



Excellence In Flooring



## FITTING INSTRUCTIONS

### TEMPERATURE CONTROL AND STORAGE AT THE INSTALLATION SITE

Your floor has been kiln-dried to realise an ideal relative moisture content of 8 to 10% (10 to 12% ex factory). It is for that reason that you need to give wooden floor sections a couple of days to become acclimatized prior to the installation, keeping them inside their packaging and storing them inside the room where the flooring will be carried out, this in order that the wood may become adapted to the ambient temperature in the room. Note! This space needs to be dry and heated (18 - 22°C), with a relative humidity of between 50 and 60%. Keep in mind that factors inside and in the immediate vicinity of the room will determine the way in which your floor is going to react to conditions. Laying a wooden floor ought, in principle, always to be the final job in a project, therefore, ensure that:

- the subfloor is dry,
- all plaster work is dry,
- all tiling works were finished at least 3 weeks prior,
- windows have been positioned,
- there is no water leakage from sanitary and heating elements.

### SUBFLOOR

It is very important that each section of the subfloor be dry, clean, solid, and level.

- Concrete floor slabs

Floor slabs need to be dry, this means with a maximum humidity content of 1,8% in a concrete floor and only 0,3% in case of a concrete floor with anhydrite. A newly poured concrete floor requires a drying time of ± 1.5 weeks per centimetre depth. You can get the appropriate instruments for measuring the humidity content from your dealer. Furthermore, the subfloor needs to be level, meaning without uneven sections that exceed 2 mm over a length of 2 metres (if not, you will have to level out the floor surface). Solidity also is important; this means that no screed may be dislodged from the concrete slabs when you scrape the subfloor with a trowel. Clean means:

- all residue of paint, glue, plaster, grease, or oil must be removed. Thus, make the floor surface completely free of dust and grease.
- Concrete plates on floor heaters

Special guidelines are in order in this case. Consult your dealer on this point.

- Old timber floors

Old timber floors consist mostly of thick boards of softwood. They must be set solidly in place, display no signs of mildew or of the presence of vermin, and they need to be level. The new floor sections need to be laid crosswise to the old floor boards.

- Wooden subfloor (OSB or plywood) and sub-parquet

The moisture percentage of these woodpanels must be ± 9%.

- Old tiled floor

A new wooden floor can also be positioned on top of an old tiled floor. In this case, special precautionary measures and specially adapted products are required. Always consult your dealer for more specific information.

### ATTENTION !

Your floor is a natural product. Structure and colouring of the wood may vary. For that reason, it is advisable that you mix several sections from different packages while you are laying the floor boards. Also check the floor boards for moisture content, non-conformities in size and colouring, and for damage. Eventual complaints in this regard are no longer accepted once the floor sections have been installed.

### EXPANSION JOINTS

Wood is a natural product that is affected by the relative moisture percentage in the air. When the moisture in the air is high, your wooden floor will expand (swell), while a moisture content that is too low will make it contract. For that reason, it is of the utmost importance that some space be left between the floor and the walls, door frames, heating ducts, and the like. The space left for the expansion joint should be min. 15 mm. When the floor exceeds 6 meters in width or 10 meters in length, an extra expansion joint must be inserted halfway and this joint must be wider.

### THE INSTALLATION

1. Direct gluing to the concrete floor

With direct-gluing of your wooden floor onto a concrete floor, dispense with the tongue-and-groove gluing altogether. A number 3 glue spreader is recommended. Count on using 1 kg/m<sup>2</sup> of glue. We recommend that you work with a PU glue (2 components or 1 component). Always follow

the instructions as given on the glue pack. When there is the likelihood of mounting moisture, it is recommended that you first apply a preliminary coat of PU.

2. Gluing a wooden subfloor onto a concrete floor

The subfloor (multiplex plate, OSB plate, sub-parquet, ...) needs to be glued onto the concrete floor with an alcohol-based glue, or, better still, with a PU glue. Be careful! The moisture percentage of the wooden subfloor must be ± 9%. If needed, the slabs can be screwed on in certain spots. For gluing your wooden floor onto the wooden subfloor, it is best to use a PU glue.

