NATURE'S OAK -TIMBER FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for purchasing this Nature's Oak Timber Flooring. Please read these instructions carefully prior to installation. We strongly recommend that these instructions are read in full prior to beginning your installation.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It is important to employ safe working practices. Protective eyewear, hearing protection and safe footwear should be worn throughout the installation to help prevent against injury. Dust extraction and respiratory protection should be used when cutting flooring or trims using a saw of any type. Materials Safety Data Sheets are available by contacting your local Premium Floors or Floorscape branch. If using ancillary products like levelling compounds etc, it is recommended to adhere to the specific safety requirements as stated by the manufacturer of the product.

PLEASE NOTE

Check every plank carefully before and during the installation, preferably in daylight. Bear in mind that wood is not a homogeneous material. Wood is a natural product, which means that no timber flooring plank will be identical to another just like no tree is identical to another one. The occurrence, amount and size of sap wood, knots and cracks depends on the selected grading and chosen range. These are natural features of wood and cannot be considered as a product fault. Therefore you should always check if you have the right impression of the floor before installation and that you have all the information. It is considered normal installation process to make minor fill repairs with a wax repair kit during installation, if unsure contact your supplier.

If a wood flooring plank has been installed it is considered as accepted and defects or colour variation cannot form any ground of complaint. We recommend that the planks are mixed from several packs during installation. Boxes of Nature's Oak timber can include some shorter boards to make up the quoted plank length – these are referred to as a 'nested lengths'. These can be used at the start or end of a row as well as scattered throughout the floor.

IN GENERAL

Nature's Oak Timber Flooring is designed to be a floating timber floor meaning that the edges of each board are joined to each other using the glueless Uniclic joining system, and are not fixed to the sub-floor. For a glue down installation please refer to Direct Stick installation guidelines. Nature's Oak Timber Flooring floats over an approved 2mm foam underlay and can be installed over any flat, dry and stable surface - see details below on levelling guidelines. An expansion gap must be left to the entire perimeter of the floor to allow for initial and seasonal expansion. The boards are generally installed along the length of the room with the ends of boards laid with a natural random stagger.

A successful installation will rely heavily on strict adherence to these instructions. The most common causes of floor failure or client dissatisfaction are:

1. Installation over uneven subfloors

2. Installations that do not provide sufficient perimeter expansion or incorrect/lack of compartmentalisation

3. Excessive sub-floor moisture - see section on testing / protection against moisture

4. Installation of a board that has obvious visible manufactured fault/defect

TOOLS NEEDED

An installation Kit containing expansion wedges, a pulling iron, and a tapping block. You will also require a jigsaw, pencil, hammer, tape measure, sharp "Stanley" type knife and small hand tools associated with wood working. For a faster installation and cleaner finish, consider using a drop saw and a table saw with timber finishing blades.
Along with your Nature's Oak Timber Flooring you'll need Combi-lay underlay or equivalent approved underlay rated SD >75m, and enough trims to complete your floor. Trims are available in a range of shapes, profiles and colours from your local retailer.

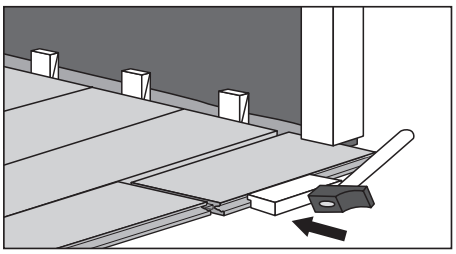
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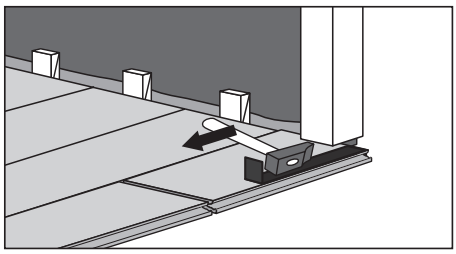
PREPARATION

The first thing that you need is to ensure that the subfloor or surface that the engineered wood floor is being installed over is level. Using a 1 metre straight edge, the subfloor level should not exceed +/- 3mm over 1 lineal metre in any direction. Remember, uneven floors may lead to movement and noise, so it is necessary to assess the levelness and get it right. Timber subfloors can be sanded level and along with concrete or most existing floor coverings can usually be levelled using a self-levelling compound, refer to manufacturer TDS. Nature's Oak Timber Flooring cannot be installed over carpet or carpet underlay but can be installed over well bonded vinyl, cork, ceramic tiles if sufficiently level.

When installed over concrete, RH (relative humidity) should not exceed 80%. If the concrete subfloor has not been tested, Nature's Oak Timber Flooring, must be installed over a continuous damp proof membrane. This continuous damp proof membrane can be provided by 200uM builders plastic, overlapped 300mm at the joins and taped with a vapour tight tape and by the use of Combi-lay underlay. Combi-lay underlays are manufactured with a plastic damp proof membrane on one side and are conveniently fitted with a 100mm overlap and peel and stick tape. The peel and stick tape can be peeled away forming the continuous damp proof. Cut ends must be taped with a vapour tight tape.

