

Installation Solid Flooring



The installation method will be determined by the type of flooring you are buying and also by the type of sub floor you have.

There are 3 common categories for subflooring:

- Concrete or cement/screed
- Wooden-Plywood, Chipboards
- Floor Joist or battens

Please note that vinyl floors, glued-down carpets, and other existing flooring types are not suitable as subflooring (especially for wood floors) and must be removed. Before installing any type of flooring, it is important that you get down to the solid, flat and dry subfloor.

Wood and Beyond has summarised below the following information about subfloors and the flooring types and installation methods you can use:

Subfloor	Flooring Type	Installation Method
Concrete	Solid	Nailed onto Battens, Glue-Down
	Engineered	Floating, Glue-Down
Plywood, T&G	Solid	Nail-down, Glue-Down
	Engineered	Floating, Glue-Down
Particle Board	Solid	Glue-Down
	Engineered	Floating, Glue-Down

Preparation Steps

Make sure the room is completely free of any obstacles such as your old carpet or wooden floors so you can concentrate on installing rather than moving furniture around. Ensure the surface is clean from any debris and other remnants of the previous floor.

Glue Down Installation

While this guide is likely to give you all the information you'll need for Glue-down installation, always read the information which came with the floor or contact the seller if unsure.

Glue-down installation requires the use of a bonding agent or adhesives applied directly onto the subfloor and can be laid onto both concrete and wooden subfloors.

PLEASE NOTE

Always read the health and safety recommendations when working with agents.

If you are laying over a concrete subfloor you will first need to put down a two part epoxy damp proof membrane to ensure no damp rises up into your new floor.

Glue-down installation can be very stable when done properly, although it does take some time before you can actual-

ly walk on your floors. The adhesives will need to bond to the floor, and can be quite messy especially when done by a less skilled installer.

Nail-down Installation

Nail-down installation is recommended for solid and engineered flooring with minimum thickness of 18mm. Any floor below 18 mm thickness should not be nailed down, should be floated or glued down.

Nail-down installation is the most straightforward of all solid wood floor installation methods, and is only advised if you have a wood subfloor and plenty of time to focus on the work.

When installing over plywood the direction you choose to lay the planks does not matter; however, if you are going to nail down a new floor over an existing floorboards you must face the planks of the new floor in the opposite direction of the floorboards, essentially making a criss-cross pattern.

Solid wood floors are thicker; hence, they need to be nailed down in order to stay in place so consider hiring a nailer for large surfaces otherwise it might take couple of days. Typically when nailing down an 18mm-22mm solid floor you will want to use 2" long nails.

Generally, people regard nail-down installation as being very exacting and time-consuming. It requires you to use specific tools and equipment, which can be hard for a DIY job. There is also a certain skill and level of knowledge needed for this type of installation.

One suggestion with all nail down installations is to use 2mm poly foam underlay this helps to make sliding boards into place easier and it also reduces the potential squeaking noise your floor produces when walked on.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Product not suitable for basements and bathrooms

Site conditions are extremely important and make all the difference to a timber floor. Site check before starting installation ensure moisture conditions required met is vital. Wood flooring will perform best when the domestic relative humidity range between 40%-60% and a temperature range of 15-24 degrees. Wood is a moisture absorbent material and its moisture level varies with air humidity and temperature.

FOR EXAMPLE

- A.** 50% air humidity and 20°C temperature average Oak floor will have 9% moisture content.
- B.** 30% humidity and 25°C temperature the same Oak floor will have 5% moisture content. As air humidity changes so does the dimension of the wood.

The overall fabric (walls & floors) of a building should be thoroughly dry (so there are no visible signs of moisture or condensation when heating is on) before bringing in any timber.

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