

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION GENERAL GUIDELINES

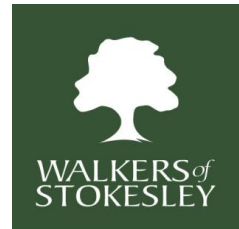
The information in these guidelines is of a general nature as the circumstances for the installation of the floor will usually be different with each project. Please contact us for advice on a particular site. For further information refer to our detail guidelines and product data sheets.

ORDERING AND DELIVERY

When ordering allow between 5 - 10% greater area than the room size depending on the room configuration. More wastage will occur with curved or angled walls. An additional allowance of 15 - 20% may be necessary for random width boards and installations where all end joints must occur on a joist. It is important to make the appropriate allowance for wastage as small make up quantities of flooring will incur greater overheads such as additional delivery costs. The typical moisture content of our floors at the time of delivery will be in the range of 8-12%. From experience we have found this to be a reasonable optimum moisture content for normally heated buildings bearing in mind the diversity of climate and building construction. It is essential that we are notified at the outset if different moisture content is required.

SITE PREPARATION

It is essential that suitable site conditions exist before delivery. All wet trades such as plastering and main decorating must be complete and dry. The necessary drying times will need to be factored into the building works program in order to achieve this. The subfloor must be flat and dry. Any underfloor heating must be fully commissioned, trialled at maximum, with heat output increased gradually to avoid damaging the subfloor. The relative humidity of the building must be within the expected range for the building when in use, e.g. 35 - 65% RH, and the temperature must be approx. 20° C. On arrival the flooring must be stored in suitable dry conditions. Please refer to our detail section on site preparation. The boards must be stored flat raised above the floor on closely spaced timber battens.



FIXING

The two main methods of fixing wood flooring are either using mechanical fixings or an adhesive bed. Reference will need to be made to the technical data sheets covering these different methods. Common to all fixing methods is the need for the substrate to be flat and dry. Expansion gaps must be provided around the perimeter of the room, 10mm to 12mm for a small room and 15mm to 20mm for a larger room. Occasionally very large rooms can require an intermediate expansion allowance when the peripheral allowance alone is not insufficient.

FINISHING

A hard wearing finish to the surface of the flooring is essential to protect the wood and permit easy maintenance. Most of our flooring is delivered pre-finished requiring only a single final application after the floor is installed. There are a number of different finishes available and Walkers of Stokesley will advise on this at the enquiry stage.

PROTECTION

The wood flooring should be kept protected until handover. Temporary covering may be building paper, hardboard or other approved material sufficient to withstand traffic from other trades and stop any dampness from spillage or some other cause affecting the floor. Care needs to be taken to avoid the temporary covering forming a trip hazard and to prevent fixings, tape or adhesives causing damage to the floor finish.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance guidelines are available for all our floors.