

elka

real wood

engineered

flooring

RUSTIC GRADE

REAL WOOD ENGINEERED OAK FLOORING

General Instructions

Congratulations with your new 'Engineered Wood Flooring'. Before starting with the installation, it is critical that you read the following instructions carefully. Failure to do so will inevitably result in problems occurring and invalidate your warranty

**"INSTALLATION IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE"
NO WARRANTY WILL BE OFFERED FOR
APPEARANCE RELATED CLAIMS ONCE
THE PRODUCT IS INSTALLED.**

Installer/owner Responsibility

Wood floors are a natural product and as such is subject to many variances in both colour and character, this is always to be expected. In order to establish a consistency of product a grading and manufacturing tolerance of 5% has been set to allow for de-selection of material if deemed unsuitable for the installation. A 5% cutting or waste allowance must

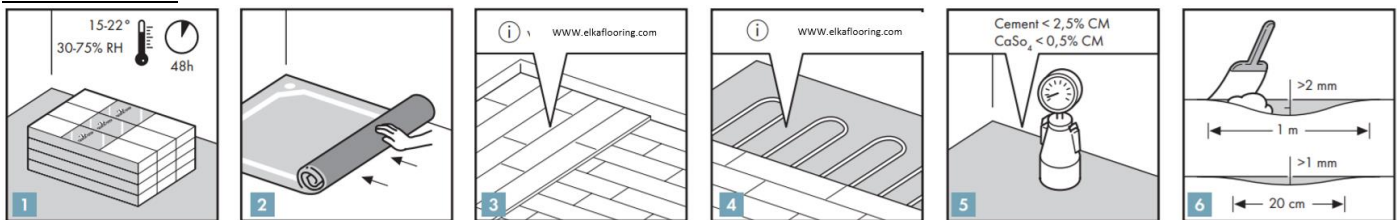
therefore, be added to the net square meters required for the site to be installed.

The installer or owner must determine that the job site environment and the sub-surfaces involved meet or exceed all requirements within these instructions; claims will not be accepted if a fault was visibly noticeable or preventable prior to installation.

- All flooring must be stored in the correct conditions prior to installing.
- This product “must not” be stored on site until all sub – floors; plastering, cement work; decorating and all other wet work is completely dry.
- The nominated party “*consumer or installer*” that takes ownership has final responsibility to ensure that they have received the correct species and finish that was selected in store.
- Always work from 3 to 4 packs at a time mixing boards to achieve the appearance you require, taking into consideration the texture of the wood and the natural change in colours.

Each floor, even each board is an individual piece of nature, which is guaranteed to make your home a place of beauty.

PREPARATION



1 Let the planks acclimatize for 48 hours in the unopened packaging at the normal room temperature, in the middle of the room where the floor is to be installed. The ideal conditions are 15-22°C at a relative humidity of 30-75%. If climate conditions are outside this 30-75% range, we strongly advise to acclimatize for 1 week with opened packages.

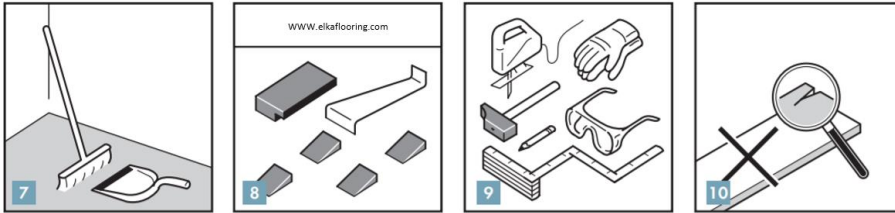
2 Remove any damp-porous floor covering (carpet, needle felt, etc.) first. Damp-sealed floor covering (PVC, linoleum, VCT, etc.) does not have to be removed. Always use an underlay, we advise to use a Elka underlay.

