



How to install your new floor

PARQUET



Tools you'll need

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

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Pencil
- Chalk line
- Workbench or sawhorse
- Combination square
- Planks of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Rubber mallet
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Handsaw, electric saw, chop saw or Stanley knife (depending on flooring type)
- Chisel (for fitting around architrave)
- Drill (for covering pipework)
- Moisture meter – the correct type for your subfloor
- Beading or skirting boards (to finish the look)
- Adhesive and trowel (for gluing installation)
- Safety precautions i.e. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders

Installation options



Check the installation guide for your specific flooring type for more details. If you've chosen tongue & groove solid or engineered wood, you also have the option to nail the floor – see the relevant installation guides for full instructions.

Glue method

With this method, adhesive is spread over the subfloor using a trowel, and the planks are then laid on top. This is our preferred method for tongue & groove parquet flooring, but it isn't suitable for click-fit parquet.

TONGUE & GROOVE

These boards have one short protruding side (the tongue) and one short indented side (the groove). They slot together like a jigsaw puzzle for a secure, tight fit.

CLICK-FIT

These boards are designed with a click-lock system for easier alignment during installation. However, for herringbone patterns, we strongly recommend a full glue-down installation rather than floating. This provides greater long-term stability and reduces the risk of movement or joint separation.

A & B PLANKS

These come as two different planks – an “A” plank and a “B” plank – with joins on opposite sides. Most of our parquet is supplied in this format.

UNIVERSAL PLANKS

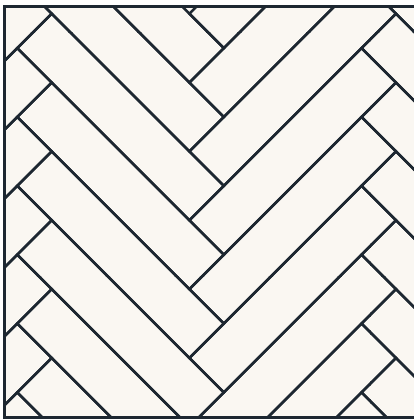
All the same, these planks can be joined with any other plank for maximum flexibility.



Installing parquet flooring can be a complex process that depends on precise measurements and careful attention to detail. If you're not completely confident, we recommend using a professional fitter to ensure the best possible finish.

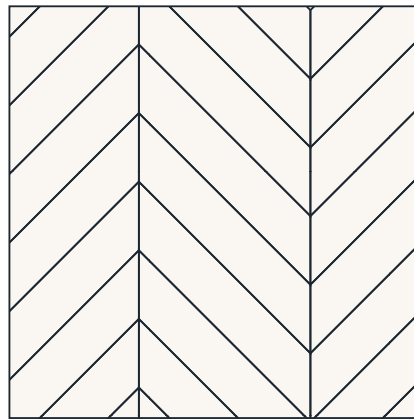
At Easy Step Flooring, our team of experienced fitters are highly skilled in working with our products and have extensive expertise in wood flooring installation. Simply contact us on **0203 835 2486** or email **sales@easystepflooring.co.uk** and one of our friendly advisors will be happy to help.

Parquet flooring refers to flooring made up of individual blocks arranged in decorative patterns. By varying the layout of these blocks, you can create a range of distinctive designs. Some common examples are illustrated below.



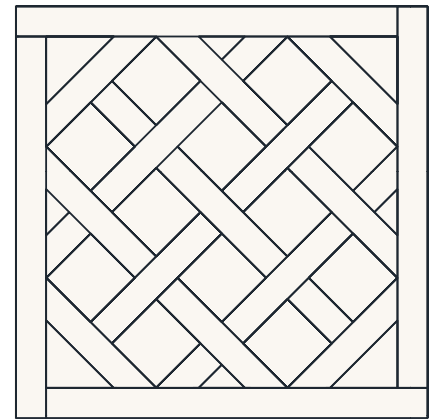
HERRINGBONE

Rectangular planks are laid in a staggered zigzag pattern, creating a classic V-shaped design.



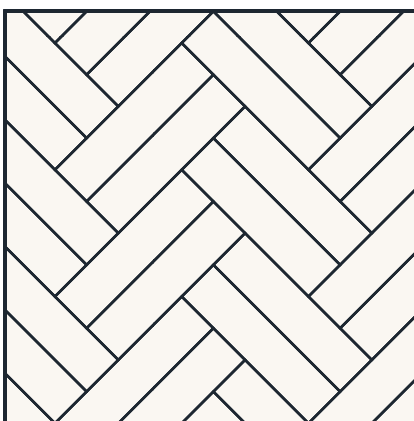
CHEVRON

Planks are cut at an angle to form a continuous, seamless V pattern for a sleek, modern look.



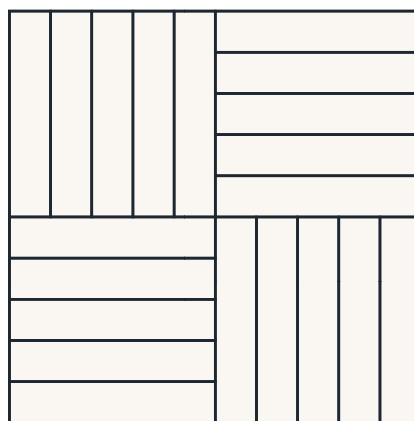
VERSAILLES

Intricate square panels combine planks in crisscross and diagonal patterns for a traditional, decorative effect.



