Herringbone Solid Wood Flooring Installation Guide

Installing your Herringbone floor

1) General

Oak Herringbone wood flooring comprises of 2 types of panel, one profiled “Left” and the other “Right”. Keep these panels separate for ease of installation.

Oak Herringbone wood flooring can be installed in Herringbone or “Square on Square” formation. To achieve the best results and get the most out of your warranty it is essential that you follow the instructions closely.

• Herringbone is not suitable for use in damp spaces such as bathrooms and Laundries.

• Check all flooring panels in each pack before/ during installation. Defective panels such as chips or scratches must never be used and need to report to the seller straight away. Once used, we shall not be liable for swapping the pieces afterwards.

Always check the panels in daylight, never in the evening or in artificial light.

2) Preparation

Herringbone wood flooring must be acclimatised on site and in its original packaging for at least 48 hours prior to installation. In winter the acclimatisation period should be extended by a further 48 hours prior to installation. Never open packs until the day of installation. Wood flooring should be installed when conditions are between 15– 22°C with a relative humidity of 45– 65%.

3) The Subfloor

The Subfloor must be clean before installation. It also needs to be level, stable and smooth. Any unevenness greater than 2mm per running meter must be levelled out as it will be likely to cause issues such as creaking noise or gap on the flooring.

When installing over concrete;

- The moisture content of the concrete must be less than 2.5% (CM method). Newly poured screed must be given at least one week to dry for every centimeter of thickness up to 4cm.
- 2 weeks drying time should be added to the above for every centimeter of “Slab” thickness between 4cm and 6cm.
- 4 weeks drying time should be added to the above for every centimeter of “Slab” thickness over 6cm.
- Slabs of 8cm require 16 weeks to dry.

4) Correct placement & Installation

Room humidity can vary according to season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. The floor may expand up to 2mm per meter. The larger the surface area, the larger the expansion required. The floor has to be able to expand or contract in ANY direction.

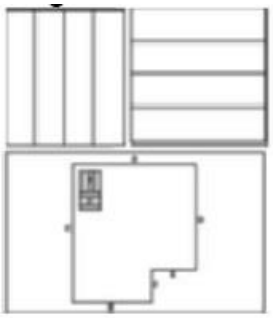
To allow this, the expansion gap at walls needs to be at least 12-15mm. This gap must remain open; it will eventually be covered with a skirting. Larger surface areas require a wider gap. With lengths over 12 meters use of an expansion gap is required. Remember that the floor may move in one direction. Provide expansion gaps under doors etc wherever possible.

It is essential to glue down / fully bond Herringbone wood flooring to avoid any possible movement issue in the future. This will minimise any movement/noise that could occur.

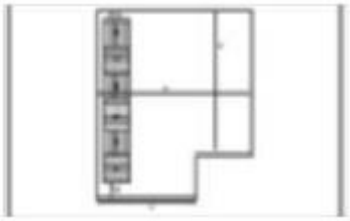
In terms of colour/shade, as wood flooring is a natural product, please make sure that these panels are blended appropriately during installation, so that there are not too many light or dark panels next to each other.

4.1) Installing Square on Square

Always work in blocks of 4 panels. Install a full number of blocks along the longest side of the room.

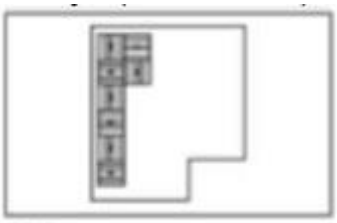


Standing with your back to the wall, work from left to right. Begin the first block with RIGHT panels and install them. Now install the second block with LEFT panels diagonal to the first block, clicked in such a way that the long and short groove are in front of you. Move everything away from the wall so that you can sit on or behind the panels (Fig above) Continue in this way until you are unable to install another complete block. Align the panels regularly with a tapping block. Make sure that the panels are firmly clicked together. Now measure distances a and b (Fig below)



Ideally you should move the row so that the distance is the same on both sides. Remove a row on the left if need be, or begin with a sawn panel. Now measure distance. Try to find a symmetrical balance or the best compromise and place the necessary expansion blocks. The pieces against wall B are pulled together using a pulling-bar or tapped together. Now install the first block of the second row. Continue to install the row up to wall.