3 **WOODEN SUBFLOOR:** Remove any existing floor covering first and check for signs of mould and / or insect infestations, this should not be present. Make sure the subfloor is level, nail down any loose parts. If the wooden subfloor is flat (no unevenness greater than 2mm over the length of 1 meter): you can install any Elak underlay. If the wooden subfloor is not flat and has unevenness > 2mm and < 4mm (because of cupping of the wooden subfloor planks: you can install the Elka QT or Comfort Lay underlay. If the wooden subfloor is not flat and has unevenness > 4mm: you have to install a fibered levelling compound or underlay + plywood / OSB levelling floor. Install the new floor at ninety degrees to the existing subfloor. The crawl space under the plank floor must be sufficiently ventilated. Remove any obstacles and make sure there is enough ventilation (minimum 4cm² (1/2”) total ventilation openings per m² (40”) of floor). The moisture content of the wood must not exceed 10%.

4 Additional instructions apply if there is underfloor heating or cooling. Your dealer or installer of the floor heating system must guarantee that the floor surface temperature never exceeds 28 degrees °C. Visit www.elkaflooring.com for more information.

5 A new concrete floor must dry at least 1 week per 1cm (3/8") thickness up to 4cm (1-1/2"). Thicknesses over 4cm (1-1/2") require twice as much drying time. For example, a 6cm (2-1/2") concrete subfloor must dry for at least 8 weeks. The moisture content must be less than 2.5% for cement-bound screed (CM method) and 0.5% for an anhydrite bound screed. As the drying times are really depending on the climate conditions and the ventilation of the building, these timings are only indicative. If the concrete subfloor is between 4% Mc and 6.5% impedance Mc then a 2 part Epoxy DPM must be applied to the subfloor.

6 Make sure the subfloor is level. Any unevenness greater than 2mm over the length of 1 meter must be smoothed out. The same applies to any unevenness of more than 1mm over a length of 20cm.



7 Make sure that the floor base is flat, clean, firm, and dry.

8 To install your laminate floor you need the following standard tools: Hammer, saw (a jig-saw, hand circular saw, hand saw, or cross-cut saw), pencil, tape measure, safety goggles and gloves.

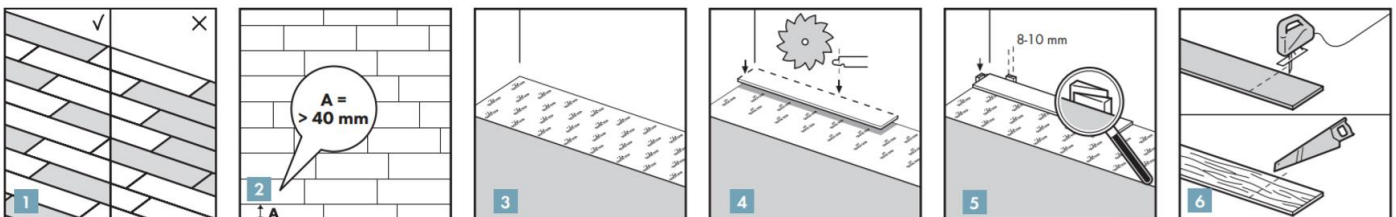
9 Apart from that, you also need the following accessories: installation kit (a pulling iron, spacers and a tapping block suitable for the Uniclic® click system), underlay system (use an underlay that provides a stable foundation for the floor, such as the Elka underlay) and suitable maintenance products. The use of accessories other than the Elka accessories might cause damage to the Elka floor. In such case the guarantee provided by Elka will be void. We therefore advise to use only Elka accessories as these have been especially designed and tested for the use with Elka floor panels.

10 Check all panels before and during installation. Defective panels must never be used.

11 Check whether the old skirting can be removed. You can leave the wall skirting boards in place and finish the floor with Elka profiles or cover the existing skirting boards with the Elka cover skirting board.

12 Check that the doors can still open and close after the floor and underlay have been installed.

13 Cooking islands for kitchens and other very heavy objects should be installed first and not placed on top of the laminate. The laminate floor must be able to move around the heavy objects to avoid open joints and separating planks



INSTALLATION

With Uniclic® panels you can choose where you want to begin, think about what the easiest way will be to install the floor. We will demonstrate the installation for right-handed people, from left to right. You can work in the other

direction if you want. Uniclic® is unique because you can install the planks in two different ways. Method A: Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure, the panels will automatically click into place. You can either insert the tongue into the groove, or the groove on to the tongue. The tongue in groove method is the most common and easiest way. Method B: With Uniclic® you can also tap the panels into each other without lifting. For this method you must use the special Uniclic® tapping block. The planks should not be joined with a single tap, to avoid damaging the panels you must tap them together gradually.

