



## **INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

### **-OAK ST COLLECTION-**

### **Pre installation conditions**

#### **Indoor climatic condition**

Due to the hygroscopic properties of oak flooring (>90% wood based material), the following conditions should be taken into account before, during and after the installation:

- >Floor surface temperature min. 15°C
- >ambient air temperature 18-24°C
- >relative humidity 40-70%
- >in the event of extreme climatic conditions, distortion of the product may be expected.

#### **Inspection**

Inspect all panels before and during installation. Panels with visible defects (scratches, dimples and cracks etc.) that have been cut or installed nonetheless are excluded from the general conditions of guaranty. In spite of strict quality controls, panels may have been damaged, during transport for example.

#### **Sub floor evenness**

The floor should not show any unevenness of more than 2mm in any 1m<sup>2</sup> section. The sub floor must be thoroughly even, dry, clean and solid. Carpet staples or glue residue must be removed and floor must be cleaned to ensure proper installation.

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### **Getting prepared**

#### **Floating floor installation**

Oak flooring is intended for either floating installation or secret nailed/glued down with sub-floor.

#### **Expansion gaps**

Expansion gaps of 8-10mm must be left on all sides of the room, including but not limited to doors, panels and pipes etc.

#### **Tools**

Foam underlay, pressure sensitive polypropylene adhesive tape such as Tuck Tape or equivalent, spacers, tapping block, pull bar, saw, hammer, rubber mallet, utility knife, pencil, tape measure, rules construction adhesive.

#### **Moisture prevention**

If installing floorboards over a crawlspace or on a concrete floor, installer must use at least 2mm thick polyethylene vapor barrier under the foam underlay or use a convenient 2 in 1 foam underlay that has a vapor barrier built-in. When installing 2 in 1 foam underlay, butt seams and then completely seal seams using Tuck Tape. New concrete needs to cure for at least 60 days before installation.

## **Trimming door frame**

Door frame needs to be trimmed in order to make sure it stays above the new floorboards without jamming.

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## **Start the installation**

### **Laying the floorboards row by row**

The tongue side of the floorboards needs to be removed in order to butt up against the wall with spacers, with a gap of around 8-10mm. Attach the ends of the panels using a rubber mallet and tapping block line up edges carefully.

Continue along the wall until you reach the last full panel, connecting them by applying glue in the groove as you go. To fit the last panel, rotate the panel 180 degree with the pattern side upward, place beside row, mark off the excess and saw off. Handsaw is preferred to cut on the oak veneer surface. When using a jig or circular saw, ensure to turn the floorboards upside down to avoid chipping. Use a pull bar to tap the last piece into place.

Begin the next row with the off cut piece from the previous row to stagger the pattern. Pieces should be a minimum of 20cm long and joint offset should be at least 40cm. To attach the panels, tilt the panel you are attaching slightly upwards. When lowered, the plank will glue into place with light pressure. Make sure gaps are as small as possible. Continue along gluing each piece into place ensuring a straight, tight fit beginning with the long side first and then tapping the short side into place, using a rubber mallet and tapping block.

To fit the last row, lay a panel on top of the previous row. With the tongue to the wall, lay another panel down on the one to be measured and use it as a ruler. Don't forget to allow room for spacers. Cut the panels and tap into place using the pull bar.

## **Maintenance**

Preferable temperature should be approximately 17-23°C with a relative humidity of 45-60%. Humidity should never be allowed to drop below 30% as this may cause gaping.

Do not use a wet spray micro fiber mop. Use a well rung out damp cloth to clean up any dirt and footprints, but avoid using excessive moisture. All spills should be cleaned up immediately. Never use wax, polish or scouring agents as they may dull or distort the finish. You can use acetone or a cleaner specially formulated for oak floors to remove stubborn marks.

To avoid scratches, apply felt pads to your furniture legs and use only soft rubber casters. Protect high traffic areas with runners and area rugs.

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