NATIVE TIMBER INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

HERRINGBONE | HERRINGBONE WIDE

Thank you for purchasing this Elka Native Timber herringbone timber flooring. Please ensure that these installation instructions are read in full, understood and followed throughout the installation to ensure full warranty coverage.

These guidelines are intended for flooring professionals who are accustomed to the direct stick applications for engineered wood flooring (EWF). In some states and territories, the direct fixing of wood flooring constitutes licensed work, and may require a license to complete.

It is important to understand that any warranty, expressed or implied, may be voided if the floor is exposed to extreme conditions. A successful installation will rely heavily on strict adherence to these instructions. The most common causes of floor failure or client dissatisfaction are:

- Installations over uneven subfloors
- Excessive subfloor moisture - see section on testing and protection against moisture
- Installation of a board that has an obvious visible manufactured fault/defect
- Inadequate maintenance or mechanical damage

Elka Native Timber timber flooring should be installed in a "timber friendly environment". This means that the 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, see further information in the care and maintenance instructions.

Timber flooring can naturally change colour over time through a process known as oxidisation. Depending on the timber species, this change may be subtle or significant, with the floor either darkening or lightening. As this is a natural characteristic of timber, it is not covered by warranty. Window coverings will provide the best preventative protection against colour change, however please be aware that these are not guaranteed. Rug and furniture placement will also need to be considered for this reason.

Protection of the flooring from any radiant heat source should also be provided, e.g. around combustion heaters and other heat sources, as these generate extreme low humidity. Flooring should not be installed until these measures are in place and should not be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home.

NOTE: Installation over heated subfloors of any kind is not permitted for Elka Native Timber Herringbone and Elka Native Timber Herringbone Wide Timber flooring.

SAFETY

It is important to employ safe working practices during installation. Appropriate personal protective equipment 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. If using ancillary products like levelling compounds etc. please adhere to the specific safety requirements stated by the products manufacturer.

STORAGE

Elka Native Timber herringbone timber flooring packs should aways be stored indoors, flat and raised from concrete slabs (on a pallet) in a dry, well ventilated and safe environment. Do not open packs until you are ready to begin installation.

IN GENERAL

It is the responsibility of the installer to check every plank carefully before and during the installation, in a well lit environment. Any boards with faults or imperfections should be removed of docked to ensure the finished installation meets customer expectations in line with specific product grading standards.

Bear in mind that wood is not a homogeneous material. Wood is a natural product, and every timber flooring plank will display a different level of character and appearance. The occurrence, amount and size of gum veins, sap wood, insect trails, borer holes, 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. We recommend that the boards are mixed from several packs during installation.It is a good idea to record the details from the box label as well as the production code stamped on the back of the board, for potential future reference.

NOTE: If a plank has been installed it is considered as accepted and defects or colour variation cannot form any ground of complaint. It is considered normal installation process to make minor fill repairs with a wax repair kit during installation.

PREPARATION

There are numerous ways to approach the installation of herringbone, this guide represents some, but not all methods that can be used. These guidelines apply to Elka Native Timber Herringbone and Elka Native Timber Herringbone Wide, which come in packs that include both A and B boards.

The boards have a tongue and groove profile and as such must be directly glued to the subfloor. Please allow between 15-20% for cuts and wastage. Please refer to the adhesive manufacturers instructions on recommended perimeter expansion.

Door frames and architraves should be undercut prior to commencing installation using a scrap of flooring, an undercut saw, a flexible hand saw or multi-tool.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Tape measure, framing square, flooring nail gun, chalk or laser line, rubber mallet, circular saw, straight edge, drill/driver, trims required for finishing and appropriate wood glue.

Only elastomeric adhesives (and coat-on damp-proofs, where required) should be used, while following all instructions per the manufacturer. These adhesives include MS/Hybrid and Polyurethane adhesives from Quick-Step, Soudal, Sika, Mapei, and Bostik. Always use the trowel and application rates recommended by the adhesive manufacturer, while achieving a minimum transfer rate of 85%.

