



How to install your new floor

ENGINEERED WOOD



Tools you'll need

To install your new floor, you'll need the following tools.

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Pencil
- Workbench or sawhorse
- Combination square
- Planks of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Rubber mallet
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Handsaw or electric saw
- Chisel (for fitting around architrave)
- Drill (for covering pipework)
- Moisture meter – the correct type for your subfloor
- Beading or skirting boards
- Adhesive and trowel (for gluing installation)
- Flooring nailer or Tongue-Tite screws and screwdriver bit (for nailing installation)
- Safety precautions eg. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders

Installation options

Our engineered flooring can be installed in three different ways—depending on your chosen joining method, the subfloor, and the installation approach you prefer.

Floating method

With a floating floor, the boards are connected to each other rather than fixed to the subfloor. If you have a click-lock system, this is the ideal method. Otherwise, you can still achieve a floating installation by gluing the tongue-and-groove joints. In either case, we recommend installing and preparing underlay beforehand.



Nailing method

With this method, secret nails are driven through the tongue to fix the planks to a wooden subfloor. For that reason, it's only suitable for tongue-and-groove flooring, not click-fit systems. Many professional fitters prefer this approach as it creates a highly secure finish. If you're working over concrete, a timber layer will need to be installed first, as secret nailing can't be done directly onto a concrete subfloor.

Gluing method

With this method, adhesive is spread across the subfloor using a trowel, and the planks are laid directly on top. It's our preferred option for tongue-and-groove flooring, but generally isn't recommended for most click-fit boards. The exception is when installing over underfloor heating – here, adhesive can help keep the floor stable as temperatures change and may reduce creaking.



TONGUE & GROOVE

These boards feature a protruding edge (the tongue) and an indented edge (the groove) that slot together like a jigsaw for a tight, secure fit.

CLICK-FIT

These boards simply click and lock into place, making them quicker and easier to install. We'd typically recommend a floating floor method for this type of system.



Check your flooring

Once your flooring arrives, we recommend checking one box to ensure you're happy with the product. As wood is a natural material, each plank is unique, so you may notice some variation between boards and batches. When you begin laying the floor, you can embrace these differences by mixing planks from different packs to achieve a beautifully natural finish.



Acclimatise

Your engineered wood flooring should be left in the room where it will be installed for at least **48 hours**. This allows the boards to acclimatise, helping to reduce the risk of expansion or contraction after installation. Lay the packs flat on the floor or stack them with even weight distribution, keeping them horizontal at all times. Leave the planks in their packaging, but open both ends to allow airflow. Maintain a consistent room temperature between **16°C and 27°C**, and avoid exposing the flooring to the elements. If you're installing over underfloor heating, gradually increase the temperature so the wood can adjust—always follow your heating supplier's guidance for this.



Prepare your subfloor

Before installing your new floor, remove any existing flooring and ensure the subfloor is **clean, dry, and level**. For the best results, we recommend using either a concrete or wooden subfloor. Use a moisture meter to confirm the surface is sufficiently dry before starting. If you have a concrete subfloor, it must be completely dry, and a damp-proof membrane should be laid on top to help prevent moisture from reaching the engineered boards. This is essential to avoid issues such as expansion or buckling, many modern underlays include a built-in damp-proof membrane. Make sure any screws or nails in the subfloor are driven below the surface to prevent them from damaging the underlay. Remove any old adhesive and vacuum thoroughly to clear dust and debris. If you're using underlay, now is the time to install it. Lay it in the same direction as your flooring and tape the joins securely between each row.



Choose the look

Before you start laying your floor, take the planks out of the pack and review the natural grain and colour variations. Select your favourite boards and use them as a focal point, then mix and match different shades and patterns around them to achieve a look you're happy with. Any planks you're less keen on can be set aside for cuts or used in areas that will be hidden by furniture or rugs. Next, consider the direction you'd like the boards to run. As a general rule, lay them along the longest wall for the most balanced effect. In a square room, you might follow the direction of natural light or the line from the entrance. Most of our fixed-length planks include a starter piece in each pack—a shorter board used to begin the layout and create a staggered pattern. For random-length planks, simply mix and match the lengths as you go to achieve a natural, varied finish.



It's best to install your flooring as the final step in any renovation project. Work from the top of the room downwards so that by the time you're ready to lay the floor, the risk of damage is minimised. If you have a kitchen island, this can be installed on top of the flooring, provided the subfloor is level. Avoid screwing the island feet directly into the floor, as this can interfere with the natural expansion gaps designed to allow the wood to move. If you're fitting particularly heavy furniture, you may want to consider using adhesive to fix the flooring in place for added stability.

