The Solid Wood Flooring checklist for the Installation of Engineered Wood Flooring

Employ a professional fitter:

*Making a wood floor is a job for a professional* – to obtain a successful result always employ a professional wood floor fitter, because they have the skill’s and experience to create a finished floor and they are the ones creating the floor – not the materials supplier’s.

Fitting Code of Practice

Always ensure that the floor is fitted to BS8201:2011 which is the “Code of practice for flooring of timber, timber products and wood based panel products”. This document contains all the parameter’s for successfully making a wood floor.

Get samples of the wood:

Wood is a natural product and any samples provided should be used as A GUIDE ONLY and NOT EVERY BOARD WILL BE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE SAMPLE.

Fitting method’s

There is no one fitting method suitable for all projects so by employing a professional fitter you will get the best advice for making your floor. Fitting options are:

- **Fully Bonded:** Adhering the wood boards direct to a substrate.
- **Unbonded:** Laying the boards on a separating layer such as underlay
- **Secret fixed:** Nailing or gluing the boards through the T & G joints
- **Click System:** Profiled boards that click together – a popular D.I.Y. product

Different Substrates

There are a number of substrates that wood can be installed to:

- **Screed:** There are two main types Cement and Sand and Calcium Sulphate:
  
  - **Cement and Sand** – A traditional screed – a maximum of 2% moisture content is required before fitting
  - **Calcium Sulphate** – Pourable screeds - it is critical that the surface is prepared with all laitance removed to achieve a maximum of 0.5% moisture content before fitting
- **Timber Joists or batten’s** – Secret nailed or screwed through the T & G joints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screed</th>
<th>Joists</th>
<th>Battens</th>
<th>Existing Boards</th>
<th>Timber</th>
<th>Chipboard Plain</th>
<th>Chipboard Moisture Resistant</th>
<th>Bitumen</th>
<th>Asphalt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cement &amp; Sand</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium Sulphate</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Fully Bonded**
- **Unbonded**
- **Secret Nailed**
- **Click System**
- **Prime**
- **DPM**

Safe to use this method of installation

Proceed with caution - seek advice

Not suitable for installing wood boards