For a faster installation and cleaner finish, consider using a drop saw and a table saw with timber finishing blades.

It is also recommended to have a wax repair kit to fill any minor holes/cracks during installation.

NOTE: Check the installation requirements of the trims to be installed as some trims are recommended to be installed prior to the flooring.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

All subfloors must be flat, dry, stable and clean. Using a 1 metre straight edge, the subfloor level should not exceed +/- 3mm over 1 lineal metre in any direction.

Where a subfloor cannot be sanded or ground to the required tolerance, a levelling compound should be used. Ensure all manufacturers guidelines are followed before installing the floor.

When installed over concrete, RH (relative humidity) should not exceed 80%. If the concrete subfloor has not been tested per AS1884:2021 an appropriate moisture barrier/adhesive must be used.

Wooden subfloors exceeding 14% MC (moisture content) must have moisture issues resolved prior to installation. If the wooden subfloor will require sheeting, plywood is recommended. Wood based subfloors should be inspected to ensure adequate under floor cross flow ventilation is in place. It is of the utmost importance that the subfloor is dry, flat, stable and clean.

INSTALLATION

Each box of Elka Native Timber Herringbone and Elka Native Timber Herringbone Wide flooring comes with an equal number of boards whether A/B. Before you begin your installation, we recommend that you sort the boards into two piles.

NOTE: While sorting the piles carefully inspect and put aside any boards with visible defects or faults.

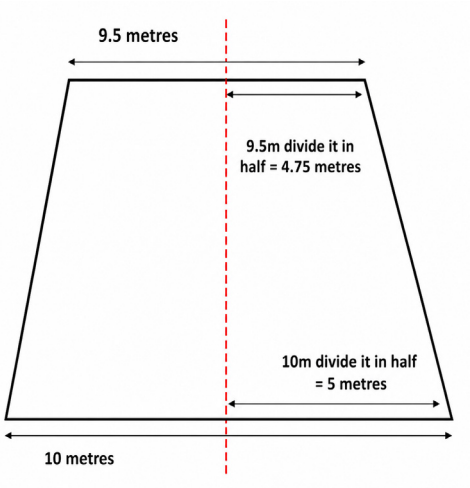
Careful planning of the herringbone layout is essential to prevent runout. Minor variations in panel size and placement are normal, so the floor cannot be expected to remain perfectly square as installation progresses. Regularly check the alignment and make small adjustments as needed to maintain the pattern.

The Y axis centre line will help to ensure that the pattern is centre to the hallway or main area of central focus.

The X axis line will help to prevent runout and provide a greater degree of accuracy when planning to join back up a body of flooring from a hallway and a body of flooring from a living area.

