

SYDENHAMS

Fitting Guide

We recommend that fitting is always carried out by a trade professional

IMPORTANT

Hardwood is a natural material which reacts to changes in humidity. Wood gains and loses moisture before and after installation as the surrounding conditions fluctuate. To minimize the expansion or contraction of your floor, it is recommended that the building is well ventilated and the relative humidity level maintained at 45% all year round.

Work out of 4-5 boxes at any given time and select the most appropriate plank taking into consideration grain and natural colour changes. At this point any defect cutting should be considered and under no circumstances installed. As this is a natural product it is possible that up to 5% of boards may be unusable

Engineered flooring is suitable for use with under floor heating systems.

Please see our additional information sheet for installation over under-floor heating systems

Before Installation

Ensure that any plastering or cement works are **completely** dry

Leave the flooring to acclimatize within the room it is to be installed for a period of 7-10 days at the ideal relative humidity level of 45% and between 18-24 degrees Celsius

Measure the floor area allowing an additional 10% for wastage

Ensure that subfloor is clean, dry and flat. The sub floor should not deviate more than +/-3mm under a 3m straight edge in one direction

Check the subfloor moisture content and if greater than 2% apply the correct moisture protection dependant on the installation method used.

If levelling is required always apply a surface applied moisture barrier such as BonaR410 to concrete before laying the levelling compound.

Apply a purpose made fine grade aggregate on to the second coat of R410 moisture barrier immediately after application. Allow to cure then vacuum off all loose aggregate (this will aid adhesion between primer and levelling compound). Then use 'rapid dry formulae' water-mix (instead of latex mix) levelling compound, as these are typically stronger and develop strength quicker.

Installation by Glue – Suitable for all 15 and 21mm Engineered Floors.

Fitting Instruction:

For all installations a minimum of one coat of Bona R410 DPM should be used. For sub floors with a Relative Humidity (RH) greater than 2% and less than 5% you will need to use two coats of Bona R410. For Sub-floors with an RH greater than 5% please call us for advice.

Plank floors usually work best when laid down the longest wall length. You should glue several rows of planks at a time. A 15mm expansion gap must be left between the boards and the perimeter wall/skirting. Plastic spacers are available to create the gap on your starter row, these must be removed once the complete floor has been installed. Make sure that the expansion gap remains even across doorways.

Pre cut the rows, making sure that the board lengths are staggered and the header joints of adjacent rows are at least 400mm from the previous row. A ratchet clamp is useful for fitting the first few rows. When the first few boards are cut to size it is time to fix them in place. The Bona R850 adhesive needs to be spread using a fine notched trowel 120G for 150-200mm wide boards and 150G for 200mm-240mm wide. Work across the floor using this method of pre-cutting, gluing and then installing. Once the floor is complete clean off any adhesive residue before it is fully cured. You can install skirting, scotia and twin T section or reducers as required. Your floor should now be protected until it is ready for handover.

Installation by Secret Nail – Suitable for 21mm Engineered Floors.

Fitting Instruction: We recommend that you should lay a bitumen backed builder's paper under all nail down installations as a precaution against cupping due to damp ingress.

Plank floors usually work best when laid down the longest wall length. The groove of the floor is laid against the wall. A 15mm expansion gap must be left between the boards and the perimeter wall/skirting. Plastic spacers are available to create the gap on your starter row, these must be removed once the complete floor has been installed. Now lay your first row against the wall. Use a Primatch nailer with 38mm nails for floorboards/board products and 50mm nails for joists. The Primatch nailer needs to be properly set up to fire the nail into the correct position and depth into the tongue. It is important that the floorboard is not too tightly fixed to the sub floor which is also part of the Primatch nailer set up.

Nail every board 250mm along the board into the floorboard/board products or in every joist or baton. The support from the grooves on the ends of each board means that you do not have to end on a floor joist or baton. Pre cut the rows, making sure that the board lengths are staggered and the header joints of adjacent rows are at least 400mm from the previous row. A ratchet clamp is useful for fitting the first few rows. Any damaged boards can be cut and used to start other rows. Continue across the floor until you reach the last row. Cut the last row of boards to leave a 15mm gap and then use a ratchet clamp to edge the final row of boards into place. You can install skirting, scotia and twin T section or reducer as required. Your floor should now be protected until it is ready for handover.