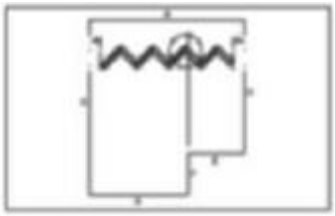
B. Now install the following rows. Make sure that the panels are clicked together firmly. (As below)



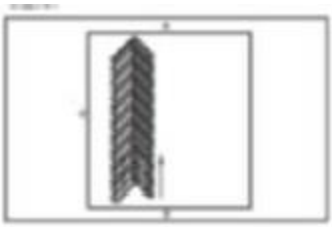
The pieces in the final row can be tapped together with the pulling-bar if need be. Do not forget the expansion gap.

4.2 Installing Herringbone

Install one row of panels along the longest wall of the room in a herringbone pattern as shown in (figure below). Install this row so that the tips of the panels are the same distance from the wall.



Leave enough space for the expansion gap. Ideally a and b should be the same. Draw a starting line along wall.



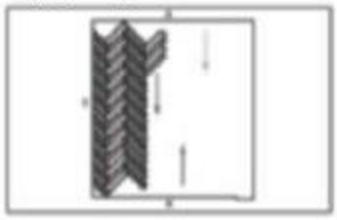
When installing the floor, you always use first a left then a right panel. Lay a tapping block against the panels during installation. That ensures that they are always in line.

If need be, move the whole row towards wall A or wall B to achieve the best result.

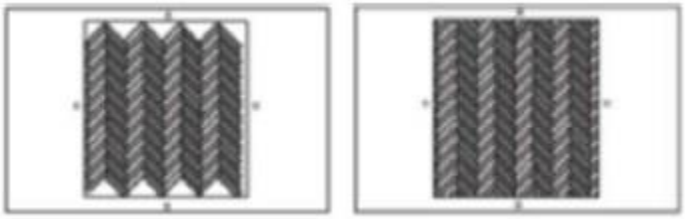
Finally, make sure that the row is set against wall C, with expansion blocks in place.

6.2.2 Subsequent rows

Now install a row of left panels. Begin at wall A and move in the direction of wall B. Always angle the long sides and tap the short sides together gently with the tapping block.



Then install a row of right panels, beginning by wall B and moving in the direction of wall A.



5) Under doorframes

When sawing the panels ensure that the expansion gap after installation is at least 10mm. If you are unable to angle the panel, use a crowbar or tapping block and hammer to tap the panels together. (Figure 8)

6) Finishing

You can walk on your floor as soon as it’s installed.

• Remove all spacers

• Place the skirting. Never attach the skirting directly to the floor or the floor will not be able to expand and contract properly under the skirting. (Figure 9)

• In places where profiles and skirting cannot be placed, fill expansion gaps with elastic paste.

7) Precautions

• Use felt pads to protect furniture and chair legs.

• Use doormats to avoid bringing in dirt, water and sand.

• Use office chairs with soft castors, suitable for wood flooring. Change any existing castors or lay a good plastic mat under the office chair. Check whether the castors can revolve FREELY. Castors under furniture (sofas for example) must be soft too and sufficiently large. Place plastic protective caps with felt underside if needed.

8) Maintenance

• Dry maintenance is the best and most common form of maintenance. A vacuum cleaner can also be used, but ensure that it does not have hard castors that make scratches.

• Slightly damp maintenance is possible occasionally. Pour a cap of mild detergent into a bucket of water, use a well wrung mop to clean the floor avoiding over use of moisture.

ALWAYS WIPE DRY IMMEDIATELY until no moisture is visible on the floor.

We never recommend the use of steam cleaners on wood flooring.

It is important that the floors room temperature and humidity levels are kept stable throughout its life in your house. The ideal temperature for a timber floor is between 18-20°C, with a relative humidity of 45– 60%. Maintaining a well ventilated environment, are key in maintaining your Oak Herringbone Flooring.

In Winter months for example if the humidity (RH) in a heated room goes below the specified 45% this may result in plank changes. As such, you should install an Air Humidifier to prevent damage to your floor, also maintaining that the surface temperature remains between 18-20°C, but never exceeding 27°C. The same may also apply to Air-conditioned rooms.

TIMBER IS A NATURAL PRODUCT, AS SUCH VARIATIONS IN COLOUR AND GRAIN ARE TO

BE ACCEPTED. PLEASE NOTE THAT SUNLIGHT OR U.V. LIGHT WILL ALSO INFLUENCE

COLOUR VARIATION IN WOOD FLOORING.

Disclaimer: We have applied our best efforts to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained herein and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be liable for any inaccuracies, omissions or errors in this information nor for any actions taken in reliance on this information. Products must be installed in accordance with relevant installation recommendations and industry best practices.

Warranty Guarantee

Providing the flooring has been installed and maintained according to the guidelines the following warranty is included with this product;

Residential = 30 Years

Light Commercial = 15 Years