1 Make sure the panels are mixed sufficiently when you install them, so that you do not end up with too many identical, light or dark panels next to each other. To obtain the best visual effect, it is best to fit the floorboards in the direction of the longest wall and parallel to the incidence of light.

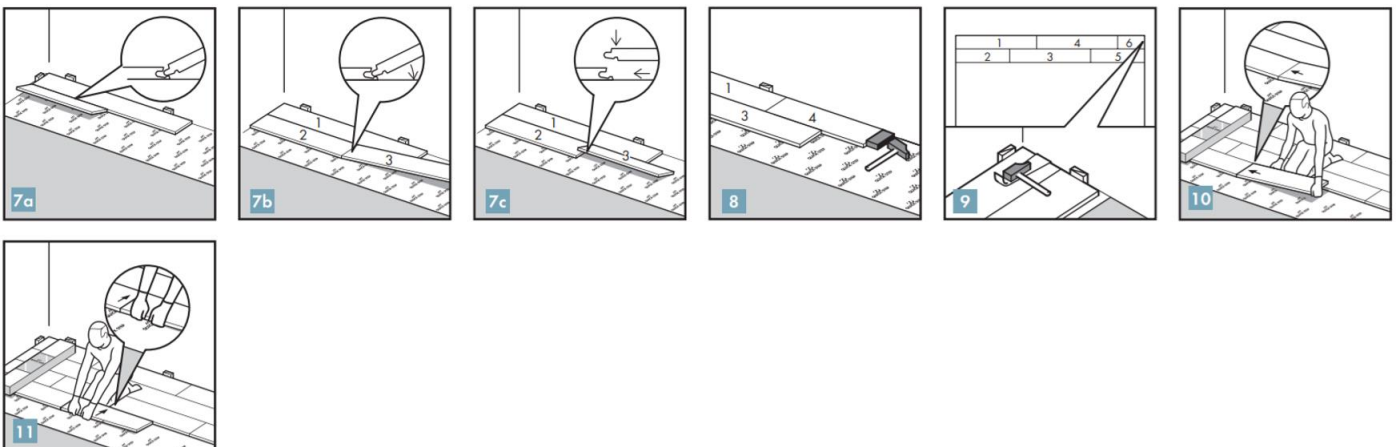
2 Before starting, carefully measure the length and the width of the room to plan a precise layout to achieve a balanced appearance of the floor, this is very important when installing typical tile decors. This will ensure also you won't end up with the last row being too narrow. If the last row would be less than 40mm, the installation will be easier if you cut down the planks of the first row in the length.

3 First install the underlay, per width and gradually as you progress. It is vital that you use underlays to smooth any unevenness in the base floor. The specially designed Elka underlays have a damp-proof, insulating, noise-reducing and levelling function. The smooth top surface makes installing the laminate panels easier and ensures ample expansion afterwards. You can find more information about Elka underlays and how to install them on the underlay packaging or at your dealer.

4 Begin the first row with a whole plank. First saw off the tongue on both the long and the short sides.

5 Put the plank with sawn off sides against the walls. Put spacers from the installation kit between the planks and the wall. This will ensure that your expansion joint is wide enough: 15mm

6 Of course we also need to saw the panels. To obtain a clean cut, the pattern side should face down when you use a jigsaw, sabre saw or circular handsaw and up when you use a handsaw or a crosscut saw. Ensure that the end joints of the panels in two successive rows are never in line. Always ensure that the joints are staggered by at least 30cm