Determine the Y axis

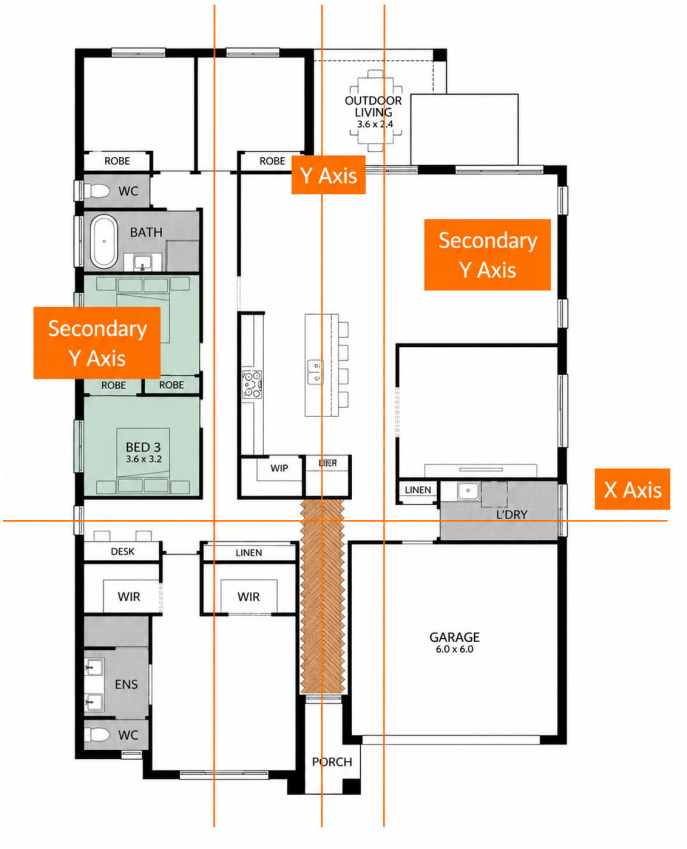
Measure the width of the building between the two main exterior walls at both ends of the area, or both ends of the hallway (for example, from the east wall to the west wall). Divide each measurement in half and mark the centre point at both ends. Snap a chalk line between these points to form the primary centre line (Y axis). This line must be checked to ensure it is straight and square (90°) to the opposing exterior walls, as it will form the main reference for setting out the herringbone pattern.



Determine the X axis

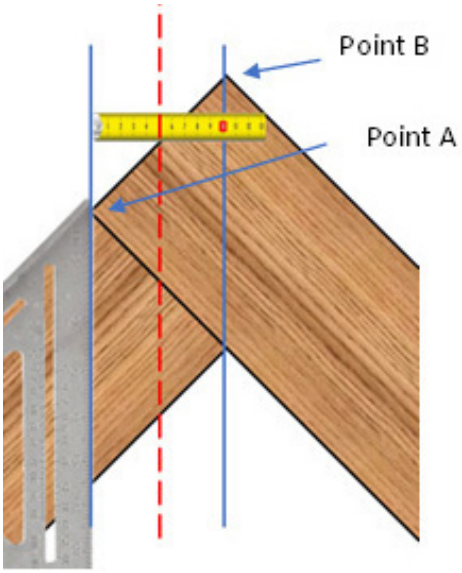
The X-axis is a reference line and does not need to be centred. Position it where it is most convenient, ensuring it is set at 90° to the Y-axis so the herringbone pattern is laid square.

Where walls or other obstacles separate sections of the floor, establish an additional Y-axis reference line. This will help keep the herringbone columns parallel and ensure accurate alignment when the pattern rejoins the main floor area.

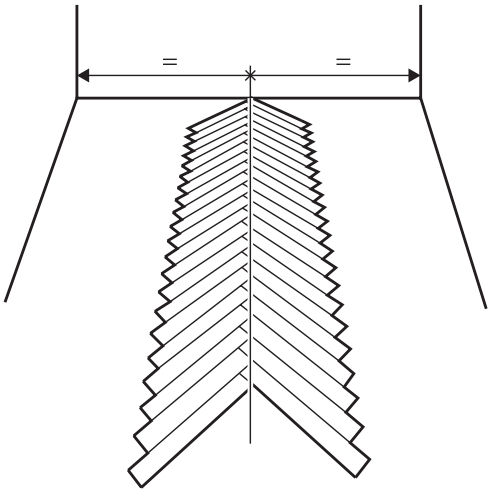


Determining the centre line

Using a set square mark two lines at points A and B. Divide this measurement by two, this halfway point is the centre line of the herringbone pattern.

