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WOOD FLOORING INSTALLATION GUIDE

Tarkett Wood flooring offers a beautiful variety of options – from species and colour, to plank widths and finishes. We developed enhanced locking system, T-lock, and the best in the industry finish, Proteco, to enable fast and quick installation and immediate flooring consumption.

Important information - Installer/Owner responsibility

It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you read and understand this information completely prior to starting, since improper installation can void the warranties. Please, EXAMINE all of this flooring BEFORE installing this material. CAREFULLY EXAMINE this merchandise for color, finish, quality and style order BEFORE installing this material. Wood flooring installed with visible defects is not covered under warranty and Tarkett declines responsibility for any costs incurred when plank(s) with visible defects have been installed. Remember – wood is a natural product that can vary in color, grain and contains natural characteristics that varies from plank to plank and is to be expected. Tarkett does not warrant against these natural variations from plank to plank or variations from sample to plank. Remember – if you are not satisfied with the flooring prior to installation, simply return the cartons to your dealer for a full replacement. Accepting or rejecting the material must be done on full shipment quantities only, not carton by carton or plank by plank.

Tools and Accessories needed

1. Safety Glasses
2. Tape Measure
3. Moisture Meter
4. Tarkett Tapping Block* (Tapping Block)
5. Tarktool** (Pull bar)
6. Saw (Hand Saw or Electric Miter Saw)
7. Colour Wood Filler
8. Broom or vacuum
9. Tarkett Cleaner Kit (recommended wood flooring cleaner)
10. Tarkett Underlayment (recommended underlayment)
11. Transition and wall mouldings

* Use Tarkett Tapping Block – to protect the edges of the boards when tapping them together – never use a cut bit of board as a tapping block, as this will chip the edges

** Tarkett's pull bar - makes it easier to get the last row of boards in place

PREPARATION

Storage and Handling

Handle and unload with care. Store in a dry place, being sure to provide at least ten centimeters air space under cartons which are stored upon concrete floors. Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been enclosed with windows, doors are in place, and cement work, plastering and all other “wet” work is completed and dry. Although it is not necessary to acclimate wood flooring, it is best to store it in the environment in which it is expected to perform prior to installation.

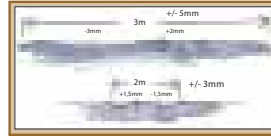
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Job-Site Conditions

It is the installer/owners' responsibility to ensure that the jobsite conditions and jobsite subfloor are environmentally and structurally acceptable prior to the installation of any hardwood flooring – permanent air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operational (the installations site should have a consistent room temperature of 18 – 24°C and humidity of 30 – 50% for 14 days prior to and during installation and until occupied. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for failures or deficiencies of wood flooring resulting from or related to sub-floor, subsurface, or job-site environmental conditions.



Subfloor Conditions

All substrates must be clean, flat, dry, and structurally sound.

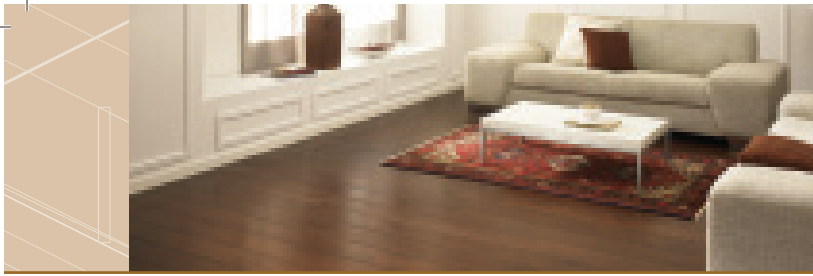
- **CLEAN**— Subfloors must be clean and free of dirt, curing compounds, sealers, drywall mud, paint, wax, grease or other materials that may affect the integrity of the flooring material or adhesives used to install the flooring.
- **LEVEL/FLAT**—Within 3 mm in 2,5 m and/or 1,2 mm in 1 m. Sand high areas, joints. Follow the instructions of the leveling compound manufacturer but make certain that the leveling compounds are completely DRY before beginning installation. Leveling materials must provide a structurally sound subfloor that does not affect the holding power of the fastener.
- **DRY**—Check and document moisture content of the subfloor using the appropriate moisture test. Concrete subfloors must be a minimum of 30 days old before testing begins. Moisture content of the subfloor must be less than 2% measured by CM method.