Installation by Floating – Suitable for all 15mm & 21mm Engineered Floors

Fitting Instruction (Onto plywood, chipboard or concrete with no underfloor heating) If the sub-floor moisture content is higher than 2% you must use an underlay with built in moisture barrier such as Timbertech.

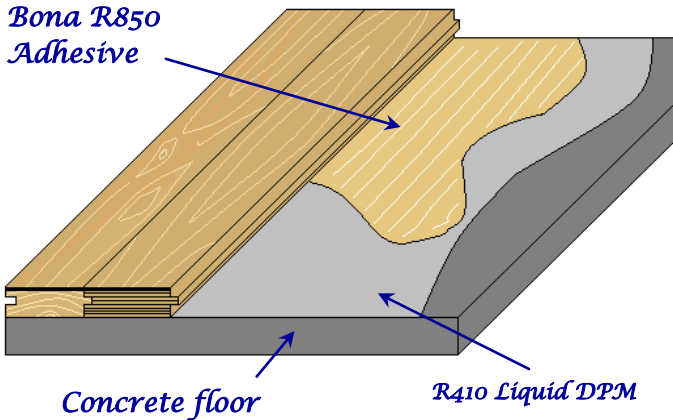
Plank floors usually work best when laid down the longest wall length. The groove of the floor is laid against the wall. A 15mm expansion gap must be left between the boards and the perimeter wall/skirting. Plastic spacers are available to create the gap on your starter row, these must be removed once the complete floor has been installed. You will need to glue tongue & groove along the top of the tongue on both ends with Bona D700 Adhesive. Click systems do not require any glue. Lay the first row against the wall and continue down the floor. Pre cut the rows, making sure that the board lengths are staggered and the header joints of adjacent rows are at least 400mm from the previous row. A ratchet clamp is useful for fitting the first few rows. Any damaged boards can be cut and used to start other rows. Continue across the floor until you reach the last row. Cut the last row of boards to leave a 15mm gap and then use a ratchet clamp to edge the final row of boards into place. You can install skirting, scotia and twin T section or reducer as required. Your floor should now be protected until it is ready for handover.

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Solid or Engineered Floor Glued over Concrete

