Installation instructions for GrandOak flooring

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IMPORTANT: PROCEED WITH A VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE BOARDS BEFORE INSTALLATION. ONCE INSTALLED, THE BOARDS ARE CONSIDERED ACCEPTED BY THE INSTALLER AND THE HOME OWNER.

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE INSTALLATION OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY.

Grand Oak is a beautiful and unique product of nature, which is characterised by distinctive variations in both grain and colour within each board and from board to board. These natural variations in colour and grain are not flaws, but are a part of the natural beauty and uniqueness of Oak flooring. These inherent variations should be expected and serve to enhance the natural beauty and enduring charm. Grand Oak is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type. It is understood that;

• The installer assumes all responsibility for final inspection of product quality. This inspection of each board should be carried out prior to installation. Carefully examine the flooring for colour, finish and quality before installing. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects whatever the cause. All such inspections should be conducted in finished lighting conditions, particularly in areas that will be exposed to sources of natural light. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact your retailer immediately.

• Before beginning installation of any Oak flooring products, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site and condition and type of the sub-floor involved are acceptable, ensuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements which are stipulated in the Grand Oak installation instructions which follow. Australian Select Timbers declines any responsibility for job failures resulting from or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared sub-floor of job site or environment deficiencies.

• Prior to installation, the installer/owner has final inspection responsibility as to grade, manufacture quality and factory finish. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and remove or cut off pieces with deficiencies.

• Do not install sub-standard, non-confirming or faulty boards.

• The use of stain, filler or putty stick for the correction of defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.

• Should any individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece. Of course, replacement materials of boards not installed will be afforded in this instance by Australian Select Timbers, provided the defect is considered as a genuine manufacture defect.

• When Grand Oak flooring is ordered, allow approximately 5%-10% for wastage and off-cuts, depending upon size or layout of the room or installation area. (Please note: diagonal installations may require additional wastage allowances.)

• Please note that Grand Oak Flooring must be installed in a regulated and liveable environment to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. As such, Grand Oak should not be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home. The floor is designed to perform in an environmentally controlled structure. Warranty exclusions include, but are not limited to surface checking resulting from low humidity, cupping or convexing (dowelling) of boards or the presence of mildew or discolouration from extreme sub-floor moisture or poor cleaning/maintenance regimes.

JOB SITE INSPECTION & ACCLIMATISATION

• Grand Oak flooring can be installed below, equal or above ground level.

• Do not install in bathrooms, laundry, toilets or areas subject to regular moisture or water.

• In a new construction, Grand Oak flooring should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustic ceilings, wall lining etc.) should be completed prior to flooring being installed. Heating and air systems should be fully operating maintaining a comfortable room temperature.

• Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting and other materials are completely dry. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 days old. Check basements and underfloor crawl space to be sure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid damage caused by moisture.

• Handle with care. Do not stand packs on their ends.

• Do not store directly on concrete or near outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the installation area.

• Extremes in humidity levels in the home must be prevent-ed all year long. Oak flooring is a living product which reacts to humidity level variations. During summer, where the humidity level is usually at its highest point, the oak flooring is expected to expand as it absorbs moisture from the air. These variations must be dealt with adequate dehumidification. As for winter, when the heating system is working, the humidity level is lower. It is then recommended to use a humidifier to minimise the extreme effects of shrinkage.

INSTALLATION

When installing Grand Oak, we recommend the following installation tools - Expansion wedges, a pulling iron and a tapping block. You will also require PVA glue, jigsaw, pencil, hammer, tape measure, sharp ‘Stanley’ type knife and small hand tools associated with wood working. Along with your Grand Oak flooring, you’ll need Australian Select Timbers approved underlay and enough trims to complete your floor. Colour matched or aluminium trims are available in a range of shapes, profiles and colours from your local Grand Oak retailer.

STEP BY STEP INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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Successful installation will rely heavily on strict adherence to these instructions. The two most common causes of failure are uneven subfloors, and inadequate expansion to the perimeter of the floor.

An uneven sub-floor may lead to movement of the flooring underfoot and within the joining system, resulting in excessive noise, which often sounds like ‘cracking’ or ‘creaking’. 