- **STRUCTURALLY SOUND**—Nail or screw any areas that are loose or squeak. Flatten edge swell as necessary. Replace any water-damaged, swollen or delaminated subflooring or underlayment. Avoid subfloors with excessive vertical movement. Optimum performance of wood floor covering products occurs when there is little horizontal or vertical movement of the subfloor. If the subfloor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the flooring, it is likely it will do so after installation of the flooring is complete.

Subfloors with Radiant Heat

NOTE: Always make certain the product selected is recommended for this type application. The Tarkett wood products made of beech and maple are not recommended to be installed over radiant heat subfloors.

- System must be operational and heated for at least 14 days prior to beginning the installation.
- Turn off heat and let subfloor cool down to room temperature 3–4 hours prior to starting the job.
- **BEFORE** installation begins, ascertain that the heating system is designed and controlled for wood flooring and that the circuit does not include other floor covering types. Failure to do so may cause excessive heat damage and shrinkage.
- After installation, turn the heating system back on immediately. The finished floor surface must not exceed 25°C throughout the life of the floor.
- Radiant heating systems normally create dry heat that can lower interior humidity levels. It may be necessary to add humidity with humidifiers to maintain the recommended levels (30–50%) and prevent damage to the wood flooring.
- The flooring should be end-glued over radiant heat to reduce longitudinal shrinkage. Wipe excess adhesive away immediately.



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SUBFLOOR/UNDERLAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Tarkett wood flooring can be installed on the following surfaces:

- Concrete and Cement screed
- Ceramic Tile, Terrazzo, Slate & Marble
- Wood subfloor
- Fully adhered vinyl sheet, resilient tile and linoleum

Concrete Subfloors

New concrete slabs require a minimum of 30 days drying time before covering them with a wood flooring until they have moisture content less than 2%.

Ceramic Tile, Terrazzo, Slate & Marble

All wax and sealers must be removed with an appropriate cleaner/stripper. Ceramic tile and terrazzo should be abraded to allow for proper adhesion. Check for loose tiles by tapping and re-adhere. Fill grout lines with a cement latex fortified leveling compound (min. 3mm).

Wood subfloors

The wood subflooring materials must not exceed 10% moisture content. Use a reliable wood moisture meter, to measure moisture content of both - the subfloor and the wood flooring - to determine proper moisture content. The difference between the moisture content of the wood subfloor and the wood flooring must not exceed 4%.

Vinyl sheet, resilient tile and linoleum

Materials must be full spread and secured to the subfloor. Do not install over perimeter glued floors.

INSTALLING THE FLOOR

The stability of Tarkett multilayer wood construction allows several installation methods in residential areas – it can be floated or glued over most subfloors including concrete. Having a more than century long experience in manufacturing and installing floors Tarkett proudly recommends a floating installation since it offers a wide spectrum of advantages as it enables fast setting up, immediate consumption and elimination of additional expense in adhesive usage (See floating vs. glue-down installation table 1. below).

Rather than being attached to the subfloor, boards are simply joined together and rest on the surface, hence the term 'floating'. Wedges are placed around the perimeter of the room, to allow an expansion gap. This is then covered with beading to create a neat transmission between floor and wall. Tarkett wood collections feature glueless T-lock 'click and lock' systems, whereby the boards literally snap together, automatically lining up to create a perfect, flush finish. If any mistakes are made during installation, boards can be unlocked and reattached. Floating wood flooring can be installed on most dry, level surfaces and as each system differs in nature, specialist tools are often available. To reduce footstep noise and protect against moisture, a thin underlay is laid between the wood flooring and the sub-floor before installation. On the other hand, with glue-down installation, the wood planks are glued directly to the sub-floor. Adhesive is spread onto the sub-floor using a trowel and the planks are set into the glue.