In the instance of knowingly or logically wet subfloors, or heated subfloors, always use 200uM builders plastic sheeting in conjunction with Combi-lay underlay or equivalent approved underlay rated SD >75m, overlapping joins by 300mm, taping joins with vapour tight tape and turning up at walls or vertical fixtures. Wooden subfloors exceeding 14% MC (moisture content) must have moisture issues resolved prior to installation. Installing a builder's plastic over a wooden subfloor is not recommended.

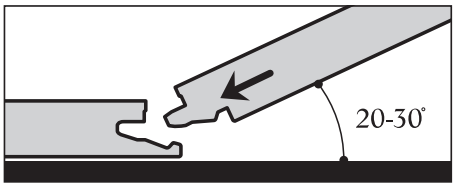


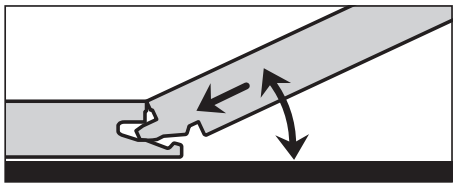
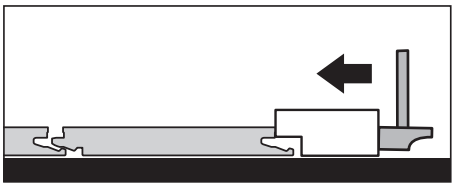
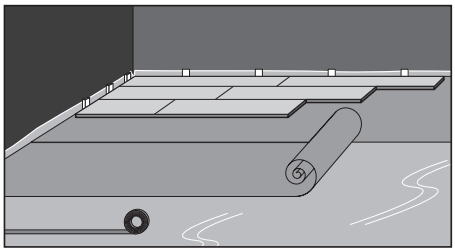
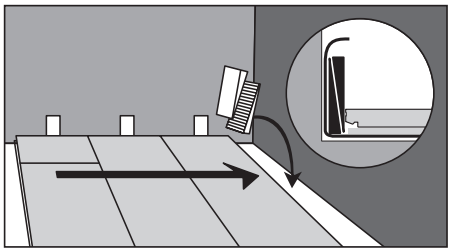
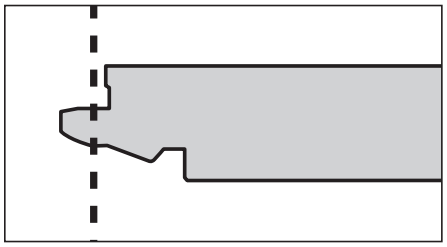
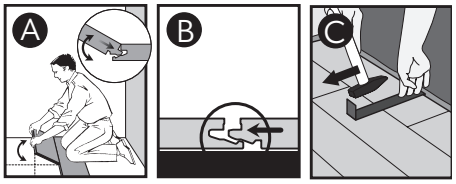


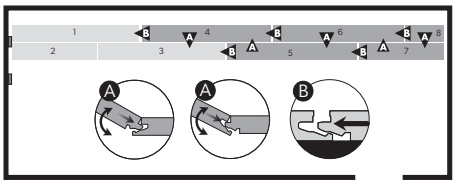
Door frames and architraves should be undercut prior to commencing installation using a scrap of flooring and a long, flexible hand saw or multi-tool. Undercut saws may be available from your local retailer and are specifically designed for this purpose.

Work out the trims to be installed as some trims are recommended to be installed prior to the flooring. This will be dependant on the direction of the trim to the flooring and the type of trim to be installed.

INSTALLING THE FIRST THREE ROWS





Select a starting wall that is long and visible, the first three rows will be installed parallel to this wall. Install the first row of plastic and/or underlay as required then install the first row, tongue (male) to the wall to assess the straightness of the starting wall. If the starting wall is undulating or uneven, square this row off to the other side of the room using a tape measure and scribe the first row of boards to cater for the undulations while accommodating a uniform 10-15mm expansion gap. On installations where scotia will not be used, and the existing skirting won't provide enough coverage for the expansion gap, we recommend undercutting the plasterboard panel.

If scribing is not required, remove the tongue along these starting boards. In terms of the required expansion gap, a minimum of 10mm is required in lower relative humidity environments like Melbourne or Christchurch. A 15mm gap is required in areas of higher relative humidity like Queensland or Waikato. Remember that Nature's Oak Timber Flooring may expand up to 4mm per LM in the width, as such the wider the floor, and the higher the humidity, the larger the perimeter gap should be. The maximum run size for a Nature's Oak floating floor installation is 20m (length) x 8m (width).