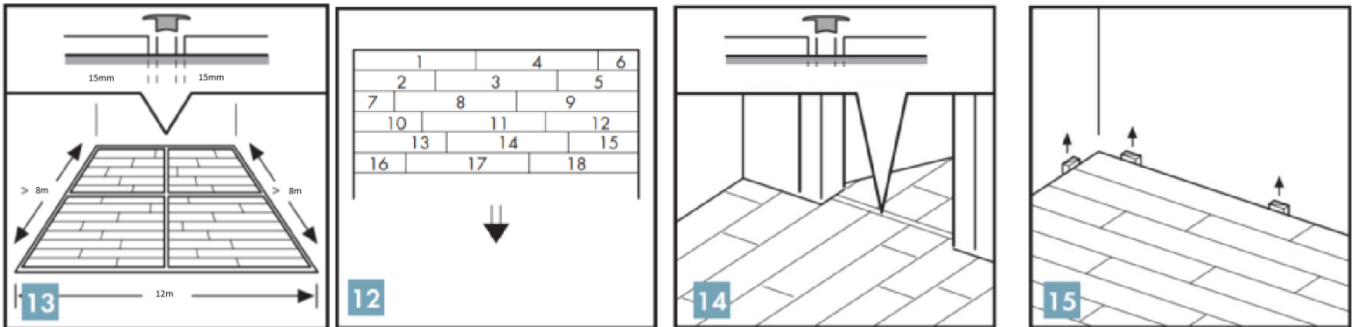
7 Position the panel to be installed at an angle of 20 to 30° to the panel already installed. Move the panel gently up and down and at the same time exert forward pressure. The panels will automatically click into place.

8 With Uniclic® you can also tap the panels into each other without lifting, for this method you must use the special Uniclic® tapping block. The planks should not be joined with a single tap. To avoid damaging the panels you must tap them together gradually.

9 In places where it is too difficult to install the Unilic® planks with the tapping block (e.g. against the wall), you can tap them together using the pulling iron and a hammer.

10 Once enough rows are installed, it is easy to continue the installation as follows: Put an unopened pack of panels on the already installed rows. Switch your position and click the short side of the panel in the previous panel. 4

11 Now place your BOTH hands close to the joint as shown in the figure and pull the long side of the plank towards you. The panels will now click together

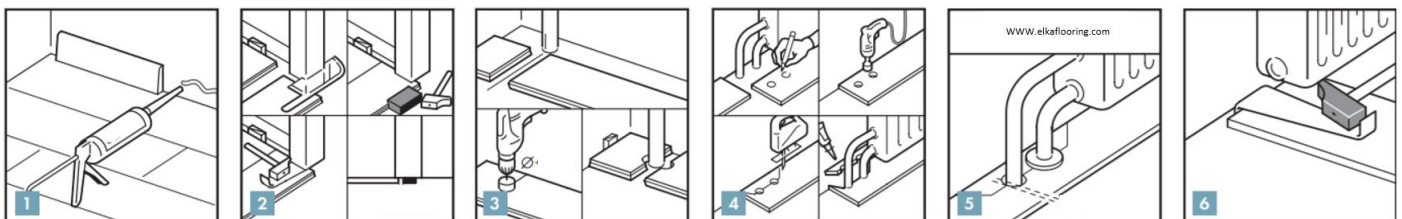


12 Continue like this to the end of the room.

13 With lengths of more than 12 m and widths of more than 8 m, there should be an intermediate expansion joint. The swelling and shrinking is linear, so the bigger the surface, the bigger the play at the edge has to be.

14 Room humidity can vary according to the season, so it is vital that the floor is able to expand and contract. For this reason, make sure you leave an expansion joint of minimum 15 mm on all sides of the floor, around pipes, thresholds and under doors. Expansion joints can be finished by means of a skirting that is attached to the subfloor. It is mandatory to provide an expansion joint between different rooms (e.g. under the door).

15 Always separate individual rooms from each other by using a dilatation joint in the door openings between the rooms. Heavy objects such as open fireplaces, kitchen cabinets or heavy bookshelves should not be installed on top of the wood floor. This will affect the floor's natural movement and cause gaps along the joints.



FINISHING

1 Install the skirting-board or scotia against the wall, never attach the skirting-board to the floor. This method allows the floor to expand and contract under the skirting-board. In places where profiles or skirting-boards cannot be placed.