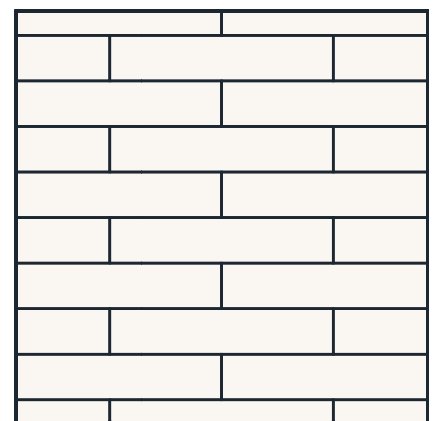
DOUBLE HERRINGBONE

Each zigzag of the herringbone pattern is made from two planks side by side, adding extra width and visual impact.



BASKET WEAVE

Planks are arranged in a woven, checkerboard-style pattern for a textured, geometric look.



SUBWAY

Rectangular planks are laid in offset rows, similar to brickwork, for a clean and contemporary appearance.



Check your flooring

Once your flooring arrives, we recommend opening one box to check that you're happy with the product. Because wooden and wood-effect flooring can naturally vary in colour, slight differences may appear between planks and batches. When installing, mix planks from different packs to create a beautiful, natural-looking floor.



Acclimatise

Your floor should be left to acclimatise in the room where it will be installed for the recommended time. This helps prevent swelling, shrinking, or brittleness after fitting.

To do this, lay the packs flat on the floor or in horizontal stacks, ensuring weight is evenly distributed. Keep the planks in their packaging but open each end to allow some airflow. Maintain the room at its normal temperature— ideally between **18°C and 27°C**—and avoid exposing the flooring to drafts or the elements.

If using underfloor heating, gradually raise the temperature to allow the planks to adjust— follow your heating supplier's guidance. **Note:** *Solid wood floors should not be installed over underfloor heating.*



Prepare your subfloor

Before laying your new floor, you'll need to remove any existing flooring, prepare the subfloor, and ensure it is clean, dry, and level. For the best results, a concrete or wooden subfloor is recommended. Use a moisture meter to check that the subfloor is sufficiently dry before you begin.

If you have a concrete subfloor, make sure it is completely dry prior to installation. A damp-proof membrane should be laid on top to protect against moisture reaching the boards, helping to prevent expansion or buckling. Many modern underlays now include built-in damp-proof membranes for added convenience.

Any screws or nails in the subfloor should be countersunk below the surface to prevent puncturing the underlay. Remove any old adhesive and vacuum thoroughly to eliminate dust and debris.

Having a level subfloor is especially important when installing parquet flooring, so take extra care to ensure it is perfectly even for a smooth, long-lasting finish.



Choose the look

Consider the overall look you want for your parquet floor. Decide on the direction and style of the pattern, and think about how you want it to draw the eye as you enter the room.

ADHESIVE RECOMMENDATION

For herringbone and parquet installations, we strongly recommend using a high-quality adhesive containing MS polymer. MS polymer adhesives offer excellent flexibility, allowing the floor to naturally expand and contract with changes in temperature and humidity without compromising the bond. They provide a strong, long-lasting bond and remain flexible over time, unlike some traditional adhesives that can become brittle. This helps minimise the risk of gaps, lifting, or movement, ensuring a more stable and durable finish.



It's best to install your floor as the **final step** in any renovation. Work from the top of the room downwards so the floor is protected from potential damage during other work. This also applies to kitchens and islands – **always fit the flooring after units have been installed** to prevent it from buckling under their weight.

Let's begin

GLUING METHOD



- 1. Mark the centre line** – Measure the longest wall (or your chosen direction) and divide by two to find the room's centre. Use a chalk line to mark it—your first strip of planks will align with this line.
- 2. Add guide lines** – For precision, draw a horizontal line at 90° and two lines parallel to the centre line to mark the edges of your strip. Accurate measurements are essential for parquet installation.
- 3. Prepare the planks** – If using A and B planks, separate them into two piles. For chevron and herringbone, one strip consists of an A and B plank connected together (or two universal planks) plus the connected planks underneath. For Versailles, a strip is a column of connected squares.
- 4. Align the pattern** – For herringbone and chevron, position the highest point of the strip on the centre line. Herringbone may appear slightly off-centre at first, but this corrects as more strips are added. For Versailles, ensure the centre of the square aligns with the centre line.
- 5. Dry-lay the planks** – Lay the planks in your chosen pattern without adhesive, connecting tongue to groove, to check alignment and fit
- 6. Check wall alignment** – Dry-lay a horizontal row along the walls to ensure the walls are straight and the pattern won't appear tilted. Adjust as needed while keeping the central vertical line.
- 7. Apply adhesive and fix planks** – Once happy with placement, apply adhesive with a trowel (following manufacturer instructions) and fix the planks in small working areas, working vertically down the room. For Versailles, start at the centre square and work above and below it.
- 8. Use the first strip as a guide** – After the first strip has set, continue laying the remaining strips using it as a reference.
- 9. Finish the edges** – Measure and cut planks to fit around walls, leaving the recommended expansion gap with spacers. Gap size depends on your flooring type.
- 10. Allow to set** – Leave the floor for 24 hours before walking on it or moving furniture back into the room.

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.