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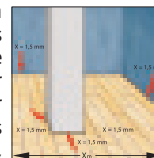
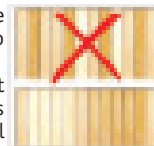
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| FLOATING INSTALLATION | GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION |
|--|---|
| Fast, simple installation | Takes slightly longer to install - the adhesive needs to be applied and any excess glue has to be removed |
| Maximum strength of the joints achieved straight after assembly | The joint becomes fully resistant only after the adhesive is completely dry |
| The floor is ready to use immediately | The floor can be walked on after 12 hours (minimum) and is full bonded after 1-2 days |
| Installation errors can be corrected immediately | Installation errors can not easily be corrected |
| No need to use glue | Use of an adhesive is essential |
| Damaged boards can be easily replaced | Easy replacement of a damaged boards is not possible |
| Easy access to floor surface (allowing for possible repairs and maintenance works) | The floor's surface is not easily accessed |
| The floor adjusts easily to the temperature and humidity changes within the room | Correct temperature and humidity levels should be adhered to |
| Quick and easy disassembly | Quick and easy disassembly is not possible |
| The parquet can be reused in another room | The floor can not be re-assembled |
| Installation acquire transition mouldings | Installation does not require transition mouldings |
| Max installed area without transition mouldings – 240m ² – max 12x20m | No limitation in installed area |
| Very stabile construction | Little bit more stabile construction |

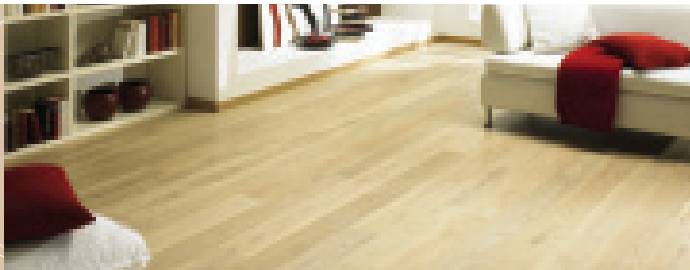
Table 1. Floating vs. glue-down installation

General Installation Tips

- Floor boards should be opened just before the installation, and all boards from opened cartons must be installed before some pauses.
- When installing 1-strip products, floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good colour and shade mixture.
- When possible, pre select and set aside boards that blend best with all horizontally mounted mouldings used to assure a uniform final appearance. Install these boards adjoining the mouldings.
- Wood is a living material, which means that a floating wood flooring will expand or contract, despite the multilayer construction design, depending on how the indoor climate changes through the year. Therefore, you must leave a space (called an expansion gap) of at least 1.5 mm per meter width of floor, minimum 8-10 mm, between floor and wall around the whole room. This also applies between the floor and thresholds, pipes, steps, pillars, fireplaces, stone floors, etc.
- Be attentive to staggering the ends of the boards at least 50 cm in adjacent rows. This will help ensure a more favourable overall appearance of the floor.
- If the last row of boards will be narrower than 5 cm or if the wall is not straight, the first row of boards should be cut.



YOU AND YOUR INSTALLER ARE RESPONSIBLE TO INSPECT FLOORING PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. WE ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIABILITIES, CLAIMS OR EXPENSES, INCLUDING LABOR COSTS, WHERE FLOORING WITH VISIBLE DEFECTS HAS BEEN INSTALLED.



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TARKETT WOOD FLOATING INSTALLATION



Picture 1: Before installing the first row, the part of the groove profile which sticks out must be cut off.



Picture 2: First row. Remember that the floorboards should preferably run along the length of the room. Start in a left-hand corner with the groove side against the wall and work towards the right. The next board is angled down into the short end of the previous board so that it slides into place. Press spacers between the floor and the wall to create an expansion gap of 8-10mm.



Picture 3: . At the end of the row, turn the last board so that it lies tongue to tongue. Push the short and tightly against the wall. Mark where to cut with a pencil 8-10mm from the previous board's short end to give you an expansion.