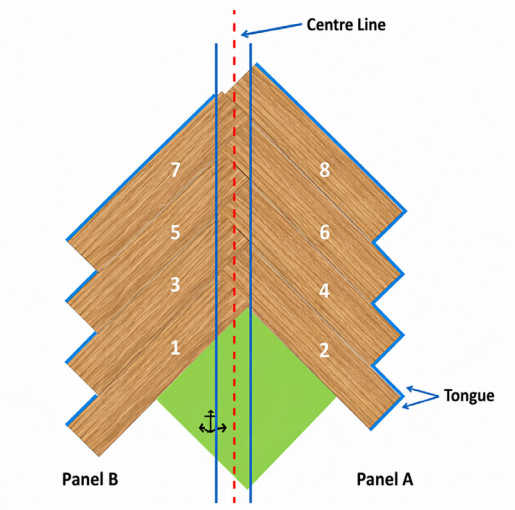


In instances where the entrance of the dwelling is the main priority of focus the herringbone pattern should be aligned to the centre line of the hallway.



A square board of 20mm thick, 580mm x 580mm MDF, particle board or ply can be temporally fastened to the subfloor to aid in aligning the herringbone correctly and also as an immovable object to work off.

Having a firm vertical surface is useful for initially getting setup and helps prevent the panels from moving around when tapping them together.



Boards should have the tongue facing out from the square board. Board 1 should be installed first and then followed by board 2 and so on.

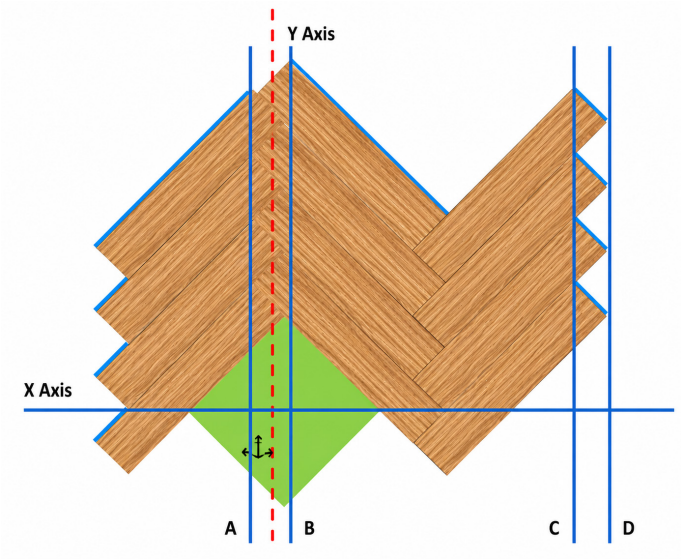
Starting the first row

Before gluing begins, dry lay the first column and workout the cuts required to infill the spaces up to the walls. Once happy with the alignment and cuts have been made, pull up the flooring in preparation to commence application of the adhesive.

Trowel out enough adhesive to lay out and align the first 2 rows at a time. Ensure that as you lay out the flooring along the Y axis that flooring remains aligned as you go. Slight adjustments will need to be made as you go along.

Only trowel out small sections of adhesive to avoid the adhesive drying out and forming a skin which could reduce adhesion strength. Use the X axis in the same way as to keep alignment of the herringbone pattern.

