

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Important, the project should be installed by a professional flooring contractor or highly skilled tradesperson. The installation process and method selected is the responsibility of the contractor and you must be satisfied that the contractor is qualified to carry out your site installation. Should you have any concerns prior to installation contact your retailer for assistance?

A thorough understanding and inspection of the specific site conditions needs to be undertaken by the installer prior to commencing work. Site specific circumstances such proximity to water, and coastal regions along with other climatic extremes may require more complex installations methods and maintenance. Under floor inspections should be carried out before installation.

LAYING INSTRUCTIONS: ARTISAN WITH TUFFLOC VALINGE 2G+5G

Please read the following instructions thoroughly and carefully before laying the floor:

- **The TUFF LOC 2G+5G parquet is made to be installed floating without glue. The 2G+5G system allows the parquet to be joined together without glue or nailed down to the sub-floor. Note; in certain cases Door Thresholds may require a chisel clean and Cross linked PVA to ease and secure assembly.**
- The bundles of parquet boards must be stored in a cool, shaded and protected dry place (ambient temperature of 18 – 25 Degrees Celsius). Never open the packs until on the day of installation as to avoid moisture pickup of the parquet.
- During winter months bundles in their original unopened packaging should be acclimatised to the room temperature for at least 48 hours.
- **Each plank should be carefully checked prior to installation:** never install any damaged planks. Do alignment inspections as you continue the installation.
- To better blend and balance the natural batch variation the installer should always work from several open cartons of product to create a balanced and natural visual for your new installation. Planning the install areas is a critical part of the project.
- **The surface-temperature of the sub-floor, at the time of installation, should be at least 15°C but never exceed 27°C, with the ideal relative humidity of 45% to 55 % but never below 30% or exceed 60%.**
- The sub-floor should be dry, clean, absolutely flat and free of any cracks.
- Irregularities on the sub-floor should not exceed 3 mm in every 3 meters, in all directions.
- In case there is a need to level concrete sub-floor, a cement-based floor-filler should be used and allowed to dry.
- A recognised acoustic underlay with a minimum thickness of, 2 or 3 mm incorporating a PE Moisture barrier or similar must be used on the flooring to reduce sound transmission and to reduce moisture ingress. This should be placed over a dry <2.5% flat substrate, with joints neatly taped with Joining between the plastic sheets should have sufficient overlap and/or sufficient tight joints to avoid leakage of vapour from underneath. Recommended overlap should be at least 20cm.
- **If you are using an alternate acoustic underlay that does not incorporate a Moisture Film** an age resistant polyethylene membrane plastic sheets (0.2mm thickness) for vapour barrier is required and necessary for a floating-system installation. Floating floor system laying instructions must be followed and plastic sheet/vapour barriers must be used.
- The Underlay / Moisture Film should be kicked up the skirting boards on perimeter walls to avoid moisture ingress.
- Ensure that the sub floor is thoroughly cleaned to avoid mould growth. Should the RH of the sub-floor be above 95%, no flooring should be installed. **This is strictly prohibited.**
- **An allowance of at least 12-15 mm** on each edge should be provided to accommodate expansions, including at doorway, heating tube outlet, connection with tiles and any fixed items in the area where the floor is laid. Use spacing-wedges during the installation to assist in maintaining the expansions gaps.
- **Bigger rooms** will definitely need bigger allowance for expansion join. We highly recommend expansion joints within an appropriate section of the room. **As general guide room widths greater than, 6-8 m will require increased expansion provisions. Length runs over 11 m will require increased expansion provisions.**
- If the client objects to these inclusions we recommend the installer keep a record that the client did not wish to include expansion trims. Wherever possible each room should be treated as a separate install, this will assist in reducing floor movement.
- The widely used formula to calculate the expansion (for floating-system) across the width of the installed floor is 1.5 - 2 mm expansion for every 1 meter of floor width.
- We recommend that all flooring be laid lengthwise against the longest wall of the room, starting from the corner furthest from the entrance. This enhances the beauty of the room and enables proper workspace practice by not walking unnecessarily on the newly laid floor.
- **Large fixed objects such as Kitchen Island benches should not placed on top of a floating installation.** The install needs to move freely under bench fascia or kick boards. Scotia trims or c – channels maybe required terminating flooring around the bench. Do not use caulking.

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- **Install continued;** the plank in the last row must not be less than 300 mm. Therefore measure and plan the floor before the installation begins to calculate the first and last plank.
- **REMEMBER: Check your floor continuously** during installation. Installed defective boards can be easily replaced. **No claims will be entertained for any plank defects after installation. If in doubt leave it out, or cut it out!**
- **When installing the parquet floor through several adjoining-rooms, expansion-joints must be provided at every doorway to allow for normal expansion and contraction.** When using the floating-system installation in a corridors and hallways, **length-wise installation is required.**
- **Note; only In-slab hydronic heating will be considered under warranty. Other heating methods are not covered by our warranty.** If a heating-system is new the system has to be switched on for at least 3 weeks prior to laying the floor. Generally with any floor-heating system it has to be switched-off 48 hours before the start of the installation. The heating system can be started again 1 week after the floor installation is completed, with a gradual increase of temperature in accordance with the heating-system's regulations.

