

INSTALLATION GUIDE

MULTIPANEL®

The UK's leading bathroom wall panels

FLOORS CLICK RANGE

Recommended Tools

- Tape measure
- Moisture meter
- Utility knife
- Straight edge
- Shears/Snips
- 6mm (1/4") spacers
- Pencil
- Tapping block
- Soft faced hammer/Rubber mallet
- Eye protection
- Knee protection
- Hand protection
- Broom



PRE-INSTALLATION CHECK-LIST

- ✓ Flooring must be checked for flaws, defects or damage*
- ✓ Check colour and sheen levels between all planks/tiles**
- ✓ Flooring should be stored horizontally at a room temperature of 18-24°C for at least 48 hours to acclimatise prior to installation. This temperature should be maintained during installation.
- ✓ Ensure that each carton is from the same batch by referring to the batch number on the pack – this is to avoid colour variation which can occur between different batches.
- ✓ If panels are being fitted by a tradesman, colours should be approved by end user.
- ✓ Read installation guidelines.

* Once installation has commenced, the flooring is deemed to have arrived in perfect condition – any of the above reported after installation will not be covered by your warranty.

** By design, most planks and tiles will vary in pattern and colour to ensure a random effect cross the installation – see Pre-installation section.

PRE-INSTALLATION

Owner/Installer Responsibility

The owner is advised to be at home during the installation for consultation/direction. The owner and installer should discuss installation and layout to maximize satisfaction. If this is not possible, consultation should be done prior to installation. The owner/installer assumes all responsibility for product quality of completed installation.

Perform pre-install inspection. For claims purposes, you are allowed to carefully open up 1 box for product inspection. Do not open all the boxes. Opening all the boxes constitutes your acceptance of the product. Inspect all the planks in the opened box carefully. Examine flooring for color, finish and quality. If you discover that products are defective, or if material is questionable, you should contact the retailer. If you are satisfied, proceed with installation.

Prior to installation, lay out planks from several boxes to ensure uniform distribution of colours, shades and characters in the installed flooring. Planks having similar widths should be placed together in the same row to minimize gaps between boards.

Allow the vinyl flooring to acclimate to the installation area for a minimum of 48 hours before installing.

Purchase flooring to be installed in one large area at the same time. Product purchased at a later time than the first purchase may vary beyond your expectations, due to different batches.

This product is manufactured according to strict quality standards. In the event that defects are discovered in the field, the industry standards permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. Order an additional 10% extra for cutting wastage and grading allowances (more for diagonal installations).

During installation, inspect the planks continuously. Defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or held out. Installing defective planks implies acceptance.

Clicking noises are the result of interactions among flooring, joists and subfloors when they move. Sometimes, it is impossible to eliminate them completely and minor clicking noises are to be accepted as normal flooring phenomenon.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

Concrete subfloors must:

- Have minimum rated strength of 3000psi.
- Be level to within 6mm (1/4") in a 3m (10ft.) span; no bumps or low spots. High spots can be removed by grinding; depressions can be filled with patching compound formulated for use in floor installation. Subfloors should not slope more than 25,4mm per 1,8m (1" per 6ft.)
- Be clean; no construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; if necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation; no protrusions of nails, debris, metals should remain.
- New concrete slab must cure for at least 90 days. It must have a minimum 0,3mm (10 mil) polyethylene sheet between the ground and the concrete.
- Be free from moisture related conditions which can damage the installed flooring.

CAUTION: ASBESTOS IN EXISTING FLOOR: This vinyl flooring product does not contain asbestos. Existing installed resilient flooring and asphaltic adhesive may contain asbestos fillers or crystalline silica. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic "cutback" adhesive or other adhesive. See "Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings" (rfci.com) for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.

INTENDED PRODUCT USE AND APPLICATIONS:

Multipanel, Flooring and Economy Panel products are intended for domestic applications. They are not intended for use in:

- Large commercial areas, public areas, or areas where grit may be frequently carried in on footwear.
- Rooms subject to heavy duty use (e.g. schools, prisons, barracks, swimming pools or other communal facilities such as camp-sites).
- Unheated buildings,
- Boats.

CAUTION: DO NOT INSTALL IN all exterior installations, seasonal porches, boats, campers, RV's, sunrooms, solariums, non-temperature controlled rooms or homes.

