Installing Planks & Parquet Over Under Floor Heating

Before Installation:

It is imperative that the property is dry, warm and ventilated. Sub-floor, plaster-work and decorations should be thoroughly cured before the timber is delivered.
The sub-floor should be thoroughly dry with 4% moisture content maximum, the ambient temperature should be between 16-23°C and the relative humidity between 50-65%.
The wood flooring should be stacked flat within their wrapping or boxes and should acclimatise within the property for 5 days with the under-floor heating running.

In the case of a newly laid screed, this must be allowed to dry naturally without turning on the heating. Allow two weeks of drying time for every 1cm of floor screed. We recommend a PVC damp screen if the floor is laid floating. Alternatively, a liquid DPM should be applied to the screed surface just prior to installation. This will ensure no latent moisture is released from the screed which could cause the adhesive to fail.

The temperature of the surface of the screed (the underside of the wood) should never exceed 27°C. Exceeding this temperature will cause the boards to lose moisture and could lead to the boards gapping, splits opening up or de-laminating. To monitor and limit the temperature, a floor probe should be installed below the flooring and wired into the thermostat. The probe should override the room temperature to ensure the temperature beneath the boards does not exceed 27°.

During Installation:

If a glue-down installation method is used, a semi-flexible adhesive is recommended, we can supply Bona R850 or Bona R848. If a floating method is used a suitable underlay can be used such as Quick-Therm.

Before commencing the installation, reduce the temperature to 17°C and maintain this temperature for a further period of three days after installation. After this time, the temperature can be increased by 1°C per 24 hour period until a comfortable room temperature level is achieved without exceeding the 27° below the floor. We recommend leaving the heating on low during the summer months to maintain a stable environment for the flooring. Temperature settings should be adjusted gradually as rapid changes for instance during a cold snap can damage the flooring.

Care & Precautions :

Rugs, carpets and mats should not be used as these can greatly increase the surface temperature of wood flooring.

It should be remembered that it is the humidity that carries the heat. Therefore the drier the environment, the colder the room will feel. Humidity can be easily introduced and regulated if required by the use of a small electric humidifier. Please note that humidity is essential to the well being of the floor. Too much moisture in the atmosphere will call the wood to expand and spring. Not enough will cause the wood to dry out and shrink. Our flooring is stored in an environment where both temperature and humidity are monitored and controlled. Our flooring is dispatched at between 8-10% moisture content. If after installation, the timber absorbs or discharges 1% in moisture content across the floor this could result in movement of up to 2.5 mm per square metre area.

Moisture loss is more prevalent in smaller parquet pieces as opposed to longer length planks. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of maintaining stable conditions throughout the lifetime of the floor and to this end, we strongly recommend a Fid Box is installed within the wood flooring. This will monitor and record the under-floor temperature, the moisture content and humidity of the environment.