Bona R850
Adhesive

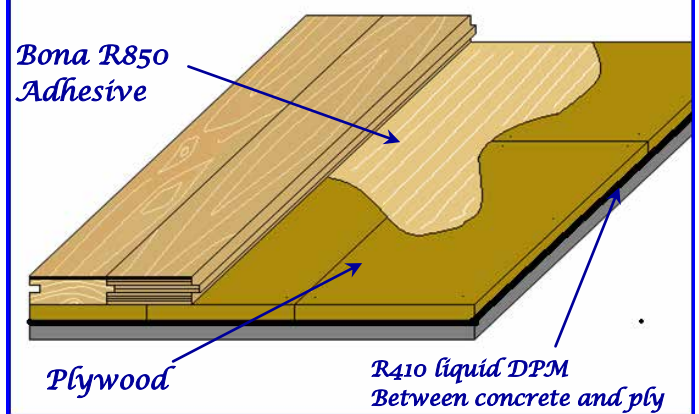


Concrete floor

R410 Liquid DPM

Solid or Engineered Floor Glued down over Ply on Concrete

Bona R850
Adhesive

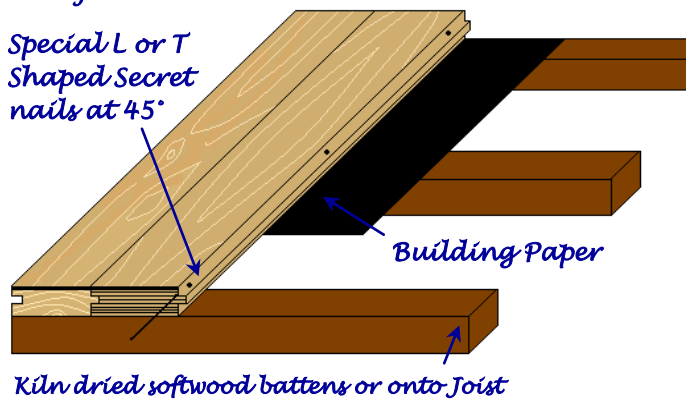


Plywood

R410 liquid DPM
Between concrete and ply

21mm solid or Engineered secret nailed over joist

Special L or T
Shaped Secret
nails at 45°

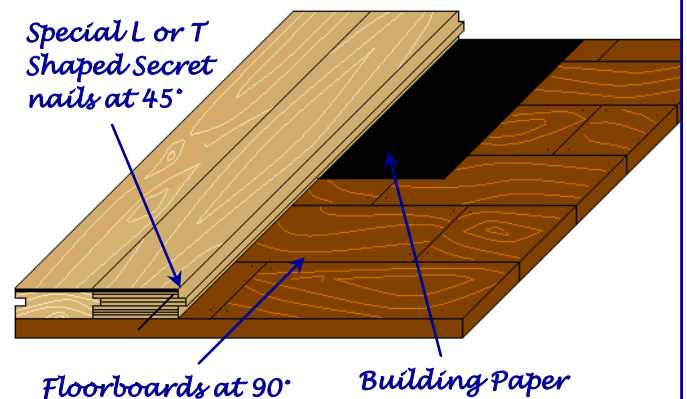


Building Paper

Kiln dried softwood battens or onto Joist

15mm & 21mm solid or Engineered secret nailed to floorboards

Special L or T
Shaped Secret
nails at 45°

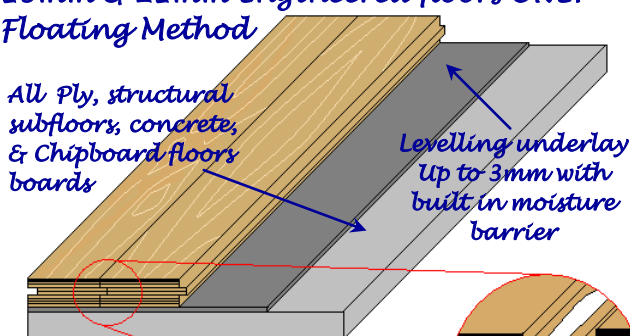


Floorboards at 90°

Building Paper

15mm & 21mm Engineered floors ONLY Floating Method

All Ply, structural
subfloors, concrete,
& Chipboard floors
boards



Levelling underlay
Up to 3mm with
built in moisture
barrier

D700 Adhesive
applied to
tongue & Groove

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

We recommend using
Bona or Osmo
products for cleaning
and maintenance of
your new floor.

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Additional Information for installation over under-floor heating systems

Sydenhams Wood Flooring favours the full stick-down method of installation for wood floors over under-floor heating (UFH).

Do

- Avoid accelerated drying of new concrete/screeds over UFH as this may lead to poor cohesive strength of the sub-floor.
- Check the cohesive strength of screeds before adhering.
- Ensure that screeds, concrete, etc have no more than 2% moisture content before installation commences.
- Employ a suitable surface applied moisture barrier (e.g. Bona R410) where necessary.
- If levelling is required always apply R410 to concrete before laying the levelling compound. Apply a purpose made fine grade aggregate on to the second coat of R410 moisture barrier immediately after application. Allow to cure then vacuum off all loose aggregate (this will aid adhesion between primer and levelling compound). Then use 'rapid dry formulae' water-mix (instead of latex mix) levelling compound, as these are typically stronger and develop strength quicker.
- Ensure that levelling compounds are fully cured and dry before installation commences (see manufacturers technical data sheets).
- Use a purpose made, permanently flexible adhesive such as Bona R850.
- Fully-bond, rather than use 'liquid battens' type adhesive systems with UFH.
- Maintain suitable ambient humidity 45 to 65% RH. (Monitor with a domestic hygrometer).

