

INSTALLATION SPECIFICATION

OSLEK Flooring's engineered wide board floors are made from a top wear layer of European Oak usually between 4mm to 6mm thick on a cross-linked multiply base. This gives an option of total thickness of between 15mm and 22mm. All boards are tongue and grooved and end matched with widths including 190mm, 220mm, 260mm and 340mm. The boards also come in a variety of lengths from 1800mm to 3900mm long boards. Boards can be supplied in a choice of finishes or sold unfinished. The quality of the boards is exceptional in appearance and trueness. We recommend a wastage factor of 10% extra to cover cutting waste. Moisture content is generally around 10+% depending on seasonal variations etc.

Wood is a natural product, subject to colour, character and grain variations. Mineral streaks, knots, splits, cracks and other imperfections will also be present. These add to the natural character of the product and are not considered defects. Real wood is an organic material; the character will vary from tree to tree and board to board. The process used to fume, smoke and /or stain gives the product its deep rich colours. Because each board will accept the surface treatment differently, we cannot guarantee that the wood floor you order will exactly match your sample board. It is extremely important that boards are selected from multiple cartons and shuffled during the installation process. Moldings should be matched to boards that will enhance the look of the installation before the installation process begins. Finished boards require minimal additional finishing treatment once down, however care must be taken to remove glue residue during installation and to protect the floor from other trades and traffic. We always recommend another overcoat after installation (contact Oslek to confirm the coating used on your floor) to seal bevels and cuts, provide a consistent gloss level and to further protect against general wear and staining. High quality engineered floors can be laid without the usual restrictions that apply to a solid product as shrinkage and movement are greatly reduced. We recommend qualified floor layers only be used to install our floors (please contact OSLEK for recommended installers).

Methods of installation over concrete slabs:

A) Slab Preparation:

This information is relevant to all timber floor installations over a concrete slab. Concrete must be structurally sound, dry (no more than 5.5% moisture content), level and cleaned of waxes, adhesives, dust etc. Slabs must be flat with no more than a 3mm deviation in a 3 metre radius. If deviations are greater than above use a self-leveling compound (e.g. Ardit) to level the surface within the above tolerance.

1. Floating

Technically our floors are not "Floating Floors" as such and it is our least favourite method of installation, however being engineered and inherently flat means they can be used in this way. The reason we don't like floating is that it gives the floor a more "hollow" sound (like a traditional timber floor over a joist sound) as opposed to a "dead" sound achieved when the floor is glued to the subfloor. This system is suitable for flood prone areas, for retail or residential use as the floor can be easily removed and used elsewhere. The thickness of the our floor means that the sound made when walking has a solid but hollow quality underfoot not like the "tinny" sound produced from most thin floating floor systems that you may have experienced. We DO NOT recommend D.I.Y. installation. Over a leveled slab, first lay a floating pad with the impervious side facing down. Overlap the pad by 150mm and join the overlaps using a 50mm wide double-sided tape. Lay boards parallel to the longest wall in the room. Leave a 12mm expansion gap along end walls and cover with skirting board. If laying an area greater than 20 metres long or 10 metres wide leave a 20mm expansion gap on all sides and obstructions. When laying the boards use a small quantity of PVA glue for the tongue and grooves only and remove any excess glue from the floor face with a wet rag.

2. Direct Sticking onto an acoustic mat or directly onto concrete slab

Over a leveled slab, first coat the entire slab with our allStick or Bostik Moisture Seal paintable membrane to manufactures' instructions. Failure to correctly seal the slab can result in floor failure due to moisture rising and weakening the glue bond. If using acoustic mat over entire surface as per instructions below there is no need to apply a membrane first. If using an acoustic mat (e.g. 5mm thick Impactamat) glue down using our allStick or Bostik Ultraset applied using a 3mm V-notched trowel allow to dry to manufactures' instructions. Otherwise use our Accoustic glue as a one step process.

Glue the boards directly to the Impactamat using our allStick or Bostik Ultraset applied in a snake pattern individually to the back of each board or trowel glue using a 3mm notched trowel. This mat system is a requirement on first floor residential or multi-level installations to absorb noise it also works well on ground floor slabs. The floor will have a very solidsound and a softer feel under foot. If not using an acoustic mat, directly stick floor boards to the membrane slab using our allStick or Bostik Ultraset trowel glued using a 3mm notched trowel. If boards are not sitting flat either weigh them down or secret nail them into the slab.

3. Direct Sticking over ply over a slab.

Use this method to pack-out to a specific level; plywood from 9mm up can be used. Over a leveled slab lay thick polythene sheet as a moisture barrier, overlap each sheet by 150mm and attach the overlaps using 50mm wide double-sided tape. Alternatively you can use our Moistick, a single coat application moisture barrier. Lay the ply over the polythene sheet in the opposite direction (cross laminate) to the intended direction of the floor. Attach the sheets to the slab using pre-drill sleeve pins only at a rate of 28 pins per 2400mm x1200mm sheet. Level ply if necessary by plane. Rough sand ply and glue and secret nail boards using our allStick or Bostik Ultraset applied in a snake pattern individually to the back of each board.

4. Installation over existing timber floorboards

Plane flat any high points on existing boards and rough sand to provide a glue key. Glue 4mm plywood using our allStick or Bostik Ultraset using a 3mm v-notched trowel as per manufactures' instructions in the opposite direction (cross laminate) to the intended direction of the new floor. Glue and secret nail floor boards using our allStick or Bostik Ultraset applied in a snake pattern individually to the back of each board.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING OPTIONS:

In-slab and above-floor heating systems can be used under *OSLEK Floors*. In-slab heating uses either electrical or hydronic heating elements which are embedded into the slab. If using in-slab we recommend installation method #2 above incorporating the acoustic mat. IT IS VITAL THAT ANY UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEM BE FITTED WITH A CUT-OFF THERMOSTAT SET TO NO HIGHER THAN 25 DEGREES C WHEN MEASURED UNDER THE TIMBER FLOORING. Irreparable damage to wooden floors occurs if it is subjected to temperatures above 25 degrees. Above-floor heating uses electrical wires attached to the slab. This type of system is suitable for existing slabs or over other sub floors. With either system it is important not to have a total timber thickness greater than 20mm otherwise the insulating properties of the timber reduce the effectiveness of the heating system. This eliminates using installation method #3. We recommend installation method #2 incorporating the acoustic mat. Also any air gaps between the heating system and the floor acts as an insulator and should be avoided.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

1. It is vital that all glue residues are removed immediately after laying each pre-finished board. If using "Bostik Ultraset" to glue down use "Bostik Wipes" or a solvent suitable to the glue being used. Always test solvents first on an off-cut to establish that the solvent does not affect the colour or finish. Otherwise use our Accoustic or allStick which are MS (modified silanes) polymer glues. They are non-toxic and easily removed after laying.
2. Once floors are laid on a building site it is essential that the floor be protected using 2mm foam underlay and 3mm or 4mm MDF sheeting that is securely taped together (do not apply tapes to the finished floor). This protection must be maintained until all works have been completed. Avoid plaster dust on the surface of the floor. If dust is present vacuum off immediately, do not mop. Moisture can set the plaster dust into the low grain of the timber making it extremely difficult to remove.
3. Cleaning, we recommend the use of an "Enjo" type swivel cleaning pad for daily/weekly cleaning using sprayed on water or water with our Fiddes Floor Surface Cleaner product. Too much detergent can stay on the floor and dirt can build up. It is frequent rinsing of the Enjo pad in clear water to wash out the dirt that gives the best results.

Please contact your place of purchase if you require any further information prior to installation. Thank you.