



UK Wood Floors

Herringbone Block Flooring Fitting Guidelines

Herringbone block flooring is a very accurately machined product, allowing the floor to be laid interlocked with tongues and grooves. It should be laid by bonding to a suitably prepared sub-floor, for which we recommend the use of elasticated MS Polymer flexible adhesive.

Laying the blocks

Draw a line in the centre of the room. This line is known as the crown line.

Lay the first line of blocks down the crown line with the tongue facing inwards, so the apex of the joints between them falls in line.

Continue to lay the floor outwards from the crown line until a space remains around the perimeter of the floor, sufficient for a border of one or two blocks wide (as preferred) plus a provision for an expansion gap.

Without adhesive, lay the last lines of blocks fringing the border area and cut these blocks using a suitable template the width of the blocks plus 12-15mm for expansion.

These cut blocks and lastly the border blocks are then stuck down.

Finally, sand and seal the floor, using an appropriate finish for the areas usage.

Please also see link below to our website page where you can access a herringbone installation video:

<https://youtu.be/n31pgx1UsM0>

Please note that this shows a standard block installation. If you are fitting an Antique distressed block floor the sanding stage is much less-involved than that shown, and you should **NOT** carry out the joint binding stage shown (approx 7-8 mins on the video), as this would spoil the antique look required.

Advice is given for general guidance only. It is the responsibility of the floor layer to ensure that site conditions are suitable for hardwood flooring. If specific advice is required, please contact UK Wood Floors.

AFTER INSTALLATION

It is important to maintain a stable humidity level all year round in order to preserve the wood's form and appearance. Wood is a hygroscopic material and due to its natural movement characteristics, slight cupping or crowning is sometimes unavoidable. The optimal humidity range for hardwood flooring is between 45 and 60%. Temperature should be maintained at about 18 - 24 degrees Celsius. If underfloor heating is used a maximum sub-floor temperature of 26 degrees should be observed. Temperatures in excess of this may cause excessive movement and can lead to delamination of engineered boards and/or splits appearing in the surface of the wood. Gaps appearing between the boards indicate a drying out of the wood and insufficient degree of humidity. Temperature variations can also lead to some 'creaking' being heard from the flooring. The installation of a humidifier or air exchange system can prove indispensable in controlling humidity.

Above all, don't forget that wood is a living material and that we must look after it for life. A proper care programme should always be observed. By following these simple guidelines you will maintain the natural beauty of your floor.

MAINTENANCE 'DO'S'

- If the flooring is to be covered after laying for any period of time (for example while final decorating takes place) then Breathershield or similar breathable sheeting should be used, along with Correx or similar protective sheeting. If underfloor heating is present this should be left off or at very low level whilst the floor is covered as the build up of heat can otherwise damage the flooring and finish.
- Regularly sweep or vacuum the floor using a soft flooring attachment to prevent grit or abrasive dust from accumulating and scratching the surface
- Use protective pads under all furniture legs and castor wheels
- Use barrier mats inside and outside of all external doorways to help prevent the transfer of mud, grit, moisture and abrasive particles
- A suitable spray cleaner or mop rinsed in a recommended wood floor cleaning solution should be used for cleaning, with the mop squeezed damp beforehand. A Bona wood floor spray mop is recommended
- At regular intervals after cleaning a coat of Maintenance Oil should be applied to protect the floor and maintain its appearance
- Keep the ambient temperature to 18-24 degree Celsius and the relative humidity at 45-60% throughout the year. This will prevent any excessive expansion and/or contraction of the flooring.

MAINTENANCE 'DON'TS'

- Never allow any liquids or detergents to remain on the floor, these should be wiped and cleaned immediately
- Never leave a wood floor covered with floor protection for longer than two weeks, no adhesive tape of any description should be applied directly to the floor surface. If an underfloor heating system is in place it should be turned off whilst the flooring is covered.
- Where underfloor heating is used beware of leaving low-level furniture in one position for any length of time. If the flooring is 'capped' in this way, trapping heat, this will lead to cupping and/or gapping, from which the floor may not be able to recover
- The use of rugs is not recommended, as they trap heat which can lead to swelling, distortion, cupping, and in the case of an engineered floor, delamination
- Never use wax, oil-based detergent, steel wool or any household cleaners. These may dull or damage the finish, leaving a greasy film, making the floor more difficult to clean
- Never use a steam cleaner because moisture can be forced into the wood, causing cupping and damage to the finish
- Do not use a vacuum with rotating brushes.