Picture 4: Start the second row with the rest of the cut board. Lay the board in place in the groove without pressing it down. Angle the next board into place along the short end. Then push board until the long side is in place in the groove. The board should slide in the short end joint. Continue in the same way with the next board until the whole row is in place.



Picture 5: When the whole row is in place in the groove, press the whole row down at the same time to give an even and level join.



Slika 6: A tip for efficient and fast installation is to lay out the new row of boards next to the previous row. Fix the short end joints in place with any spare bits of board, then lift the whole row into place and fold it down.



Picture 7: Final row: When you get to the final row, it is possible that the boards will not fit width wise. In this case, place the final board with the tongue facing the wall, on top of and edge to edge with the last one board. Place a spare bit of board on top and measure the gap by running the bit of board along the wall and marking with a pencil where to cut the final board. If the final row of boards has not been cut, the tongue must be sawn off in order to keep an expansion gap.



Picture 8: If there is no room to fold down the last board, it can be slid in from the side instead. In order to do this, the tongue of the board has to be made level. Use a chisels to shave off the part of the tongue which raises like a bump along the top of the outside edge.



Picture 9: Place a thin bead of Tarkett's D3 adhesive along the top edge of the modified tongue. Then tap the board sideways with a pull bar. Finish by placing spacers in the expansion gap between floor and wall. Now that the floor has been installed, skirtings and any joining strips can be fitted.



Picture 10: If the long side of the board meets a pipe: Drill a hole with a diameter approx. 16mm greater than the pipe diameter to give an expansion gap around the pipe. Mark with a pencil where to saw. Saw off the bit which will fit behind the pipes, closest to the wall. Cut at an angle as shown in the picture. If the pipes are located along the short side of the floor, cut the board at a 90° angle straight through the holes.



Picture 11: Tap the board in position, glue the loose piece in place, fit a spacer against the wall and cover with pipe collars.



Picture 12: Doorframes can be removed and moved up, but it is usually easier to saw them off. Use a loose floorboard as a height template and saw the frame with a fine-toothed saw. Push the floor under the frame. Ensure that the floor is not wedged between the subfloor and the frame.

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TARKETT WOOD GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION



Picture 1: Before installing the first row, the part of the groove profile which sticks out must be cut off.



Picture 2: Measure out the first row of boards by laying them out without any adhesive.



Picture 3: At the end of the row, turn the last board so that it lies tongue to tongue. Push the short end tightly against the wall. With a pen, mark where to cut 8-10 mm from the end of the previous board, to make it easier to get the board into place.



Picture 4: Cut the board to the right length with a handsaw (from the top of the board) or a circular saw (from the underside).



Picture 5: Take up the row of boards you laid out. Spread adhesive over the subfloor where the whole row of boards will lie. Lay the boards down one by one and wedge them against the wall.



Picture 6: Repeat points 2-4, take up and spread adhesive. Start the second row with the rest of the board cut from the first



Picture 7: Angle the next board into place along the short end. Then push the board until the long side is in place in the groove. Do not press the board down into the adhesive. Continue in the same way with the next board until the whole row is in place. row. Lay the board in place in the groove without pressing it down.



Picture 8: Go back along the row of boards, pressing them down against the subfloor (into the adhesive). Continue as in points 6-8.



Picture 9: The final row of boards usually needs to be cut along its length. With its tongue against the wall, place the final board exactly on top of the last-but-one board. Place a spare bit of board on top and measure the gap by running the bit of board along the wall and marking with a pencil where to cut the final board. Even if the board does not need cutting along its length, the part of the tongue which sticks out must still be cut off (to give the floor room to move). Saw and press down the final row of boards.



Picture 10: If there is no room to fold down the last board, it can be slid in from the side instead. In order to do this, the tongue of the board has to be made level. Use a tool such as a chisel.



Picture 11: Doorframes can be removed and moved up, but it is usually easier to saw them off. Use a loose board as a height template and saw the frame with a fine-toothed saw. Push the floor under the frame. See also point 10. to shave off the part of the tongue which raises like a bump along the top of the outside edge.



Picture 12: out adhesive, lay the last row of boards and tap them into place using the pull bar.