When installing on a floor with an under-floor heating system, the moisture-content of the cement based concrete sub-floor must not exceed 1.5% (CM %), or 0.3% (CM%) for anhydrite.

The surface temperature from the underfloor heating must not exceed 27oC and the wattage should not exceed 60 watts/m2.

- With the floating-method of installation skirting-boards should be installed by fixing them directly to the adjacent wall, never fix them onto the floor-boards. This is to allow the floor to move freely without restrictions from skirting or door jams.
- Your prefinished installed floor is ready to walk on immediately after installation. If the floor requires cleaning immediately after installation please make sure cleaning and maintenance is done as per the instructions detailed below. Any cleaning should be done using only damp-dry mop, **never use a wet mop/ cloth or steam mop to clean the floor, excessive moisture can and will damage your timber floor.**
- Claims regarding visible defective floor planks must be made prior to installation. Each plank should be inspected to ensure that the quality is acceptable. No claims relating to surface defects can be accepted after installation.

DIAGRAMS TUFF LOC VALINGE 2G LONG EDGES + 5G SHORT END SYSTEMS.

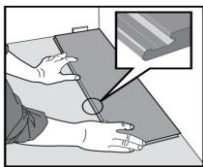


Fig 1. First plank, first row. Place a spacer of 12-15 mm thickness to the left and position the plank against the wall. Later, after 3 rows, you can easily position the flooring against the front wall with distances \approx 12-15 mm.

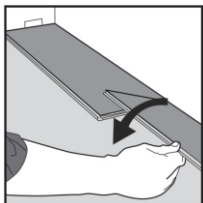


Fig 3. Fold the panel down in a single action movement. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other. Afterwards press down or slightly tap down at the short end just installed till it clicks. No major force is required.

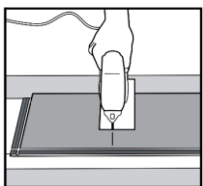


Fig 5. Cut with a jig saw – hardwood face turned down to eliminate/reduce damage to the face panel. Or if cutting using a hand saw, cut it with the hardwood visible face up. Then install it as previous plank.

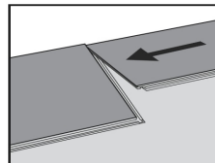


Fig 2. Second plank, first row place this plank gently and tight to the short end of the first one.

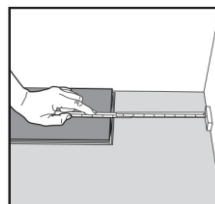


Fig 4. At the end of the first row, put a spacer 12-15 mm, to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit.

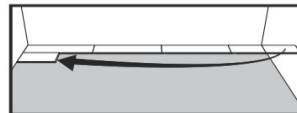


Fig 6. Starting the Second row First plank should be a min length of 500 mm. Put a 15mm spacer against the wall and measure the last piece. If it is shorter than 500mm a new starter piece should be used. Insert the plank at an angle into the previous row and tap (on the long side) it in using a tapping block till flat.

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Fig 7. General distances between short ends. Minimum distance between short ends of planks in parallel rows shall not be less than 500 mm. This improves the stability of the floor.

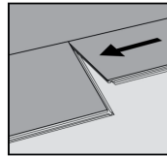


Fig 8a Second plank, second row place the panel at an angle into the groove of the previous row making sure that the end of the panel is tight/flush to the short end of the previous panel.

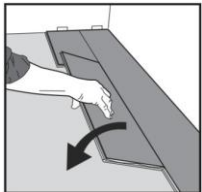


Fig 8b Fold the panel down in a single action movement with a slight press to the left to the short end of the previous panel. Again using the tapping block tap it against the long end into the previous row. During the fold down, make sure the panels are tight against each other.

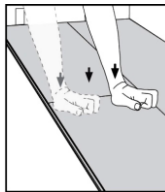


Fig 8c As it flattens itself to the floor, press or gently tap the top of the short end of the installed panel until it clicks. Finish installing this plank by tapping it with a tapping block on the long side to ensure secure installation.

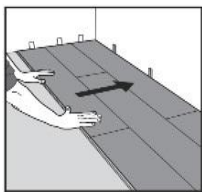


Fig 9. After 2-3 rows. Adjust the distance to the front wall by placing spacers 12-15 mm. Once the adjustment is done against the main wall, continue to install till the last row.

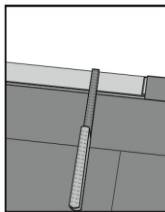
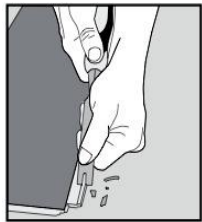
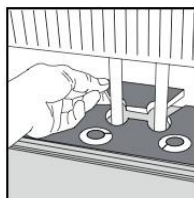
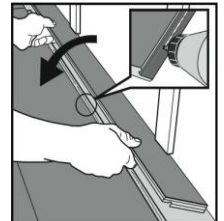


Fig 10. Last row (and perhaps also first row). The Minimum width of the last plank should be NOT LESS than 50 mm. Remember distance to wall is 12-15 mm. Tip! Put a spacer before measuring. Cut the panels lengthwise and glue the short ends. See instructions below.