3. Floating installation

First install a 0.2 mm-thick DPM foil (plastic foil) with an overlap at the joints of minimum 200 mm. Beside it place a subfoil for parquet of minimum 2 mm thickness. Do not overlap this foil. The floor boards are glued to one another with a water-resistant wood glue that is applied into the groove, both on the long side and the short side of the board.

### TIPS & ADVICE

An ideal interior climate is important for your wooden floor. Room temperature: 18 - 22°C; moisture percentage in the air: between 50 and 60%. During the winter months, it is common for the air inside the rooms to become very dry. In order to create and maintain a constant moisture content, humidifiers can be placed on or near the radiators. For spacious rooms, electrical humidifiers are required.

During the summer and the fall, when moisture content in the air is high, the space should be well ventilated. As is the case with all natural products, exposure to direct sunlight will cause discolorations. When the room is subject to greatly fluctuating temperatures, there is the possibility of dishing, shrinking, or distortion of the wooden floor.

### MAINTENANCE

All industrially finished floors should immediately upon installation be maintained using correct treatment.

1. PRE-OILED FLOORS

- Apply maintenance oil immediately following installation!

After your pre-oiled floor has been laid, you need to thoroughly dust the whole surface, after which you are ready to apply the maintenance oil (natural or white). Use the oil sparingly by spraying. Sprinkle four rows of the floor boards with the oil. Then, for a lengthy period, massage the oil into the wood by using a white polishing pad or a polishing machine. Make certain that no oil deposits remain standing on the boards. After polishing these first four rows, continue with the remainder of the floor. For the corners, it is best to rub in the oil with a lint-free cotton cloth. After the whole floor has been polished, leave it to dry for 24 hours. Usage: 1 litre of maintenance oil will cover 30 m<sup>2</sup> of parquet floor. Make certain that for the next four days your floor remains water-free, since it is necessary for the oil to harden completely onto the surface!

- Regular maintenance with soap (natural or white)

We recommend that during the first month you give your floor a soaping once a week. Subsequently, you can soap it as need arises, when the floor is dirty or has a dry look. In between, you can sweep or vacuum-clean the floor. Use two pails of warm water: One pail for mixing the soap (5 litres of water + 1/8 litre of soap) – shake the soap well before use. One pail for rinsing out the soiled mop (you need to regularly use clean water, in this way you save the soap mixture). Apply the soap mixture by means of a lightly wrung-out cotton mop. Let it soak in so that the dirt can readily be dissolved. Wipe the floor in the direction of the planks. Rinse out the soiled mop in the second pail and wring it out well. Then soak it again in the soap mixture and continue wiping. After you have soaped the whole floor in this way, soak the mop for the last time in the soap mix and wring it out thoroughly before proceeding to dry the entire floor with it. Never rinse your floor with water as a final step since this will remove the protective soy and coconut oils that are present in the soap. By soaping your floor regularly, it will become more resistant to dirt. Note: When you are using the white soap, make certain that it be distributed evenly across the floor.

- Deep-cleaning with Intensive Wood Cleaner

Once a year – for private homes – you can give your floor an extra maintenance treatment with Intensive Wood Cleaner. This will remove all soap residue and stubborn dirt spots. Prepare a solution of 1/20 in water. Apply the mixture to your floor and allow it to soak in for 5 to 10 minutes. Scrub well with a soft (scrub)brush. Remove the dirty solution and mop up afterwards with clean water. Let the floor dry fully until all the water is completely gone. Following a cleaning with Intensive Wood Cleaner,

you should apply a new thin coating of maintenance oil. (see above) The pieces of cloth that are drenched in oil should be cleaned thoroughly in water before they are deposited into the garbage bin.

2. VARNISHED FLOORS (MAT & SATIN)

The following products will guarantee a long life for polished floors:

**CLEANER** Soft soap for regular maintenance. Use a dash of the product in a pail with 10 litres of water. Apply the mix with a damp mop. Disperses a pleasant fresh fragrance.