Start Up Schedule

An appropriate start up schedule must be employed for under floor heating. Failure to do so increases the risk of splits, de-lamination, excessive shrinkage and warping.

The temperature of the surface of the wood floor can be heated to 27 Celsius, but only after raising the temperature of the floor in stages over a period of at least four weeks. The temperature of floors is not determined by ambient settings on wall thermostats. The ambient setting on the wall thermostat is only a target temperature and acts like an on-off switch. If the ambient temperature drops below the setting on the thermostat the system will call for heated water to the under floor system.

On heated water systems the temperature of the water flowing to the pipes (outflow temperature) required to achieve a floor surface temperature of 27 Celsius is typically in the range of 35 to 45 Celsius. An incremental rising of the floor temperature can be achieved by starting the system at the lowest outflow temperature and increasing the outflow temperature by 1-2 degrees Celsius every 24 hours until a floor surface temperature of 27 degrees Celsius (or lower if required) is achieved.

Please note: When using engineered boards over under floor heating it can take up to 2 weeks for you to start experiencing heat coming through the floor.

Provision for expansion

- As a guide allow a minimum 12mm expansion wherever the floor meets obstacles including perimeters walls, structural supports, hearths etc.
- Create additional expansion breaks in doorways using suitable profiles such as T-section thresholds or other transition strips.
- Create additional expansion breaks in large floors.
- Where practical install flooring parallel to the longest walls so that the direction of greatest potential expansion (i.e. across the grain) does not coincide with the direction of greatest dimension, esp. in large floors.
- The precise combined provision for expansion must be judged by the installer taking into account environmental humidity, moisture content of wood at time of installation, timber specie and size of the floor.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Always check the mutual compatibility of moisture barriers, primers, aggregates, levelling compounds and adhesives *before* installation.

Don't

- Don't allow humidity below 45% RH, or above 65% RH. (A small domestic humidification unit can be employed to avoid low humidity during the winter heating cycle if necessary).
- Don't allow the floor temperature to exceed 27 Celsius, (including under rugs).
- Do not use thick insulating rugs. (Note: as this will lead to high floor temperatures).

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Finishing & Maintenance

Wood is a natural product and variances in colour are usual. Direct sunlight can affect your floor over a period of time. It is very important to keep the floor free of dust and debris as this acts like sandpaper on the finish and will dramatically reduce the life of your floor.

Place felt pads or similar under furniture legs.

Install an entrance mat and wherever possible remove outside shoes before entering the room where the floor is installed.

Always avoid wet mopping the floor as the water will enter the timber and cause swelling and movement.

We recommend using Bona and Osmo finishing and maintenance products.



Bona Wood Floor Cleaning Kit

A boxed starter kit comprising Bona Mophead with handle, one washable Bona Cleaning Pad and a 1 litre spray bottle of Bona Wood Floor Cleaner.



Bona Wood Floor Refresher

A specially formulated waterborne maintenance coating for all unwaxed finished floors which are dull, scratched or show signs of wear. Bona Wood Floor Refresher restores the beauty of wooden floors, increases the sheen and makes old floors look like new.

For Oiled Floors Only:



Osmo Wash and Care

A cleaning and maintenance concentrate for wood floors. It is highly effective and water soluble for quick, easy and thorough floor maintenance – even for high traffic areas. Makes the floor more resistant against soiling. Simply add to water and wipe the floor with a moist cloth.



Osmo Liquid Wax Cleaner

The Liquid Wax Cleaner is especially designed for initial cleaning, occasionally refreshing and maintenance of wooden floors. It both cleans and regenerates the wood, as well as providing necessary waxes without building a film layer. Highly effective for removal of fat, shoe polish and marks, ink and other hard to remove stains.



Osmo Polyx-Oil

Osmo Polyx-Oil is a professional, clear floor finish for all wooden floors. The surface is extremely tough and hardwearing. It is micro-porous and does not crack, flake, peel or blister. Apply two coats on new applications or one coat on renovation of oiled/waxed surfaces.