

Wood Floor Instructions for Installation and Maintenance

Thank you for purchasing a Christina Meyer Wood Floor. This high quality flooring will provide you with years of elegant service, provided the following procedures for installation and maintenance are observed.

1. PRECONDITIONS AND PREPARATION

a. SUITABILITY OF SUBFLOOR ON TO WHICH FLOORING IS TO BE INSTALLED

1. The subfloor must be structurally sound, firm, level and flat. Unevenness must not exceed 2mm of vertical deviation for every 1m of horizontal length. Concrete subfloors may be levelled with a levelling compound. The concrete must be fully intact with no cracks or crumbling. With wooden subfloors, any loose boards should be fully secured, and projecting nails or screws made flush. Wooden floors must be of adequate strength if you intend to use nails to fix the overlaying floor. If necessary for this purpose, the thickness of a wooden subfloor can be increased using plywood or oriented strand boards (sterling board).

2. This floor is not guaranteed for use with underfloor heating due to movement resulting from rapid changes to the wood floor temperature.

3. The moisture level of the subfloor must be within acceptable limits. Otherwise the floor will swell and discolour from below. The moisture level can be measured using a moisture meter.

If the subfloor is concrete made with cement the moisture level must not be greater than 2.5%, and if it is concrete with anhydrit the moisture level must be less than 0.5%.

If there is a wooden subfloor, moisture must not be greater than 10%. If moisture does exceed these limits it may be a simple matter such as a leaking radiator or blocked airbrick, or may be due to more serious plumbing or building defects; either way it is vital that any damp problem is attended to before installation can proceed.

Installation in bathrooms is possible but with great care and ensuring that no moisture enters the flooring.

4. It is advisable to complete any other decoration of the room before installing the floor. The subfloor should then be cleared of any debris and thoroughly cleaned.

b. QUANTITY OF FLOORING REQUIRED

Because wood is a natural product, you may find that some of the flooring boards contain idiosyncrasies of grain or colouring. This is a matter of individual taste, and need not make a board unsuitable for use. However, in calculating the quantity of flooring required for a given area, you should allow for up to 5% of the flooring supplied to be unsuited to use.

You should also allow approximately a further 5% for wastage due to cutting and damage during installation.

c. EQUALISING HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE

In order to optimise conditions for installation, the humidity and temperature of the flooring should be equalised with those of the room in which it will be installed. The flooring should left in its packaging and placed within the room for at least a week to ten days prior to installation. The room should be kept at normal temperature and humidity (between 18 and 25 degrees C).

Wood Floor Instructions for Installation and Maintenance (cont.)

2. INSTALLATION

a. GLUING OR NAILING?

With concrete subfloors the wooden floor must be glued in place, whereas with wooden subfloors there is a choice between nailing and gluing.

For gluing, you will require an adhesive designed specifically for fixing wood floors. These are alcohol or polyurethane based, and waterfree. Gun or nozzle applied PU (polyurethane) glues are generally easy to use, though care should be taken to ensure that sufficient glue is applied and that there is uniform coverage. A MS polymer (or similar) glue applied with a comb and trowel may be easier for larger areas, and there is less likelihood of not applying enough. The glue is applied to the subfloor, and may also be applied to the tongues and grooves of the overlaying wooden flooring. The wooden flooring is placed directly over the glued subfloor surface, with no underlay required.

Alternatively you may wish to make use of a specifically designed matting, such as Elastilon, which is placed over the subfloor so that the wooden flooring can be laid on top. This can be an easier method, and has the advantage that it can give a result similar to a “floating” floor.

For nailing, best results can be obtained using a Primatch nail gun and either 38mm or 50mm Primatch nails; Using a pneumatic nailing machine reduces the risk of splitting. The nails are inserted into the tongues of the boards at an angle of 45 degrees automatically by the nail gun.

b. ENSURING A GOOD FIT

To ensure that boards fit snugly and stably together, they should be linked by their tongues and grooves. The upper corners of boards are microbevelled so that they fit together well and lie evenly.

A close fit around immovable obstructions such as radiator pipes can be achieved by drilling a hole in the board, plus 15/20 mm for expansion, and then cutting a wedge out of the board between the drilled hole and the edge of the board. Once the board is fixed in place the wedge is returned. Radiator pipe covers are available for covering the gap.

c. LEAVING ROOM FOR EXPANSION

Because wood naturally expands and contracts with changes in temperature and humidity it is necessary to leave gaps. With a floor dimension up to 10 metres the corresponding gap should be between 15mm and 20mm, and located between the flooring and surrounding wall or other obstruction. Where a floor dimension exceeds 10 metres it is advisable to incorporate expansion gaps of at least 20 mm in the floor at 10 metre intervals. Gaps can be hidden by wooden “profiles”. The profile is not fixed to the floor. A space of 1mm to 2mm should be left between the flooring and the profile so that as the flooring expands it can project beneath the profile. Profiles next to walls or other obstructions should be fixed thereto. It is generally advisable to take advantage of doorways, archways or other points of transition in a room or between rooms in the locating of expansion gaps.

3. CARING FOR YOUR FLOOR

With considerate treatment a wooden floor can last for centuries. The appearance of your floor can be preserved by protecting it from damage by hard and sharp furniture or other objects, and from staining or undue moisture. A number of simple steps should be taken:

1. Regular cleaning (at least once a week) with a broom or vacuum cleaner will remove particles which could otherwise be ground into the wood. The floor should then be wiped with a damp cloth/mop using a designated cleaning product; never use excessive water or more severe cleaning products. Spillages of any liquid should be removed as soon as possible.
2. Chair, table or other furniture legs, particularly those on furniture that will be moved about, should have felt pads.
3. Stilettoes are to be discouraged, as should wet or muddy footwear.
4. At least once a year, or more frequently if there is heavier usage, a wood floor maintenance product should be applied, such as Christina Meyer’s Floor Treatment.

For further information you can contact us by telephone: 0845 644 6588, email: hello@christinameyer.com, text (SMS) ‘CM’ to 83211 (UK only) or visit our web site: www.christinameyer.com.

We hope that your new floor will give you great deal of satisfaction and pleasure over the coming years.