Excelsior Engineered Oak Flooring

Installation Guide 2021

Building site conditions

With regard to the exterior of the building or dwelling, all gutters, downpipes and drainage systems need to be in place and operational prior to laying the floor. Similarly, groundwork needs to be sufficiently completed to ensure water drains away from the building and that no ponding of water occurs either adjacent to slabs and footings or beneath the building. Prior to product being delivered to site, the building needs to be weather tight with all windows and doors in place. Wet trades including plastering, tiling, painting and plumbing should be complete and the building or dwelling then given time to dry from higher levels of moisture released from these trades.

Acclimatisation, storage and handling

All products should be handled with care and unopened cartons should be stored in dry conditions and elevated at least 100 mm off ground floor slabs. Generally, Allure Oak does not need to be acclimatised however conditions within the dwelling should resemble as closely as possible the in-service conditions of the completed building or dwelling. If the normal in-service environment is air-conditioned or heated at the time of the year when the floor is being installed, then these conditions should be replicated prior to floor installation and then maintained. Temperatures in the low to mid 20s and relative humidity of 40% to 60% are indicative of the moderately dry conditions that are best suited to floor installation. This means that the flooring is not subjected to temperature shock and distortion on opening.

Sub Floor (concrete, plywood & particleboard)

All sub-floors must be dry and free from dirt and contamination such as oils, grease, waxes, paint, curing compounds, old adhesives or plaster.
The sub- floor must be levelled to no more than a 3mm gap showing under a 1.5m straight edge.
Concrete Sub Floors
Concrete should not have a moisture content greater than 5% or 70% in-slab relative humidity. Moisture barriers must be used when moisture levels exceed this.
Plywood & particleboard substrates should not exceed 12% moisture content
Allure Oak is not structurally rated & cannot be installed onto joists or battens

Adhesives & Moisture Barriers

Silane or elastomeric adhesives are recommended to install Allure Oak Flooring. Compatible moisture barriers and adhesives must be used or delamination may occur which is not covered under the Allure Oak warranty 2021. A full bed of adhesive is required with the recommended trowel size to ensure at least 90% contact & coverage. Open times of adhesives are affected by temperature & humidity so care must be taken to ensure the adhesive does not skin off during installation. In all cases the manufacturer's guidelines must be followed.

Expansion Joints

An expansion gap of 10mm is required to the entire perimeter and any other fixed structures such as door frames, tiled areas, cabinetry, pipes and fixtures. Intermediate expansion joints are required in areas larger than 10 metres. Perimeter expansion joints in areas larger than 10 metres will require an additional 1mm of expansion for every additional 1 metre.

Heated Subfloors

1. The heating system needs to be operated for a period of 2 weeks prior to floor installation to lower the moisture content of the sub-floor and particularly so if it is a slab to remove further moisture. The possibility of higher levels of humidity in the room during this process should be checked for and ventilation provided as required. When conditions are sufficiently dry the flooring should be stored in the installation location in a manner that does not interfere with the drying of the sub-floor. During and particularly toward the end of this period the room conditions regarding temperature and humidity should be checked and the relative humidity should be in the range from 40% to 65% at a temperature of about 20°C. Similarly, the sub-floor should also be checked to ensure it is suitable for accepting a timber floor. The sub-floor temperature should not exceed 27°C with in-slab heating (With hydronic heating water temperatures may be 45°C or so to attain an underfloor temperature up to 27°C.
2. Turn off the heating and follow this by a non-heating period, generally about two days.
3. Lay and fix the floor - If the floor is laid direct to a slab, then an elastomeric polyurethane or silane adhesive is used and as this may differ from those used with normal floor installation, advice should be obtained from the adhesive supplier. For other types of sub-floor, normal fixing practices apply. Following installation, the heating is to remain off for a further two days.
4. Gradually increase the Under Floor Heating (UFH) to normal expected temperature. The heating should be increased in stages from a low level to the desired room temperature over a period of about 10 days, incrementing by no more than 2°C each day and then maintained for a further two weeks.
5. Turn the heating system on. The system with installed and finished floor can then be operated but again the temperature should be raised gradually to the desired operating temperature. With an UFH system in place the optimum relative humidity range is between 40% and 60% year-round with room temperatures of about 18°C to 24°C.

Installation:

- The flooring should be inspected prior to installation for any defects or faults. No claims will be accepted for faulty or defective boards laid.
- The starting row must be installed in a straight line. It is recommended that it is marked with a chalk string line.
- The adhesive should be allowed to cure on the starting row before proceeding further or a sacrificial row of boards be laid and mechanically fastened
- Excess adhesive should be cleaned up from all board surfaces.
- The groove side of the floorboard should be facing towards the starting wall keeping in mind expansion requirements.
- Avoid working on uncured adhesive as this can create hollow spots and compromise adhesive integrity.
- Joints should be checked regularly to ensure there are no gaps.
- Board ends should be staggered by a minimum of 300mm apart
- Multiple boxes should be opened to ensure an even distribution of colour & grading
- It is recommended to check adhesive transfer during the installation to ensure correct coverage
- Any adhesive must be wiped clean from the board surface during installation to prevent damage or hazing to the finished surface
- Heavy foot traffic must be avoided until the adhesive has cured
- All expansion wedges should be removed after installation.
- All installations must comply with best industry practice

Post Installation

After installation, rooms should be maintained at a temperature between 15-25°C with the humidity of the atmosphere between 30%-70%
For cleaning & maintenance please refer to the Allure Oak Warranty.