



Solid Hardwood Floors

John Boddy Timber have been supplying quality hardwoods to the trade since 1935 and now provide solid wood floors to trade and retail customers, manufactured to quality standards by our specialist flooring production team. Natural wood floors provide your home with a floor covering of individual character and unique appearance.

Wooden Floors Have Character

Within every species of timber there are variations in colour and grain. Samples will give an indication of colour and grain but cannot be guaranteed to be truly representative of the grade and species of the timber. Our timber floor will contain a variety of markings in the form of knots, growth rings and sap depending on the species and grade required. These markings add character and are part of the natural look much sought after. A visit to our Flooring Showroom will help you select and visualise the hardwood floor when laid.

We recommend that your floor is measured and laid by an experienced floor layer/joiner and our Sales Office can provide details of suitable companies/contractors. An experienced woodworker may wish to tackle the project themselves and can use a range of DVD'S retailed in our Store that provide comprehensive guidance on all aspects of wooden floor laying and finishing. Once you

Transportation and Handling

- Flooring should be sheeted during transportation and stored inside until ready to be acclimatised.
- During handling avoid dropping packs on their ends as this can damage the tongue and groove joints.
- Never unload the timber in the rain or store in damp conditions.

Acclimatising Your Wood Floor

During transportation and storage, hardwoods can accumulate moisture or dry out it is therefore very important to acclimatise the floor prior to laying. The loss of moisture manifests itself as shrinkage. If the loss of moisture is sudden or extreme there can also be a breakdown in the cellular structure of the wood, leading to splits in the boards.

- Acclimatise the floor on site by allowing at least 7 and up to 14 or more days in the place of fitting with the heating system running normally.
- Store the floor flat at least 100mm off the ground and in small packs of 10–15 square metres during the acclimatisation process. This enables the flooring to become at equilibrium with its surroundings.
- On new sites only acclimatise the floor when all windows and doors have been fitted and the masonry, plastering and floors are completely dry.
- If using underfloor heating, the heating must run for at least 28 days to accelerate the evaporation of moisture of the screed. The underfloor heating should be turned off 48 hours prior to installation to avoid mobilisation of moisture. Once laid the underfloor heating must be turned on for 96 hours at lowest temperature rising to maximum temperature of 27° over a 21 day period. We recommend that the maximum board width to use with underfloor heating is 128mm.

Think About Moisture Content

No two pieces of wood will be the same as you are working with a natural product and the wood will not shrink or swell equally in all directions, . Wooden flooring will expand and contract in direct correlation to the temperature and humidity of the environment where it is laid. As the humidity changes throughout the seasons a timber floor can be expected to change moisture content. Most problems experienced with wooden flooring relate to the changes in moisture content of the flooring and where moisture changes are severe, resulting in cracks, movement, cupping and buckling of the floor will result. As humidity increases the amount of bound water in the wood increases causing wood to expand in size. When humidity drops the amount of bound water in the wood decreases and the wood shrinks.

When wooden floors are installed they are usually exposed to both seasonal and daily changes in the relative humidity and temperature levels of the surrounding environment. The floor is therefore nearly always being subject to slight changes in moisture content. Generally these changes are gradual and they do not affect the overall performance of the floor in a normal home environment.

Moisture content changes are slowed down by applying protective coatings to the wood floor but the finish applied will not stop the changes.

To avoid moisture damage it is important to have information of the expected moisture content of the area where the flooring is being laid after installation, together with other factors which contribute to the the moisture content of the floor, for example type of heating in the area, type of subfloor the floor is being laid on etc.



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It is important before laying a wood floor, for the installation company to take Air Temperature, Relative Humidity (RH) and Sub-Floor Moisture Content (MC) readings across various parts of the room and keep these records.

- Timber sub-floors Flooring should not be installed if it is +/-2%MC more/less than the substrate it is fixing to.
- Concrete sub-floors For fully gluing to concrete sub-floors the concrete should not be more than 75%RH. Borderline readings will require a separate surface DPM (Damp Proof Membrane). Special care should be taken on old sub-floors.

Installation Tips

Installation is best carried out by experienced person/company. It is the responsibility of the installation company to check the climatic conditions of the site to which the flooring will be installed. The following should be noted:

- Allow 10%–15% extra volume when ordering to allow for end trimming and waste.
- Plan for natural expansion and contraction, i.e. leave a 15mm gap at the wall edge for expansion, skirting boards will cover the gap.
- It is not recommended to use underfloor heating under boards wider than 128mm, the narrower the board face the more stable the wood will be. American species of timber are more suitable for rooms with underfloor heating than other European species of timber.
- Wider boards (greater than 140mm face width) may need additional fixing.
- Bevelled or ariss edged wood boards minimise the visual impact of shrinkage.
- A square-edged board will show up shrinkage much more through slight gapping.
- Floating Floor, Click and Glue, Glue Down, Nail and Staple Down Installations sub-floor preparation must conform to BS8203 and BS8204 recommendations.
- Wood is a natural product with infinite variations in colour, texture and finish. If there is a piece of flooring you do not like cut it for a small area or hidden away area.
- An underlay will help insulate the floor against heat loss, damp and sound.
- When applying adhesive, apply along the upper side of the tongue along the entire width and length of the section – **not** in the groove. This will also provide protection from moisture. Follow the manufacturers instruction on application of adhesives.
- Floors should be sanded and sealed as soon as possible after laying.

Aftercare and Maintenance

Preventative routine maintenance involves protecting the surface from scratches and moisture.

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| ✓ Use floor protectors on furniture | ✗ Mop the floor with water or use a wet mop. |
| ✓ Vacuum, dust-mop or sweep with a soft broom regularly | ✗ Use amonia or household dust cleaners. |
| ✓ Use rugs | ✗ Allow stiletto heels to scratch or damage the floor. |
| ✓ Wipe up spills immediately, with a light damp cloth and follow with a dry cloth | |
| ✓ Keep mats at external doorways | |
| ✓ Always use the recommended cleaning products | |

Please Note:

The majority of problems experienced with wooden floors are as a result of one or more of the following: improper jobsite preparation, installation and/or maintenance. It is very important that the installer understands the requirements of the installation process with site preparation, moisture and humidity testing, subfloor inspections, product acclimatisation.

We retail DVD'S on the following topics which provide comprehensive details on:

Laying Hardwood Floors Sanding and Finishing Hardwood Floors Installing Trim Basic Stair Building