**POLISH** (for satin varnish) Protects and renews the satin varnish layer. Use undiluted in one or two coatings. Apply with a clean mop. One litre Polish will clean circa 40 m<sup>2</sup>.

**METAMAT**: (for mat varnish) Protects and renews the dull varnish layer. Use undiluted in one or two coatings. Apply with a clean mop. One litre Metamat will clean circa 40 m<sup>2</sup>.

**CONDITIONER** For deep-cleaning (after several years of using Polish or Metamat or following renovation works). Use 1/2 litre of product in 10 litres of water. With very dirty floors, this concentration may be increased to 1 to 2 litres of product per 10 litres of water. (see above) Afterwards, rinse with a damp mop. After this treatment, again apply Polish or Metamat. Never use lots of water to rinse your floor. Beside these products, there are other possibilities available. More info available from your supplier.

3. FOR HARDWAX-OILED FLOORS

- Apply Hardwax Oil

After the installation of your floor, you need to dust the whole surface thoroughly. Then apply a thin coating of Hardwax oil, rubbing in the direction of the wood grain. Do this sparingly by means of a brush. Make certain that no streaks remain on the wood. It is important that the room be well ventilated in order to promote the drying process of the Hardwax oil. Drying time is ± 24 hours. Hardwax oil is available in Satin and Extra Mat. Usage: 1 litre of Hardwax oil for 24 m<sup>2</sup> of parquet floor.

- Regular maintenance with appropriate products

4. FINISHING OF UNTREATED FLOORS

- With Masteroil or Hardwax oil. More info available from your supplier.

### TIPS & ADVICE

- If possible, lay a good quality placemat at the entrance to the room, to catch dust and grit.
- Daily maintenance by sweeping or vacuum-cleaning.
- Never use a lot of water when you are cleaning your floor.
- Remove stubborn spots on a polished floor with a damp sponge and a neutral detergent. Never use aggressive detergents or ammonia products, scouring agents, or silicone.
- Protect your parquet floor by placing self-adhesive felt pads at the bottom of the legs of the furniture pieces.

### FITTING

Important: these installation instructions are meant to assist you as much as possible in the laying of your floor. As individual circumstances are beyond our control, these instructions are not meant to be binding on our company. In case of doubt, we suggest that you contact your dealer.

1. Place the first board with the grooved side against the wall. Provide for an expansion joint of 15 mm, with the spacers for the joint at the end and along the wall. Lay out the first row of floor boards, with the grooved side towards the wall. Make certain that all boards are tightly joined together. To this end, use a hammer and a wooden strike block to prevent damage to the edges of the boards.

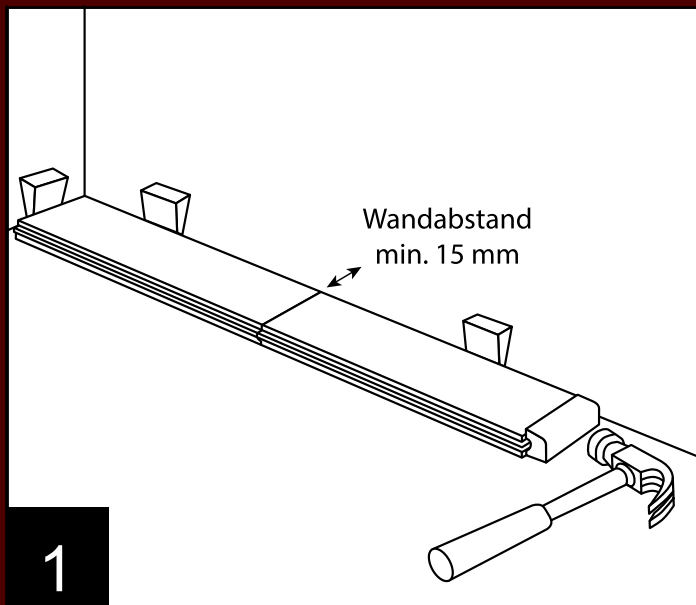
2. Shorten the last section of the row. Here also, leave 15 mm space for the expansion joint. To ensure a tight fit at the end of a row, the use of a crowbar is recommended. The remainder of the shortened part at the end of the row can each time be used as the start of the next row.