SAFETY AND HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

Power tools can be dangerous. Operate in strict accordance to manufacturer's operating instructions and safety precautions. Unsafe and improper use can cause serious injuries. Avoid inhalation and exposures to airborne particles by mechanical means and by wearing personal protective equipment.

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes NIOSH or OSHA approve dust masks, safety goggles and work gloves.

FLOORS CLICK RANGE

CONCRETE MOISTURE

Test all concrete subfloors for moisture content and document the results. Visual checks are not reliable.

Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near walls containing plumbing, near foundation walls and in the center of the room. Minimum sample size is 3 samples per 93sqm (1000sqft) of area and one test for every additional 93sqm (1000 sqft) thereafter.

MOISTURE CONTENT SHOULD MEET ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 4% max. when tested using Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter.
- Less than 3,6kg (8lb) per 93sqm (1000sqft) per 24hours when using Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F1869).
- 85% max. when using Relative Humidity Testing (ASTM F2170).

NOTE: Concrete moisture content may be acceptable the time of the test. These tests do not guarantee a perpetual "dry" concrete slab. The concrete slab moisture content can vary at other times of the year. We are not responsible for moisture-related damage to installed flooring.

WOOD SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

The subfloor must be clean; no presence of construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; no protrusions of nails, debris, or metals should remain. If necessary, scrape and sweep the subfloor before the installation.

The subfloor must be structurally sound and stable; no movements or squeaks; no loose panels or loose nails; no signs of ply de-lamination or other damages. Repair all shortcomings before installation.

The subfloor must be flat; no visible bumps or low spots; the subfloor should be flat to within 6mm (1/4 ") in 3m (10ft.) span. Test for moisture using a reliable moisture meter. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near foundation walls, near walls containing plumbing lines and in the centre of the room. Measure 20 locations per 93sqm (1000 sqft). Moisture content of the subfloor should be less than 13%. Moisture content difference between the subfloor and flooring should be 2% or less.

PLYWOOD OR ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB) SPECIFICATIONS

On truss/joist spacing of 406mm (16") O/C or less, the industry standard for single-panel subflooring is a minimum 15,9mm (5/8") CD Exposure 1 plywood subfloor panels (CD Exposure 1) or 18,6mm (23/32") OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 1,2m x 2,4m (4ft. x 8ft.) sheets. Expansion gap between panels should be 3mm (1/8"). If panels are not tongued and grooved and there is not sufficient spacing or it is inadequate, cut in the required spacing with a circular saw. Do not cut in expansion space on tongue and groove panels.

PARTICLE BOARD OR FIBRE BOARD

Only for floating installation.

EXISTING FLOORS

Installation over existing floor requires the installer to consider potential issues related to moisture damage, adhesive failure and fastener failure. Contact the adhesive and fastener manufacturers respectively for their specific instructions, recommendations and requirements.

Acceptable floor coverings include: Solid hardwood, linoleum (1 layer only), terrazzo, ceramic, and stone tile. Tiled floors with grout lines will require a cementitious levelling compound to fill any grout lines, voids, or cracks.

Unacceptable floor coverings include: Carpet (any type), foam underlayment, cushioned-back vinyl, rubber, cork, laminates, free-floating floors, and wooden floors over concrete.

JOB SITE CONDITION

Prior to installation, the installer must ensure that at the time of installation, the job site conditions including subfloor/substrate, ambient temperature and relative humidity, and all impacting variables will not negatively affect the floor. The manufacturer will decline responsibility for damages associated with improper installation or poor site conditions.

STORAGE AND CONDITIONS

Condition vinyl planks prior to installation. You MUST store vinyl planks horizontally in the room of installation for 48 hours prior to installation. Be sure the room temperature is between 18°C and 24°C (65°F and 85°F). Do not remove the planks from the case during this acclimation period! Maintain this temperature during installation as well. The HVAC system should be operational at least two weeks prior to installation and remain on after installation as vinyl planks must be in a temperature controlled environment. Product should be stored horizontally in a dry area away from direct sunlight. Do not leave next to heat or cooling ducts. Ensure that all trades have been completed to eliminate dry wall dust, paints etc. Do not store flooring in uncontrolled environmental conditions. For example, garages and exterior patios are not acceptable areas to store flooring. Flooring stored on a concrete slab should be elevated at least four inches to allow air circulation under cartons.

