



# ENGINEERED PLANK FLOORING - MAGNETIC INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

**The following should be used for guideline purposes only, as it is the responsibility of the installation contractor to ensure that floors are installed correctly and safely, subject to the relative site conditions, sub floor and specified finish.**

These guidelines are designed to complement the current British Standard BS8201 and any other relevant standards of manufacturer's instruction.

## SITE CONDITIONS

Before materials are delivered to site, all wet trades should be complete and dried out. The building must be weather tight, i.e. doors and windows fully fitted.

Site conditions should be checked to ensure the humidity levels are - and are maintained at - between 45% and 65% RH, and the room temperature between 15°C and 25°C.

Extremes of temperature / humidity will affect the stability of wood flooring. Low humidity can cause the wood to shrink, and a high level to cause expansion. Typical causes of low humidity are the use of heating at too high a temperature.

We recommend using a thermometer / hygrometer to monitor temperature and humidity. A humidifier / de-humidifier can be used to control the ambient conditions.

As a general guide, areas should be adequately ventilated to prevent a build-up of moisture in the atmosphere. Wood will naturally change its size during the progress of the seasons. In the summer, the humidity is generally at its highest level and wood joints should be reasonably tight together.

During the winter, when heating is typically used, the humidity levels are generally lower and wood flooring will naturally show small gaps between the joints.

This is natural movement and not a manufacturing or installation fault.

The wood flooring should acclimatize in the room where the wood is to be fitted for at least 72 hours prior to installation to balance with the environment it is going to be used in. It should be stored out of direct sunlight, away from walls and radiators and on battens fully supporting the wood to allow airflow around the flooring.

## METAL PAN SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

The subfloor must be sound, clean, dry and flat to British Standard SR1 tolerance: a maximum 3mm gap under a 2m long straight edge at any point across the sub floor and no more than 0.5mm lips between metal sub floor panels.

Any residues or contaminants from oil, grease or adhesives should be removed with a degreaser prior to installation of the floor.

The integrity of the floor bond is dependant on the floor achieving full contact with the metal pan substrate.

## INSTALLATION

As a general rule of thumb, subject to site conditions and overall width span of area, an expansion gap of 1.5mm per linear metre run throughout the expanse of the flooring is required to the perimeter of the floor, with a minimum expansion gap of 10mm. Dependant on the size of the floor area to be laid some provision may also be required within the body of the floor. This is to allow for changes in ambient conditions, especially changes in humidity, which can cause wood floors to move naturally. Unless suitable provision is made to accommodate movement, the stability of surrounding walls can be affected or undesirable changes in the floor surface might result.

Expansion gaps should also be provided at all other abutments such as radiator pipes, thresholds, door linings, floor sockets, etc.

Expansion gaps should be filled with a cork or neoprene strip to prevent edge boards working apart and can be covered using scotia / quadrant / flat bead / skirting.

Threshold profiles should be installed in all doorways, arches or narrow sections that lead from one room / area to another. These thresholds must allow for the required expansion and contraction. Door frames and architraves can be undercut to allow the wood to slide underneath, still allowing for expansion.

For further information on expansion gaps see the [BSI website](#); BS 8201:2011.

The flooring should be taken from three separate packages and not all from one pack, to avoid areas being installed from the same batch of wood.

When planning the layout of the area, you may wish to balance the board width against the two most prominent walls, taking into account focal points. This is more critical in smaller areas than in



larger areas, where you cannot visualize both sides at the same time. Aim to have at least half a board width at each side, as smaller width boards are difficult to fit and highlight any discrepancies in the straightness of the walls.

The selection of a layout is, of course, an aesthetic matter.

Ensure there is at least 300mm between the header joints, and ideally 500mm – or at least two times the width of the board. Place spacers between the boards and the wall to maintain the expansion gap.

### REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF PLANKS

There are two ways to remove the boards for access;

Use a suction cup tool. At the point of installation of the floor, planks will need to be identified as access points and the bottom of the groove side and the end should be removed, plus the tongue on the end of the board should also be removed. Apply the suction cup to the surface of the plank to be lifted. Apply pressure whilst you engage the suction cups mechanism ensuring a full seal, and lift. Surrounding boards will need only a small lever to break the magnetic bond at an edge, the planks will lift with ease.

For any floor that has a medium brushed and/or textured surface the installation of flush ring pull handles is advised. These should be rebated into the appropriate plank/s.

Basic and easy to operate, simply pull on the ring which will elevate and in turn pull the plank the mounting plate is affixed to from its installation.

Available in different sizes and finishes.

### ONGOING CONDITIONS

Throughout the life of the floor, we recommend that the temperature should be maintained between 15°C and 25°C, and relative humidity levels between 45% and 65%, which will keep any movement within the floor to a minimum and ensure that the floor remains stable. As with any wooden floor, if humidity levels rise or fall outside of these parameters, a greater degree of shrinkage or expansion would be expected to occur. ■



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Sustainable Magnetic Wood Flooring