3. Start the second row on the same side as the first row and ensure that the ends of the boards are staggered by a minimum of 40 cm vis-à-vis the previous row.

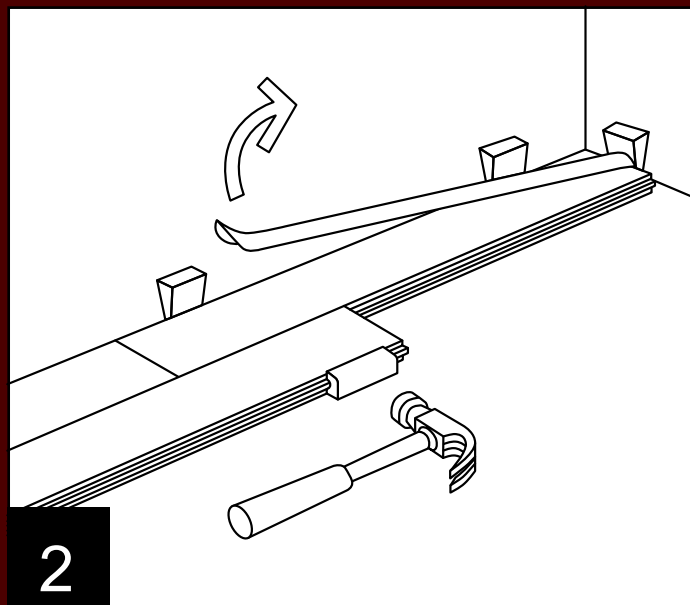
4. Laterally saw the floor board through the centre of the cutout section at an angle of 45°. Fit both parts around the duct and adjust.

5. Door frames and other wooden elements are best sawed off at the bottom so that the floor board can be shoved through underneath them. Here also, account for the expansion joint.

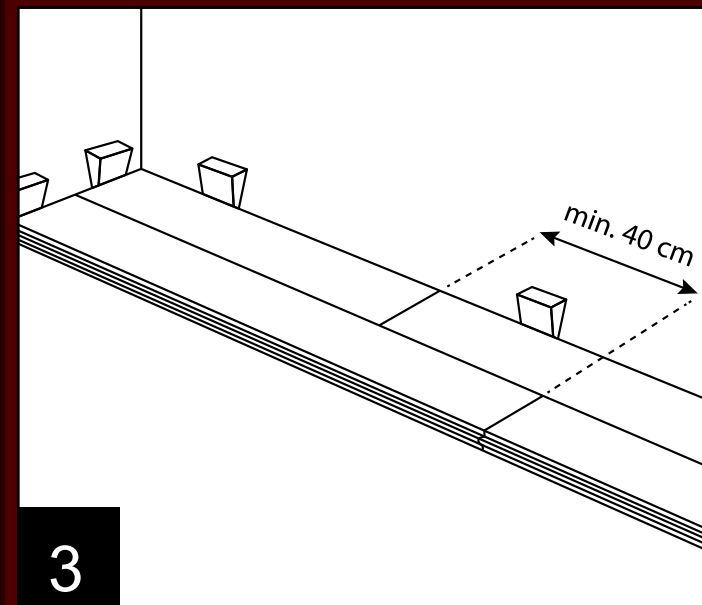
6. For the positioning of the last row of floor boards, accurately measure the remaining width between the last placed row and the wall, with appropriate deduction of the expansion joint. Saw the board to the correct measurement. Carefully lay the final floor sections and fit them in place using the crowbar.