EXISTING HOME

An existing home should have a consistent room temperature between 18°C and 24°C (65°F and 85°F) and relative humidity (RH) between 35% - 85%. Continual deviation from these conditions will affect the dimensions of flooring. When using a heater during winter months, humidity may be much lower than the acceptable range. During the warmer months, maintain humidity levels using an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically.

NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REMODEL

All work involving water, such as pouring basement concrete floors, drywall and plasterwork, plumbing, etc. must be completed well in advance of the floor delivery. Ensure that the building is enclosed.

Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air conditioning systems should be operating at least two weeks preceding installation and should be maintained during and after installation. If it is not possible for the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that simulates normal living (occupied) conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system is fully operational. Your job site should have a consistent temperature between 18°C and 24°C (65°F and 85°F) and relative humidity (RH) of 35% - 85% which should be maintained continuously thereafter.

RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION AREA

Do not install vinyl planks over carpet or any foam underlayment. This product is not suitable for any outside use, sunrooms/solariums, saunas, seasonal porches, camping trailers, boats, RV's or rooms that have a potential of flooding. Do not install in rooms or homes that are not temperature controlled.

Exposure to long term direct sunlight can cause damage to your floor. Failure to properly shade or UV tint windows can discolour, fade, buckle vinyl planks or can cause joints to open up. Use window treatments or UV tinting on windows. Vinyl planks are not intended for use on stairs or vertical surfaces. Do not glue, nail, screw or fasten to substrate. Install cabinetry, island and peninsula counters, vanities, tubs, and showers first. Then install vinyl planks around them.

BASEMENTS AND CRAWL SPACES

Concrete slab or ground must be dry. Ensure that crawl spaces have open vents year round to ensure proper air circulation and prevent moisture build up. The ground in the crawl spaces must be completely covered using 6 mil black polyethylene. Crawl space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 460mm (18"). and the perimeter vent area should be equal to 1,5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code.

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UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Electric systems: not suitable for use with electric underflooring heating systems.

Radiant heated sub-floor: due to the large variety in underfloor heating systems types and the operational differences between models of the same type, we are unable to guarantee that our flooring is compatible with specific types or models of heating system. Installing underfloor heating below our flooring may invalidate the warranty.

MOISTER BARRIER/UNDERLAYMENT PADDING

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

When installing over a crawl space or concrete slab, it may be necessary to use a moisture barrier to prevent moisture migration. A plastic film with a minimum thickness of 6mm should be placed with a 102 - 152mm (4 - 6") overlapped seam, and taped with a suitable tape.

EXPANSION GAP

A required gap width of 6mm (1/4"). is required around the perimeter of the floor and between the floor and all vertical obstructions. Do not place permanently mounted structures such as kitchen counters/cabinets on the installed floor.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS BASICS

Tape measure, Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both), Utility knife and straight edge, Shears for cutting around irregular shaped objects (pipes), 6mm (1/4") spacers, pencil, Tapping block, Soft faced hammer, Eye protection, Broom.

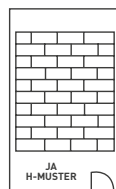
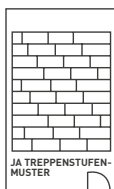
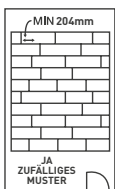
HELPFUL POINTERS

General tips

- Make sure your work area is well lit. Good visibility ensures that colour is consistent and that visually defective planks are detected and removed.
- The minimum length of the first and last plank is 204mm (8"). If the last plank will be less than 204mm (8 w"), adjust the length of the first plank. The remainder of the last plank can be used as a starter board on the following rows.
- Using a shorter piece at undercut door jams will help when fitting flooring in place.
- Never hit the flooring directly with the tapping block and be careful not to fracture floor edges.

