue in the bottom of the groove gets pushed down and away from the tongue; on the upper edge it wraps round it. Lift a board now and then to check coverage.
5. Close each joint with a tapping block. Never hit the board itself with a hammer or mallet.
6. Wipe off any glue that squeezes out straight away, with a damp (not wet) cloth. Dried PVA on an oiled finish is a nightmare.

7. Use tension straps every 5–6 rows to hold the joints tight while the glue sets. Glue is hydraulic: until it grabs, it pushes joints open.
8. Cut the last row to width, keeping the expansion gap, and pull it into place with a pull bar.
9. Leave the floor 2 hours before light foot traffic and 24 hours before furniture. Then take out the spacers and fit the skirting or scotia.

Click-system boards, as per our Newington Plus range, don't need glue in the joints, except where you've trimmed the profile (under a door frame, or replacing a board). Angle the long edge in at about 30°, drop it flat, then close the end. Never force a board down from above.

Don'ts for floated floors

- **Don't fix anything through the floor.** Kitchen units, island legs, built-in wardrobes, door stops screwed into the subfloor — they all pin the floor down so it can't move. Fit fixed furniture first and run the floor up to it.
- Don't fix skirting, beading or thresholds to the floor. Fix them to the wall, or to one side only of the gap.
- Don't put heavy loads like a piano or a full bookcase wall on a floated floor without asking us.

07 Fitting a glued (fully bonded) floor

> **Every board needs full adhesive contact with the subfloor.** Not blobs, not stripes: full coverage. Hollow spots are where floors creak, lift and crack.

Adhesive and primer

- Use a flexible MS polymer (or flexible polyurethane) wood flooring adhesive. It holds the board but lets it move a little with the seasons. Rigid adhesives don't, and that's when boards split.
- Prime screeds as the adhesive maker specifies. Anhydrite screeds must be sanded to remove the laitance first, then primed with the matching primer.
- **Never glue to chipboard, particle board or OSB.** If one is present, fit 6mm plywood on top first, or float the floor instead.
- New screed? Good practice says use a primer with moisture suppression properties even if the readings look fine.
- Use the trowel notch the adhesive maker specifies (typically 3–4.8mm, depending on board size and subfloor). Adhesive is not a levelling compound.
- Over underfloor heating, check the adhesive is rated for it.

Step by step: planks

1. Check and record site conditions and subfloor readings (sections 1 and 3).
2. Dry-lay the first two or three rows to check widths, the line against the wall and your stagger. Snap a chalk line for the first row and fix a straight edge along it if you can.
3. Spread adhesive across about two board widths, or 700–900mm. **Only spread what you can cover before it skins over** (usually around 30 minutes; check the tin).

4. Press each board into the wet adhesive and slide it into place. Don't glue the tongues and grooves; the adhesive does the work.
5. Every few boards, lift one to check the back is fully covered. If it isn't, use a bigger notch or more adhesive.
6. Wipe off adhesive from the face straight away with the cleaner the adhesive maker specifies. Once it cures, it doesn't come off.
7. Weight down any boards that want to lift (packs of flooring work well), especially at the ends and on the last rows. If you're stopping overnight, strap or wedge the last row.
8. Keep the room above 15°C, and conditions steady, for at least 24 hours while the adhesive cures.
9. Light foot traffic after 24 hours. Furniture, and taking out spacers, after 36–48 hours or as the adhesive maker states.

Herringbone and chevron

Patterned floors are a different job, not just a fiddlier one. The whole floor hangs off the first rows, so this is where the time goes.

1. Herringbone blocks come in left and right. Sort them before you start.
2. Decide the direction (with the light, or down the length of the room). Run a string line or laser down the centre. This is your crown line.
3. Dry-lay a few left and right blocks along it. Mark working lines either side so the points of the pattern stay on line all the way down the room.
4. Glue down the crown row — one run of left and one of right blocks either side of the line — and **let it cure fully** before building out from it. If it moves, everything after it moves.
5. Work out from the crown row towards the walls. Check against your working lines every few rows. Errors grow; a 1mm drift at the start is a 10mm one at the far wall.
6. With chevron, the points must meet cleanly on the centre line. Loose-lay several packs first to check the pattern.



The crown row runs down the centre of the room. Everything else builds out from it.