Let's begin

FLOATING METHOD



- 1. Before you begin, measure the width of the final row. Divide the total room width by the width of a single board to work this out, then adjust the first row accordingly so the final row is at least 60mm wide.**
- 2. Start by placing the first plank in the corner of the longest wall, with the tongue facing the wall. Ensure this first row is perfectly straight, as it will guide the rest of the installation.**
- 3. Use spacers between the first row and the wall to create an expansion gap of 10–12mm. This allows for natural expansion and contraction of the wood with seasonal changes.**
- 4. If you have a click-fit system, continue locking the boards into place. For tongue-and-groove floors, apply glue to the groove before joining, then use a rubber mallet and tapping block to secure the fit.**
- 5. Stagger the joints from row to row to achieve a natural, balanced look.**
- 6. Keep spacers in place throughout to maintain a consistent gap around all sidewalls.**
- 7. The final row can be more challenging, use a pull bar and rubber mallet to help achieve a snug fit.**

Let's begin

NAILING METHOD



- 1. Before you begin, measure the width of the final row by dividing the total room width by the width of a single board. This allows you to adjust the first row so the final row is at least 60mm wide.**
- 2. Start by placing the first plank in the corner of the longest wall, with the groove side facing the wall. Ensure this row is perfectly straight, as it will set the direction for the rest of the floor.**
- 3. Insert spacers between the first row and the wall to create an expansion gap of 10–12mm.**
- 4. We recommend surface nailing the first row using a nail gun to ensure it is securely fixed to the wooden subfloor.**
- 5. Continue by laying and secret nailing each new row using a flooring nailer, or by hand with Tongue-Tite screws and a screwdriver bit. The nails pass through the tongue into the subfloor and will be hidden once the next board is fitted into the groove.**
- 6. Stagger the joints from row to row to create a natural, balanced finish.**
- 7. Keep spacers in place throughout to maintain a consistent gap along all sidewalls.**
- 8. The final row can be more challenging, use a pull bar and rubber mallet to achieve a tight fit. Space will be limited here, so, as with the first row, surface nailing is recommended.**

Let's begin

GLUING METHOD



- 1. Before you begin, measure the width of the final row by dividing the total room width by the width of a single board. This allows you to adjust the first row so the final row is at least 60mm wide.**
- 2. Apply adhesive around 1 metre out from the longest wall before laying your first row.**
- 3. Start by placing the first plank in the corner of the longest wall, with the tongue facing the wall. Ensure this row is perfectly straight, as it will guide the rest of the installation.**
- 4. Use spacers between the first row and the wall to create an expansion gap of 10–12mm.**
- 5. As you continue, apply adhesive approximately 1 metre ahead of each new row. Stagger the joints from row to row to achieve a natural wood appearance.**
- 6. Keep spacers in place consistently to maintain an even gap along all sidewalls.**
- 7. The final row can be more difficult to fit, use a pull bar and rubber mallet to achieve a tight finish.**
- 8. Once complete, allow the floor to set for 24 hours before moving furniture back into the room or walking on it.**

Finishing touches

Fitting Around Pipes

Mark the position of the pipe on your board. Drill a hole at this point, then make two angled cuts from the edge of the board to the hole to create a removable wedge. Fit the board around the pipe, and glue the wedge back in place behind the pipe so the plank looks seamless.

Fitting Around Door Frames

Start by removing the door. Test-fit an offcut of flooring with a threshold bar stacked on top to ensure it will fit under the architrave. If necessary, trim the bottom of the architrave with a handsaw and chisel, and adjust the bottom of the door before refitting.

Extra Tips

Use matching skirting, beading, or threshold strips to cover expansion gaps and create a professional, seamless finish. Avoid fixing trims directly to the flooring, as this can interfere with the expansion gaps. Keep any leftover planks or cuttings for future repairs. If the expansion gap is too large for the skirting or moulding to cover, cut strips from spare floorboards and glue them into place to fill the gap.

Congratulations! Your floor is complete.



Caring for your new floor

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Care tips

- Wooden floors perform best at room temperature with low humidity.
- Wipe up spills straight away to prevent moisture from soaking into the wood.
- Keep pet nails trimmed to help avoid scratches.
- Avoid dragging furniture—always use felt pads to protect the surface.
- Limit exposure to direct sunlight where possible.
- Consider removing shoes indoors, especially high heels, to prevent dents.

Cleaning

- Sweep or brush the floor at least once a week using soft bristles to remove dust and dirt.
- If using a vacuum, ensure it has a suitable attachment that won't scratch the surface.
- Microfibre mops are ideal, as they lift dirt rather than push it around.
- Mop every couple of weeks using a slightly damp mop that has been thoroughly wrung out.
- Use only cleaning products designed for wooden floors, and always test in a hidden area first if unsure.
- Avoid harsh products like vinegar or soap-based cleaners, as they can damage the finish.
- Stay away from steam cleaners, as heat and excess moisture can harm the floor.

Built to last

One of the great advantages of wooden flooring is that it can be sanded and refinished over time, giving it a fresh new look. As a result, solid wood can last a lifetime, while engineered wood can last up to 60 years, depending on the wear layer and level of use.

You typically won't need to sand and refinish your floor for at least 8–10 years, after which it can be done as needed. When the time comes, you can hire a flooring sander to remove around 1mm of the surface, then refinish the floor with your preferred treatment to restore its shine and finish.



If you have any questions simply contact us on **0203 835 2486** or email **sales@easystepflooring.co.uk** and one of our friendly advisors will be happy to help.