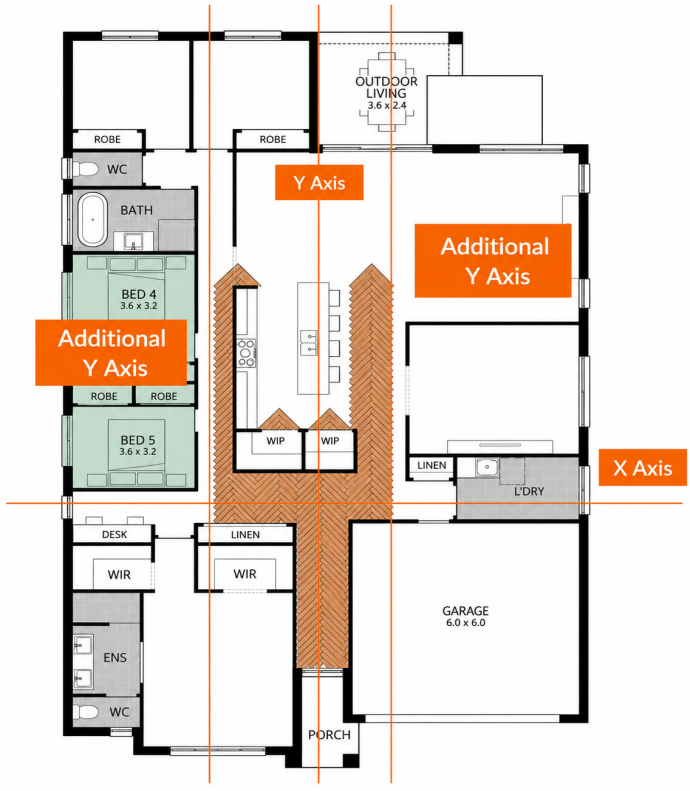
The boards may shift while being tapped together before the adhesive has cured. To maintain alignment, lay the first two rows and allow the adhesive to cure before continuing. Once cured (typically the following day), continue installation on both sides of the centre line.



Mark lines C and D in line with the end corners of the starter panels, as shown. These reference lines can be used to establish additional Y-axis lines, ensuring all rows remain parallel to each other and to the main Y-axis.

Continuing alignment with additional Y axis

When the floor has diverged into two sections, additional Y axis lines can help to ensure that the flooring joins back up more accurately. This helps to avoid having either an excessive gap or an overlap. You can use as many additional Y axis as you like.



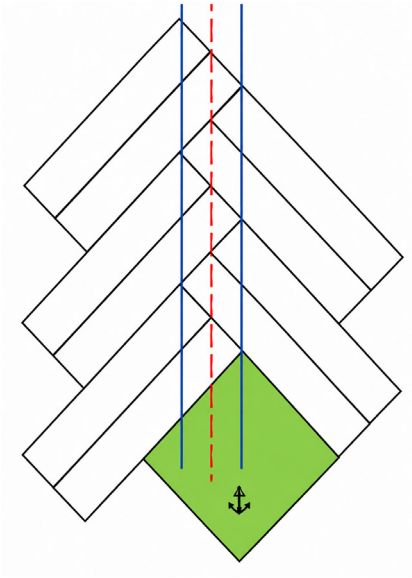
NOTE: After installation, the floor should be protected from other trades, however, never tape anything directly to the floor surface.

HERRINGBONE PATTERNS

Aside from single herringbone pattern there is also double herringbone or a diagonal pattern that are alternative options. Due to the width of Elka Native Timber Herringbone and Elka Native Timber Herringbone Wide a Mosaic style pattern will not work.

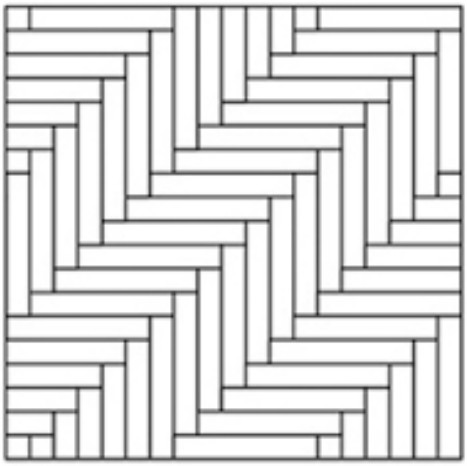
Double herringbone pattern

For a double herringbone pattern you can refer to the same installation instructions as for the single herringbone pattern above. The only difference is that you would install 2 planks next to each other.



Diagonal herringbone pattern

Herringbone can also include an installation on a diagonal to the walls. Always carefully set out the starting line (normally 45 degrees to the longest visible wall) and go about the set-up following the instructions above.



Thank you for your purchase, please refer to the care and maintenance instructions to keep your floor looking and performing at its best.

For additional installation or technical assistance please contact your place of purchase or visit www.premiumfloors.com.au