Borders and brass inlays

1. Mark the line where the pattern meets the border.
2. Lay the pattern over the line to the next full block, but only glue up to it.
3. Once the adhesive has cured, cut along the line with a plunge saw on a guide rail.
4. Rout a groove into the cut edge (or use biscuits) and fit the border as a separate job.

08 Expansion gaps

Wood moves. Every wood floor needs room to do it, glued or floated. Mostly across the width of the boards: a 5m-wide room can grow or shrink by several millimetres between August and January. Without a gap, the floor pushes against the walls and has nowhere to go but up.

Floor	Minimum perimeter gap
Glued, any size	10mm
Floated, up to 25 m²	12mm
Floated, over 25 m²	15mm

Where the gap goes

- Every wall, and around everything fixed: pipes, door frames, stairs, hearths, columns, kitchen islands, thresholds.
- **Pipes:** drill a hole 20mm bigger than the pipe, cut the board through the hole at 45°, then glue the off-cut back in behind the pipe. Cover with a pipe rose.
- **Door frames and architraves:** undercut them and slide the floor underneath, keeping the gap at the wall behind. Never undercut a newel post; it's structural.
- **Doorways on floated floors:** put a break in every doorway, covered by a threshold strip.
- **Big floated floors:** wider than 8m or longer than 10m should technically have an extra expansion break across the floor. Or glue it.

Covering the gap

Skirting is the neatest option. Scotia or beading works where you're keeping the skirting. Either way, fix it to the wall, never to the floor. Thresholds are fixed down on one side of the gap only. Where there's no skirting to hide it (a glass wall, a tiled edge), use a cork strip or a flexible filler set just below floor level.

Take the spacers out. Wedges left behind the skirting defeat the whole point.

09 Underfloor heating

Engineered oak and underfloor heating get on fine, as long as the floor surface never goes above 27°C. Most problems come from a screed that was never properly dried out, or a system run too hot.

Before fitting

1. **Commission the system first.** This is a BS 8201 requirement, not a nice-to-have. Bring it up to temperature over several days, run it for at least 5 days, then cool it down over several days. This drives out the deep moisture in the screed. Skip it, and that moisture comes out into your new floor the first cold week.
2. Take the moisture readings after commissioning.
3. Run the heating for at least two weeks before fitting, then **switch it off 48 hours before** the floor goes down.

Fitting

- Tongue and groove plank floors over underfloor heating can either **be glued**, with a heating-rated flexible adhesive, or floated, on a low tog underlay. Herringbone or Chevron floors should be glued. This can sometimes require the application of a flexible levelling compound.
- Pipes or cables must never touch the back of the boards or the underlay. Electric cable systems need at least 8mm of reinforced levelling compound over them.
- Pipes in routed overlay panels should ideally have a spreader layer on top before the floor, at least 5mm (levelling compound, fibre-cement or ply), to stop hot stripes.
- **Electric foil or mat systems:** talk to us before you order. Some floors can go over them with the right underlay; many can't.

After fitting

1. Leave the heating off for 2–3 days after fitting (or until the adhesive has cured).
2. Bring it up slowly: **no more than 1–2°C per day** until it reaches normal running temperature.
3. Keep the floor surface at or below **27°C**. A FidBox in each zone is the only reliable way to know.
4. As a guide, flow temperature should be around 40°C for pipes in a screed, 35°C for overlay panels. Anything above 45°C is too hot for wood. Your heating engineer sets the final figure.
5. Every autumn, bring it up gradually. Don't go from off to full blast on the first cold morning.

Rugs and heating: a thick rug, beanbag or low-slung sofa traps heat and over-dries the boards under it. Use thin, breathable rugs and furniture on legs.

10 Kitchens, bathrooms and other tricky spots

Kitchen first or floor first?

Both work. It depends how the floor is fitted, and what your kitchen company prefers.

- **Floated floor:** kitchen goes in first. Leave the plinths and end panels off, run the floor up to the unit legs, then refit the plinths. Islands are treated the same way, with an expansion gap all round.
- **Glued floor:** the kitchen can sit on top. Some kitchen companies prefer it, and a few high-end plinth designs need it.

Our view: floor-last makes the floor easier to replace if a dishwasher ever leaks, and saves a little on area and fitting. The "cleaner finish" argument for kitchen-on-top is debatable, but some kitchen companies, especially high-end ones, are adamant that the kitchen should be fitted on top. Check with your kitchen company and tell us before we quote.

