

PAVWOODS

Sub floor requirements

All sub-floors must be flattened and levelled to the following tolerances:-

FOR PLANK FLOORING +/- 3mm per 2 linear metres in all directions for subfloors that are prepared for a wide-plank floor covering.

FOR PATTERNED FLOORING +/- 2mm per 3 linear metres in all directions for sub-floors that are prepared for a patterned floor covering such as, parquet herringbone, parquet panels, leather panels, metal briquettes and pavers.

Cement screed

One of the most important things to remember when introducing a screed into a wood flooring installation project is the risk of moisture. Whenever and wherever a wood floor is to be installed, it is essential to make sure that all materials, including concrete and screeds are dry.

Screed must have a moisture content less than 3% and a relative humidity (ErH) less than 75% when tested with hygrometer.

We would recommend use of screed additives/fast dry screed/ rapid set screed which could help achieve quicker drying time to perform installation.

Joists

Plywood sub-floors above joists with 300mm centers must have a minimum thickness of 12mm - above joists with 400mm centers a thickness of 18mm. The plywood must be screwed to the joists.

Chipboard must have a minimum thickness of 18mm, be glued at tongue and groove and screwed to the joists at 300 to 400mm centers.

All sheet joints must be staggered, sheets cannot be joined at door thresholds, a single sheet must traverse the threshold. Sheets must have a moisture content of less than 10%.

REGULATING RADIANT HEATING SYSTEMS FOR USE WITH ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORS

This should be left to qualified installers recommended by the manufacturer of the UFH system and you must have “flow” control valves to ensure that the temperature never exceeds 27 degrees where the wood floor meets the screed or underlay. You cannot achieve this with thermostats. The best system is to have sensors fitted into the screed that will turn the system off if the surface temperature exceeds 27 degrees.

CRITICAL: The surface temperature of the screed must never exceed 27 degrees C.

Commissioning the UFH system after the wood is installed

It is important not to shock the floor by introducing the heat too quickly and after starting the heating system:

Wood flooring will have some moisture in its cell structure and natural oils help to maintain this. If the floor is overheated and allowed to dry too much then the fibrous nature of the cell structure will start to split. Water based finishes should be applied professionally so as not to create problems when the heating system is turned back on.

Once the floor is fitted the system should not be turned back on for at least 48 hours, and if the floors have been oiled it is important to follow the manufacturer’s curing time before turning the system back on. It is important not to dry the oils out by turning the system back on. For Natural oils this could mean not turning the system back on for 14 days.

Also after the oils have cured you should turn the system back on and increase the temperature by 1 to 2 degrees a day using the flow controls and keeping the thermostats very low. Wood flooring is a living thing on oiled floors always keep them maintained.

Acclimatisation of wooden flooring

Before starting the installation, the 20mm Engineered floor boards need to be brought into the room where they will be installed after the 21 day initial running period, and exposed to the climatic conditions. The acclimatisation will comprise:-

- All wet trades must have finished and screeds dry with moisture levels below 8% and humidity below 65 %
- The UFH system must have been commissioned and turned on.
- Leaving the boards in their cartons with the ends open.
- Storing the boards for at least 14 days.
- The boards should be laid flat at least 300mm from the nearest wall.
- There must be some battens under the bottom layer of cartons so that air can circulate..
- The room temperature must be at least 18 degrees C.
- The floor surface temperature must be a minimum of 15 degrees C.
- The air relative humidity must be between 40% and 65%.