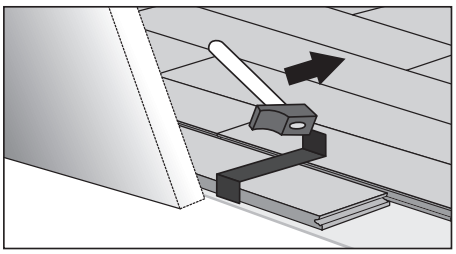
Now we will assemble the first 3 rows in a staggered formation. This will provide a foundation for additional rows, it can be assembled away from the wall, then slid into position with minimum 10mm spacers installed along the wall and at the ends. The off-cut from the first 3 rows can now be used to start the 4th row, providing it is longer than 300mm. If not, a new board will need to be cut to begin the 4th row. Now install the 1st board of the 4th row by rotating the long join into position and install the 10 -15mm spacer at the start of this row. Continue installing the floor left to right using the off cut from row 4 to begin row 5. (Note: Remember to ensure that you stagger end joins by greater than 300mm) Any small gaps in the first three rows can be filled using a caulking compound in an appropriate colour.

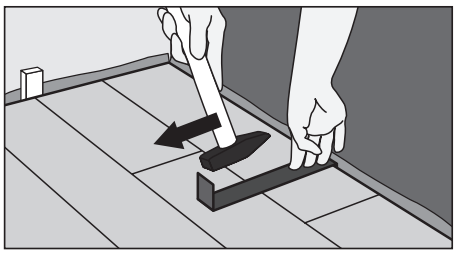
THE BODY AND THE FINAL ROW

Continue installing the floor left to right. The final row will need to be trimmed to fit using a jigsaw or table saw and bought into place using the pulling iron. Remember to allow 10-15mm for your expansion gap at all walls and vertical surfaces. This gap will be covered last of all.

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FINISHING OFF





Where skirting boards have been left in place, it is now time to fit scotia moulding to the perimeter of the floor to cover the expansion gap. Scotia is to be pinned to the skirting only so as not to inhibit the free movement of the floor. If skirting boards have been removed or are yet to be fitted, they will usually cover the expansion gap well. If the skirting boards do not provide enough coverage of the expansion gap, consider undercutting the plasterboard to allow for additional expansion. Install any End, Connector or Adapter profiles that have not been fitted during the installation process. These trims must hold the floor in place and provide for full and free expansion of the flooring. They should be anchored with adhesive and mechanically fixed. Any gaps between boards can also be filled at this time. Your engineered wood floor can now be cleaned and enjoyed.

SPECIAL NOTES

- 10mm is the minimum perimeter expansion gap for all applications. Larger floors or floors that will be exposed to higher levels of relative humidity will need larger expansion gaps. Some multi-room or very large installations will need expansion or control joints installed throughout the floor. Multi-room installations should be separated at doorways using control joints. The maximum run size for a Nature's Oak floating floor installation is 20m (length) x 8m (width). Your retailer will be able to advise you in this regard.
- When installing Nature's Oak Timber Flooring on stairs, glue both tread and riser using a recommended polyurethane or construction adhesive. No underlay should be used on tread or riser. Special stair nosing trims are also available for this application.
- It is the installer's responsibility to check each board for faults or defects, in appropriate finished lighting conditions, prior to installation. Labour costs or any other costs associated with the replacement of boards after they have been installed will not be accepted by Premium Floors, Floorscape or its agents.
- Nature's Oak Timber Flooring is not designed to be exposed to extremes of humidity or temperature. It is important to note that floors exposed to such conditions may fail. Sensible protection of the flooring from such extremes, particularly in unoccupied homes, must be afforded. Measures can include curtains, awning, blinds, window tinting, and early commissioning and/or regular use of air conditioning or humidity control devices. Please be mindful that incorrect use of evaporative cooling may create an overly moist environment not suitable for the timber floor. Protection of the flooring from any radiant heat source should also be provided, e.g.: around combustion heaters and other heaters, as these generate extreme low humidity. Nature's Oak Timber Flooring should not be installed until these measures are in place, and is recommended not to be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home. It is important to understand that any warranty, expressed or implied, may be voided if the floor is exposed to extreme conditions.
- All wood species can change colour over time in a process called oxidization, wood exposed to UV light will oxidize quicker so care should be taken when placing rugs, furniture and other floor coverings.
- It is the homeowner's responsibility to provide a moderate indoor environment in order to prevent cracking and distortion of the flooring, even when unoccupied.

MAINTENANCE

Like all timber floors Nature's Oak Timber Flooring will mark and scratch. However, it can be re-coated or re-sanded as required, just like traditional wood flooring in order to maintain your floor;

- Sweep or vacuum (bristles down) your floor regularly to remove stones and abrasive grit or dirt.
- Install dirt trapping mats at external entrances.
- Apply felt floor protectors to the underside of all moving furniture to reduce marking or scratching.
- Use of steam mops is not permitted, use of wet vac devices are allowed following correct use per manufacturers instructions. (We only recommend Quick-Step cleaner for Nature's Oak timber floors.)
- Damp clean using a using a microfiber mop. For best results, add Quick-Step cleaner at the recommended dilution to your water and towel off any excess moisture immediately after damp mopping.
- Castor chairs must use only "soft wheels" (type W) and a plastic protector mat should be placed under the area where the chair is placed/used.

Full maintenance instructions can be obtained from your local retailer or online at premiumfloors.com.au and floorscape.co.nz.

Again, thank you for your purchase.

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