Oiled oak is fine in a kitchen. Wipe up spills, don't leave them, and expect it to pick up some gentle wear over the years around the sink and hob. If you are concerned, additional coats of oil can be applied after fitting. For pale oak, UV-Oiled floors, we recommend an additional coat of Ciranova Titan oil is applied.



Glued herringbone down before the kitchen arrives. With a glued floor, the units can sit straight on top.

Bathrooms and wet rooms

Never in a wet room, or anywhere water collects or runs regularly. A cloakroom or WC is fine. For a bathroom with a bath or shower, talk to us first.

Stairs

Stairs are their own job. Our StairFlow cladding system matches your floor, so the hallway and stairs read as one. Ask us.

Doorways and other floors

- Plan finished heights early. Where wood meets tiles or carpet, pick a threshold profile before the floor goes down, not after.
- Doors usually need trimming after a new floor goes in.

11 After fitting

> **If other trades are still on site, protect the floor properly. Plastic sheeting is not protection.** It traps moisture against the wood and can mark the finish.

Protecting a new floor

1. Wait until the adhesive or joint glue has cured (section 6 or 7).
2. Lay breathable building paper over the whole floor, overlapped at the joins. Tape the paper to itself, never to the floor. If paper is not used, moisture can be trapped under the plastic protection, causing the floor to sweat. This paper can then be covered with Correx plastic sheeting, that is then taped down.
3. If heavy work is still going on, lay hardboard over the paper, stopping 50–100mm short of the walls so the floor can breathe.
4. Lift the protection every 2–3 weeks to let the floor air and check underneath.
5. Don't run underfloor heating with protection down.

Never tape anything to the floor surface. Tape adhesive pulls oil and lacquer off with it. Painters and decorators: low-tack masking tape on a wood floor is still tape on a wood floor.

Handover

- The fitter records the site conditions, moisture readings, method and adhesive used (see the checklist at the end) and gives a copy to the customer and to us.
- The customer walks the floor with the fitter. Anything you're not happy with gets raised then.
- Oiled floors: give the floor a maintenance coat after fitting and before furniture goes back, or a Titan oil if you feel the floor needs additional protection.
- Felt pads on every chair and table leg before they go back in the room.

12 Living with your floor

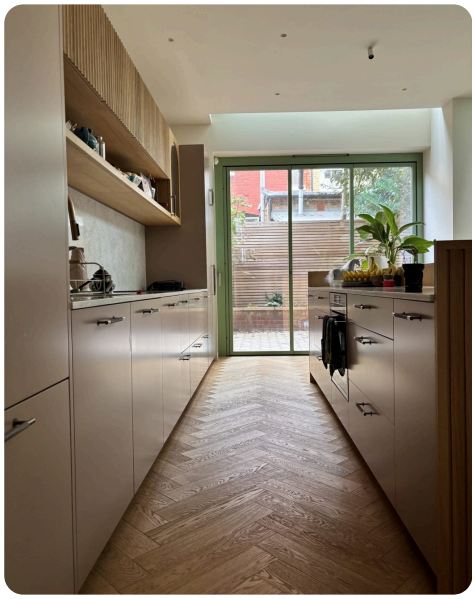
> **A well-oiled oak floor, looked after, lasts decades.** Most of that comes down to two things: keeping the air in the room steady, and keeping grit off the surface.

Humidity, and why winter gaps are normal

Keep the room between **40–65% RH** and 18–22°C, all year. In practice:

- **Winter** (heating on, dry air): boards shrink a little and small gaps can open between them. Up to about 2mm along a board edge is normal under BS 8201. It's not a fault and it closes again in spring. If humidity drops below 40%, use a humidifier, or a few well-watered plants.
- **Summer** (damp air): boards swell and the joints close up tight. Ventilate. Don't let rooms sit shut up and humid.
- **Watch for:** wood burners and open fires (very drying), and rooms that are only heated now and then.

Want to know rather than guess? We sell FidBox monitors, which sit under the floor and log temperature and humidity, so you can see exactly what your floor has been through.



Epping Natural herringbone, in everyday use in a family kitchen in Stoke Newington.

Direct sun will change the colour of any oak over time: it lightens or deepens depending on the finish. Move rugs now and then so you don't end up with a rug-shaped patch.

Everyday care

- Doormats inside and outside every external door. Grit is sandpaper on shoes.
- Felt pads under every chair, table and sofa leg. Check and change them; old pads collect grit.
- Vacuum (with a hard-floor head, beater bar off) or dry mop regularly.