2 When sawing the panels make sure that the expansion joint under the door is at least 15mm, if you cannot lift the panel, use the tapping block or pulling iron and hammer to tap the panels together when the planks are flat on the floor.

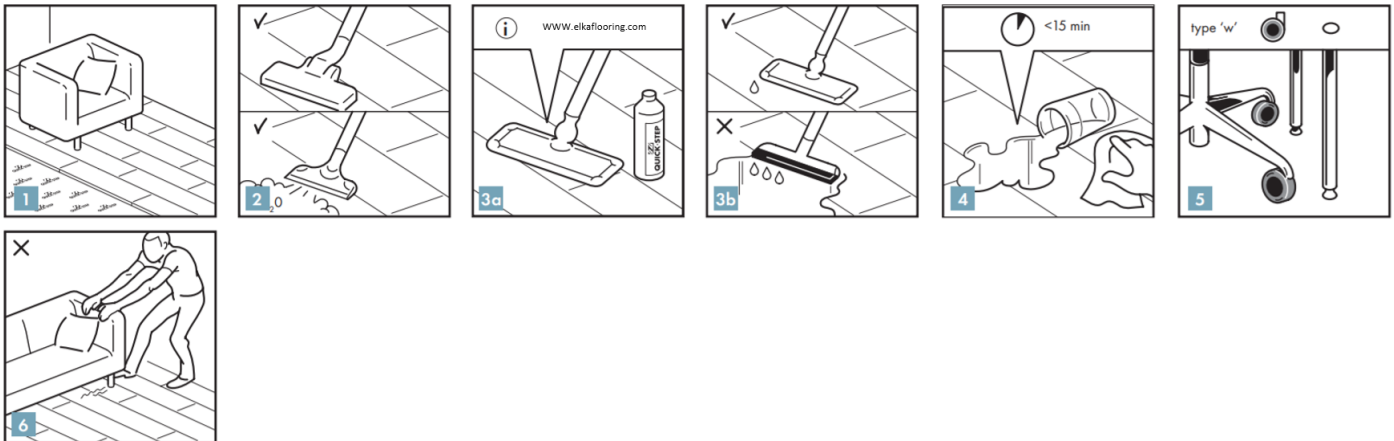
3 In rows where there is a pipe, make sure the pipe falls exactly in line with the short side of two panels. Take a drill bit with the same diameter as the pipe plus 25mm. Click the panels together on the short side and drill a hole centred on the joint between the two panels. Now you can install the panels on the floor.

4 In rows where there is a double pipe, proceed as follows:

- Measure where the pipe will come through the plank. Don't forget to allow for the expansion joint
- Take a drill bit measuring the diameter of the pipe plus +20mm for the expansion. Drill through the panel where the pipe will come through
- Extend the hole to the edge of the panel
- Lay the panel around the pipe
- Take another panel and saw a piece that fits exactly in the remaining hole, and glue this piece with wood glue.

5 For a perfect finish around pipes, use pipe covers or an elastic paste.

6 In places where it is difficult to install the planks with the tapping block (e.g. Underneath radiators), you can tap them together with the pulling iron and a hammer.



MAINTENANCE You can immediately walk on your new Elka floor after installation.

1 You can walk on the floor during and immediately after installation.

2 For dry maintenance, we advise a dry mop or vacuum cleaner, make sure the vacuum cleaner is equipped with soft wheels and a special parquet brush to avoid scratches on your floor.

3 Slightly damp maintenance is allowed, wet maintenance is absolutely forbidden. Also we recommend to never use a steam cleaner.

4 Remove any water immediately.

5 Protect furniture and chair legs, avoid bringing dirt, water and sand indoors by providing a suitable floor mat at the door. Use (office) chairs and seats with soft wheels that are suitable for a laminate floor and/or use a suitable desk mat.