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Preparation:
The first thing that you need is to ensure that the sub-floor or surface that the flooring is being installed over is level. Using a 1m straightedge, the sub-floor 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 floors can be sanded level and concrete floors or existing floor coverings can usually be levelled using a cement based self-levelling compound. Grand Oak Flooring cannot be installed over carpet or carpet underlay but can be installed over well bond vinyl, cork or ceramic tiles if sufficiently level.

Before installing any floor, a moisture level measurement of the sub-floor is very important to know so that we can choose the correct installation procedure(s). If the moisture level is above 70% relative humidity as measured by an approved moisture meter that complies with the current Australian ATFA codes, you must first install a 200um minimum plastic moisture proof membrane or sheeting. Installation of the membrane must comply with the ATFA current codes. Where the membrane edges meet, they must overlap by 300mm and the joints must be sealed using a waterproof tape. All walls and vertical fixtures must have the membrane turned up and then trimmed back to the appropriate level depending on skirting and/or beading to be installed.

Door frames and architraves should be undercut prior to commencing installation using a scrap of flooring and a long flexible hand saw. Work out the trims to be installed as some trims are easier to install prior to the flooring. This will be dependent 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, groove (female) 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 expansion gap.

In terms of the required expansion/contraction gap, low humidity environments like Alice Springs and Mildura for example, will require a gap of 6-8mm. Regions such as Melbourne and Sydney for example, where the humidity is generally stable, a gap of 8-12mm will be required. A gap of 12-15mm may be required in high humidity regions such as Northern NSW and Queensland.

Expansion generally occurs in the width of a board. If the installation area measures >10 metres in width, expansion joins must be installed. This reduces the overall width so the floor now becomes compartmentalised, allowing now smaller areas to move independently of each other thereby reducing floor growth or shrinkage problems.

Grand Oak may grow by over 3mm per lineal metre in the width, so make sure you leave enough gap to allow for such expansion. The wider the floor, the bigger the gap that may be required.

Now lay the first row directly against the wall. Apply PVA glue into the groove, then gently tap it in to the next board. (we will space off the first three rows later). Cut the end board and leave the correct gap that is required: 10mm is a rule of thumb. Fit a suitably sized spacer at the start of the row to set the gap required.

The off-cut from the last board in the first row now starts your second row, providing it’s longer than 450mm. If not, a new board will need to be cut to begin the second row. Now install the first board of the second row, applying PVA glue in the groove, and then gently tap it in. Continue installing the floor left to right using the off-cut from row 2 to begin row three. (Note: Remember to ensure that you stagger end joins by greater than 450mm.) We can now slide these three rows off the starting wall and install the suitably sized spacers against the starting wall.

The Body and the Final Row:
Continue installing the floor. The final row will need to be trimmed to fit and brought into place using a pulling iron. Remember to allow an adequate gap for expansion at all walls and vertical surfaces. This gap will be covered last of all.

Finishing Off:
Where skirting boards have been left in place, it is now time to fit colour matched scotia mouldings to the perimeter of the floor to cover the expansion gap after removing the expansion wedges. 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. It is often the case where professional installers will also undercut the plasterboard to afford an additional 12mm or so expansion to the perimeter of a floor. This is often recommended on areas of higher humidity where the flooring is likely to expand more. Install any end, connector or adaptor 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 under or inside the trim profile. Finally, any gaps at the floor perimeter that could not be covered with skirting or profiles, can be filled at this time. Your Grand Oak Flooring can now be cleaned and enjoyed.

If unsure at all, please contact your retailer. These instructions are only a guide.
Care instructions

Simple maintenance procedures will ensure your floor stays looking beautiful.

- Sweep and vacuum as often as possible to remove any loose grit or dirt.
- Use protective mats at all exterior entrances.
- Use felt protectors under all furniture and quality chair mats under chairs with castors.
- Never slide or roll furniture or appliances across your floor.
- High heeled shoes or spiked shoes will cause damage to your floor.
- Avoid using excessive amounts of water, always use a well wrung out mop, if spills occur remove as quickly as possible. NEVER USE STEAM MOPS.
- Don’t use soap, wax, oil or other household products to clean your floor. Only use recommended reputable floor cleaners, specific for your type of floor.
- Keep animal nails trimmed.