- Clean with a spray mop and the right cleaner for your finish. **Never flood the floor**, and never use a steam mop, scouring pads, bleach or general-purpose cleaners.
- Wipe spills up straight away.
- Stiletto heels and pets' claws will mark any wood floor. Keep claws trimmed.

Oiled floors

- Clean with a natural soap-based floor cleaner made for oiled wood, every couple of weeks.
- Give it a maintenance oil coat every 12–18 months (more often in kitchens and hallways). Thin coat, applied with a sponge or rag, apply in the evening and it will dry overnight. This is what keeps an oiled floor looking good for decades — and something you cannot do with a lacquered floor.
- Scuffs and light scratches on oiled floors can be spot-repaired with maintenance oil. No sanding required.

Intensive cleaners (oiled floors)

An intensive cleaner takes off the dirt and the top coat of oil with it. That's what makes it good at shifting stubborn marks, and why it isn't an everyday cleaner.

- **Spot repairs only:** a stubborn stain, a greasy patch by the hob, a dull, worn area in front of the sink. Never use it across the whole floor as a routine clean.
- **Always re-oil afterwards.** Once the patch is completely dry, put maintenance oil back on it. Bare wood left unoiled will soak up the next spill.
- Follow the instructions on the bottle for dilution and drying times, and use as little as you need.

Not sure whether a mark needs an intensive clean or just a re-oil? Send us a photo first.



Intensive cleaner: for spot repairs only, then re-oil.

Lacquered floors

- Clean with a pH-neutral cleaner made for lacquered wood, on a well-wrung mop.
- Apply a lacquer refresher (polish) every year or so to protect the surface.
- Deep scratches through lacquer need a professional recoat. Call us.

Stains on oiled floors

Stain	What to use
Wine, coffee, tea, juice, milk, pet accidents	Damp cloth with floor soap, wrung out well. Re-oil the patch if it's marked
Grease, chocolate, wax	Lift off what you can, then a little floor cleaner on a cloth
Ink, shoe polish, tar, lipstick	A tiny amount of white spirit on a cloth, then re-oil the spot

13 Quick reference and sign-off

The numbers on one page

Check	Requirement
Room temperature	18–22°C (floor at least 15°C)
Room humidity	40–65% RH, ideally 45–60%
Heating running before delivery	At least 5 days, ideally 2 weeks
Acclimatisation	48 hours minimum, 72 hours in winter or for wide boards
Flatness	Max 3mm under a 2m straight edge; 1mm under 20cm
Screed, floated floor	Max 75% RH
Screed, glued floor	Max 65% RH, or a primer DPM
Anhydrite screed	Max 0.5% CM
Timber subfloor	Max 11%, within 2% of the new floor
Perimeter gap	10mm glued; 12mm floated (15mm over 25 m^2)
Joint stagger	At least 300mm, ideally 500mm
Waste allowance	10% plank; 15% herringbone and chevron
UFH surface temperature	Max 27°C
UFH after fitting	Off 2–3 days, then up 1–2°C a day
Floated floor: foot traffic / furniture	2 hours / 24 hours
Glued floor: foot traffic / furniture	24 hours / 36–48 hours

Fitter sign-off

Complete this on every job and send a photo of it to info@kite-flooring.com. It protects you, the customer and us.

Job address: _____

Fitter: _____ **Date fitted:** _____

Floor fitted: _____ **Method:** floated / glued

Adhesive or joint glue used: _____

Readings on the day

Reading	Result
Room temperature (°C)	
Room humidity (% RH)	
Subfloor type	
Subfloor moisture (% RH, % CM or %)	
Board moisture (%)	
Flatness (max gap under 2m edge, mm)	

Checks

- [ ] Building watertight, wet trades finished
- [ ] Heating on and stable; UFH commissioned and off for 48 hours
- [ ] Packs acclimatised for at least 48 hours
- [ ] Subfloor clean, flat, dry and sound, readings recorded above
- [ ] Boards inspected, defects set aside and reported
- [ ] Packs mixed, joints staggered
- [ ] Expansion gap left all round, spacers removed
- [ ] Nothing fixed through a floated floor
- [ ] Glue and adhesive cleaned off the surface
- [ ] Customer walked the floor and given care instructions

Fitter signature: _____

Customer signature: _____

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This guide is advisory and follows BS 8201:2011 and established good practice. The fitter is responsible for following it before, during and after installation. Kite Designs Ltd, company no. 12138377.