6 Never drag items of furniture over the floor but lift them up.

7 Never use scouring products! Never use wax or varnish coating on the floor.

Combination with under floor Heating

If the following instructions are observed, this wood floor can be installed over underfloor heating systems embedded in the concrete. Permissible heating sources are either hot water or electrical resistances. Maximum surface temperature of the concrete flooring must not exceed 27°C (70°F) anywhere in the room.

All Elka Engineered floors can be used in conjunction with “low temperature” floor heating, under the conditions mentioned below. This is true for floor heating systems with heating components – hot water or electric – embedded in the floor.

Wired systems that are placed ON the screed or wooden sub-floor need further considerations. Heating films or other “new” systems that are placed ON the screed or wooden sub-floor are not suitable.

The maximum allowed heat resistance (R) of the floor covering in combination with floor heating is 0.15 m²K/W (according to EN 4725).

Floor heating and subfloor conditions

The type of cement screed / over board and the installation method, combined with the floor heating, must comply with the instructions of the suppliers of the screed and the floor heating system.

To obtain a homogeneous heat distribution across the entire floor, the distance between the heating elements must not be greater than 30 cm. The depth of the elements is determined by the fitter of the floor heating.

The subfloor must be sufficiently DRY across its complete thickness when installing the floor covering. This is maximum 1.5% according to the CM method for cement-bound floors and maximum 0.3% for anhydrite-bound screed. This can only be guaranteed, when installed in new buildings, by starting up the floor heating. Start up the floor heating gradually at least two weeks before laying your vinyl, and minimum 21 days AFTER laying the screed (max. 5°C per day):

- At 50% of the capacity for 2 weeks
- At 100% for the last two days

If you can leave the floor heating on for longer, this is even better. For newly spread screed, follow the guidelines of your installer for drying and start up period.

The temperature for laying Elka Engineered flooring must be minimum 18°C. So if the room temperature is not 18°C, the floor heating has to be switched ON at 50% until 18°C in the room is reached. If the room temperature is 18°C, you can turn off the heating completely.

The general installation instructions for Elka Engineered flooring without floor heating also apply, unless explicitly mentioned below.

AFTER installation of the floor you must wait at least 48 hours before restarting the heating. This should be done gradually (5°C/day). The maximum permitted contact temperature on Elka Engineered floor is 27°C. The maximum hot water temperature at the exit of the heating furnace is 45°C but in most new systems this is much lower. ALWAYS change the temperature gradually at the start and end of a heating period. Preferably the climate conditions in the rooms are kept between 18-30°C

Care and maintenance

In order to give your Elka floor long-lasting protection it has been finished with either a UV Oil or Lacquer at the factory. It is important that you clear any dust and wipe the floor with wood floor soap such as Elka clean immediately after installation (see general cleaning instructions below).

Maintenance instructions for oiled wood flooring

Oiled wood lends your home a natural sense of fashionable comfort however dries over time, using the correct maintenance oil to feed the wood fibres will ensure you continue to enjoy it for a long time.

It is important that your floor is properly maintained with Elka Clean & Elka Oil from the outset, this will ensure your floor will become increasingly durable as the surface treatment forms a protective film that will keep dirt away from the wood floor.

Never apply maintenance oil to a lacquer floor finish

General cleaning and maintenance

Vacuum or sweep the floor daily. Wood floors should be wiped regularly with a slightly damp cloth. Add wood floor soap to the water when you clean your oiled parquet. Wood floor soap not only cleans the floor, it also forms a protective film on the surface that will keep dirt away. Wipe the floor with a soap solution several times during the first couple of weeks.

Spillage of water must be cleaned up immediately especially so on oiled finishes, failure to do so can result in permanent damage / staining.

FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THESE GUIDELINES ARE MET AND FOLLOWED TO THE LETTER. IF NOT, SOME ONE [BUILDER, OWNER, WOOD FLOOR CONTRACTOR, or ALL] NEEDS TO SIGN OFF THAT THESE ITEMS HAVE NOT BEEN FOLLOWED. THAT PERSON COULD ULTIMATELY TAKE SOME, IF NOT ALL, RESPONSIBILITY

For further technical information on this product visit: www.elkaflooring.com Elka flooring is brand registered & imported by Unilin Distribution Ltd.