

ARTEDOMUS

STONE • TILE • MOSAIC • BATHWARE • TIMBER FLOORING

Installation Review

A Guideline only.

All installers required to check site conditions with their representative from appropriate glue and moisture Barrier Company.

Installation

It is recommended our timber planks are glued directly to the existing subfloor or glued over acoustic mat. It can be glued or nailed, or a combination of both. The subfloor must be cleaned & prepared for the appropriate installation and moisture barriers should be used to prevent moisture being transferred from the subfloor. Where appropriate.

- Leave 6 to 10mm expansion gap as appropriate to allow for seasonal movement
- Skirting boards should to be left off for most installations

Preparing the Substrate

We recommend that you prepare a concrete substrate as well as possible. If the concrete is of poor quality or is uneven and requires the addition of a levelling compound, this introduces a potential weakness which can reduce the range of moisture contents the floor can cope with. Thus it is very important that the concrete floors are poured producing a good level surface (approx tolerance of 3mm over 3m), or a good self-levelling compound and corresponding sealant are used.

- Test the humidity of the slab. It must not have a moisture reading over 78% RH. On average a new slab dries 1 inch each month
- Perform a level test. The maximum tolerance allowed is 3mm over 3m.

Heated slabs

Solid timber flooring must have a plywood substrate of 12mm, to be supplied by client unless otherwise specified and noted in quotation. The slab is to be heated for 2 weeks prior to installation and turned off a day prior. In addition the heat must be slowly ramped up and down gradually- start as low as possible (12 to 14 degrees C) and ramp up to an absolute maximum of 23 degrees over 4 weeks' time. Ideally the timber temperature (not the slab or water temperature) should be 22 degrees C (maximum 23 degrees C). It is not recommended that a house be left unoccupied, or with the heating/air conditioners off. After a period of being unoccupied, do not suddenly or dramatically heat the house. Gradually ramp up as specified above.

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Other Notes

- Materials- Our contracted installers tend to use the Sika system of glues and moisture barriers. Given that a lot of our timber has been prefinished – if the glue does get onto the surface it does not damage the finish.
- We suggest that no other trades are on-site during this time.
- We suggest that the timber flooring is towards the end of the construction schedule.
- Once installed we recommend that you cover the timber flooring until all trades are off site as glues can be tracked across the surface that will not come off!

Link to Sika T54 & T55 http://www.sika.com/en/system/search.html?_charset=UTF-8&q=sika+t55&btn_Search.x=-932&btn_Search.y=-67

Link to Sika MB http://www.sika.com/en/system/search.html?_charset=UTF-8&q=sika+primer+mb&btn_Search.x=-932&btn_Search.y=-67

This is provided for reference only. Speak to your Sika Rep – Mapei Bostik Selleys etc

General

Each floor is part of a building system and the performance is dependent on the other elements of the building. Wood is hygroscopic, meaning that it absorbs and releases moisture to and from the air depending on the environments particular temperature and humidity. With this process, timber shrinks and swells. This creates visible movement. This is to be expected, particularly with seasonal change and/or in rooms with unusual or significant temperature and humidity changes.

Moisture

The moisture content of timber in a building moves towards the EMC or Equilibrium Moisture Content of that building. The average EMC of a building for NZ is 11%, however the average will vary seasonally and from building to building, and room to room. This variation can be expected to be 7% to 14%. Unless otherwise specified, your floor has been prepared for an average EMC of 10%, 11% or 12% depending on the area of New Zealand.

Bathrooms and laundries can often have higher EMC's. In these areas the timber should be properly cared for, with precautions taken as follows:

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- Use extraction fans, heaters and heated towel rails
- Use venting kits to vent dryers to the outside
- Prevent water leakage from washing machines, showers, fixtures, etc...
- Do not leave damp towels, etc... on the floor
- Install floor drains in case of flooding

If the house is being maintained at a comfortable temperature and humidity then the EMV should not go above 13%. Moisture content above this usually indicates a problem such as inadequate ventilation, moisture egress from the subfloor, or plumbing problems.

Acclimating the Timber

Although not absolutely required – we do recommend that the timber flooring is acclimatized in the weather tight environment for 2 weeks prior to installation. Do not unwrap, nor un-stack the timber for this period. The boxes are to be laid flat and on an even and dry surface. This is a very important step.

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