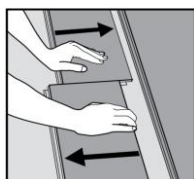
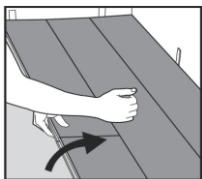


Special installations - Small panel widths.

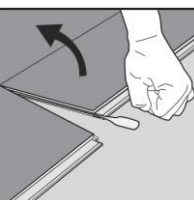
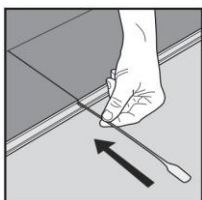
Joining at short ends length cut panels. Cut the tongue at the same time you cut the length of the panel and install as shown above. Please note that the smallest width of a panel is 50 mm at the last row. If it is not, the first row width must be adjusted. This can easily be calculated when measuring the room with before installation. Cut off the locking element with a chisel, push the planks horizontally together. If necessary, place some spacers between the last panel and the wall to keep the planks together during the curing time of the glue.



Radiator pipes, installation at radiators. Drill the holes 20 mm larger than the diameter of the pipes. Cut out the panel (with the thinnest blade possible) as per diagram. Install the plank as per normal. Glue the cut out piece back again.



Disassembling (without tool). Your floor can very easy be disassembled, which enables replacement during installation and also during use. **Fig 11.** Separate the whole row by carefully lifting up and slightly knocking just above the joint. Fold up and release the whole long side. **Fig 12.** Disassemble the panels by sliding horizontally. (Do not fold up!)



Disassembling (with tool)

Fig 13. Place a special Válinge Release Tool into the joint.

Fig 14. Keep the left plank down to the floor and release the right plank - fold it up.

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS:

(A detailed copy is available for download; www.preferencefloors.com.au)

You have purchased a high-quality, prefinished engineered flooring product. The product is coated with formaldehyde-free, lacquered surface which is ready for installation and **will not require any special treatment directly after installation**. It is important to note that regular care and maintenance responsibilities are required to better preserve the surface and its coating. If you follow these general cleaning and required maintenance guidelines your new floor will perform as intended for many years to come.

- Please ensure that an ideal room-climate with about 45-60% Air Humidity and 20°C is provided. This indoor climate is good for both your health and for the overall performance of the floor.
- Daily cleaning should be done with a vacuum cleaner, static mop or a smooth floor-broom. Any sand or dirt should be immediately removed because they can cause scratches and damage the floor surface. Please ensure no metal screws or sharp edges are evident on the vacuum head.
- Whenever necessary, the floor surface can be cleaned with a well-rung damp-dry mop. Do not use conventional household cleaning solutions as they will generally be abrasive and damage the surface coating. Never use the traditional wax or steel-wool on your lacquer-finished parquet floor. A PH neutral cleaning solution is required, please observe and follow manufacturer's instructions. **Bona or similar brand floor care kits are ideal way to help maintain your Artisan Real Oak floor.**
- It is vitally important that you affix felt strips or suitable protection under any furniture-bases, chair-legs and commonly movable objects. At entry points and for high traffic areas the use of floor mats to remove entry grit and dirt is recommended and will be very useful to help preserve your floor surface coating.
- Additional surface coatings are not required for your pre-finished parquet floor. Once installed its ready to walk on.
- Wood is affected by natural and artificial UV light and therefore will change colour when exposed for long durations. Floor coverings such as rugs and mats should not be placed immediately after laying. The floor should be allowed to stabilise for a few weeks before rugs and mats are positioned.
- In case of any damage on the lacquer-surface (e.g. by furniture movement etc.), acquire advice and assistance from a qualified installer or specialist retailer that is knowledgeable about timber flooring products
- If you insist on DIY repairs, lightly sand the affected area with a 120 to 150-grid sand-paper, followed by touch-lacquering the damaged area. **It is necessary to test the lacquer material on a left over plank / sample or hidden surface of the floor to assess the expected results. Remember, the warranty will not cover repairs undertaken without the distributor's agreement.**

Your Artisan Real Oak Floor is a living material that will expand and contract in shape if moisture or humidity is raised. It may also shrink if moisture or humidity becomes very low. As a natural product damage from these circumstances may lead to irreversible deformation of the floor if the room climate and humidity is left too high or too low for an extended period of time. In Winter months for example if the humidity (RH) in a heated room goes below the specified 45 % the floor may be subjected to conditions that may result in plank changes. In this case you should install an Air Humidifier to prevent damages to your floor. The same may also be necessary with Air conditioned rooms.

Disclaimer: Preference Floors has used its reasonable endeavors to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained herein and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be liable for any inaccuracies, omissions or errors in this information nor for any actions taken in reliance on this information. Products must be installed in accordance with relevant installation recommendations and industry best practices.

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