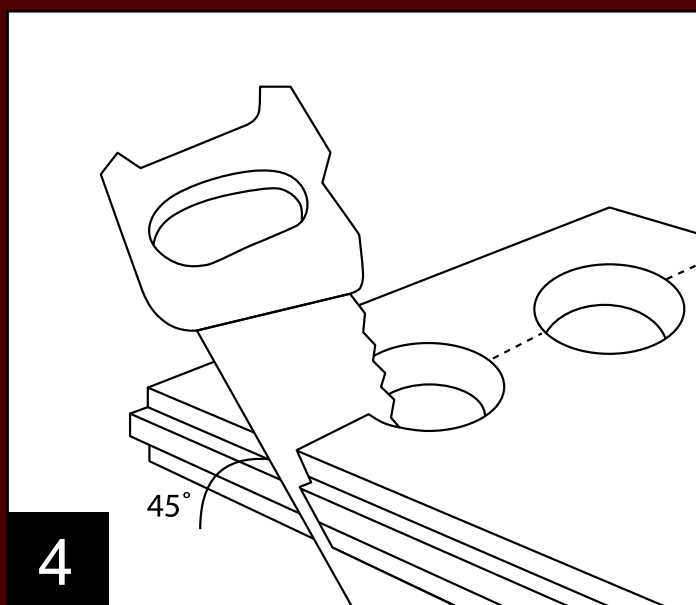
1



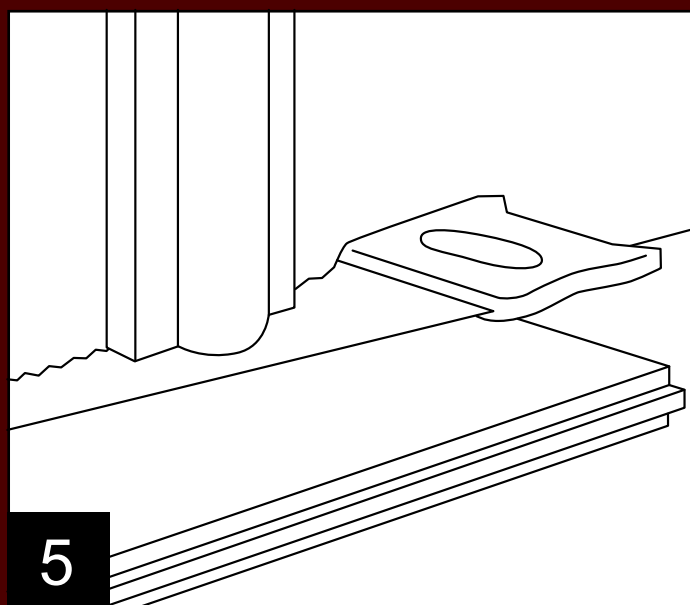
2



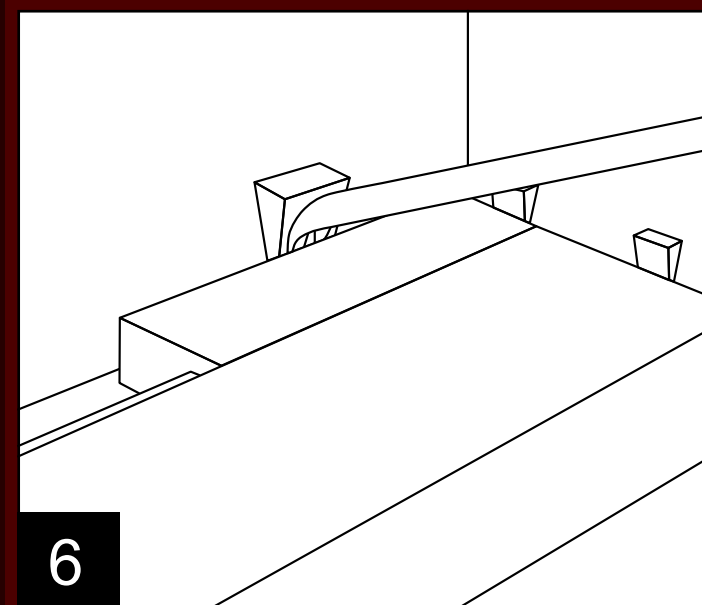
3



4



5



6