Cutting the last row to width

- Most often the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space.
- Measure the distance between the floor face edge (exclude the tongue) to the wall. Subtract 6mm (1/4") from this measurement for expansion gap. Draw a line. Cut through the line. Discard the excess piece. Proceed with the installation



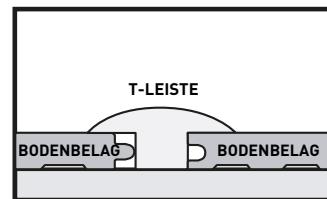
PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION

- Ensure subfloors are clean.
- Lay out several cartons. Randomly lay out planks to ensure good colour and shade mixture and end joint spacing. Minimum end stagger is 204mm (8") Inspect plank quality and grading.
- Find planks whose shade closely matches. Set these aside for future use.
- Remove the existing base, shoe molding or threshold carefully. They can be used to cover the 6mm (1/4") expansion gap left around the edge of the room.
- Undercut doors and casings using a handsaw laid flat on a piece of scrap flooring. Never undercut metal door casings.

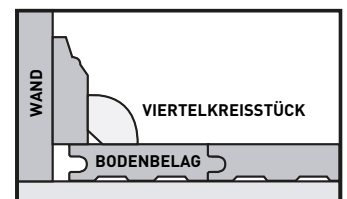
ACCESSORIES*

Pictures are for general illustrative purposes only. Actual products may differ from pictures.

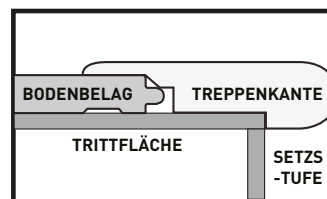
- Clean the floor.
- Install or reinstall all wall trim pieces. Nail them through the wall, but not to the subfloor to avoid restricting the expansion gap.
- Install transition trim pieces. Nail them to the subfloor, not the flooring.
- At doorways, transitions should be used to protect the edges of the floor and to provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.
- If the floor is to be covered, use a breathable material such as cardboard. Do not cover with plastic.



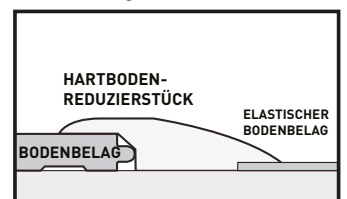
T-Molding: Used to create a transition between floor coverings of similar heights or to cover an expansion gap.



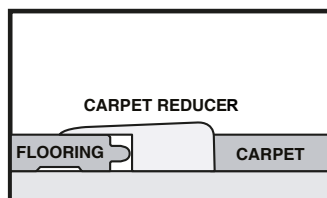
Quarter Round: Used to cover the expansion space between the wall base and your flooring. It can also be used to make smooth transitions between the floor and cabinetry. It can be used with or without wall base molding.



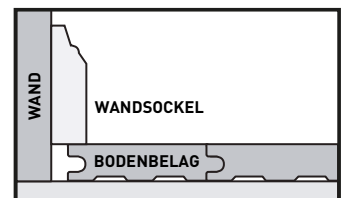
Stair Nose: Used in conjunction with flooring installed on stair steps or finished edges of a higher level floor like in a sunken living room.



Hard Surface Reducer: Used to transition to another hard surface flooring of different heights such as plank, vinyl, or concrete.



Carpet Reducer (also called Baby Threshold or End Cap): Used to transition floor coverings of differing heights. This reducer strip is also commonly used to border a fireplace, sliding glass door and other exterior door jambs.



Wall Base: Used to give a finished look at the base of the walls. It can be used with or without Quarter Round.

*These accessories are not available to buy from Multipanel.

FLOORS CLICK RANGE

INSTALLATION

1. Installing the first row

a. First, lay a row of loose planks (i.e. without securing them to each other; Figure 1.1) to determine if you need to adjust the length of the first plank to avoid a small piece (less than 204mm [8"] on the opposite wall from where you started. Alternatively, measure the length of the room and divide by the length of one plank. If the remainder is less than 204mm [8"], calculate 1/2 of the remainder and trim this amount off the first plank. The last plank should be the same length as the first one. To cut a plank, simply measure and mark the plank. Then, use a straight edge and utility knife to score and snap.

b. Installation should start in a corner (left hand) and proceed from the wall with the tongue facing the wall (Figure 1.2). Allow a minimum gap of 6mm (1/4") for subfloor movement or product expansion, which should be covered by molding. Set 6mm (1/4 ") spacers to create the required expansion space.

c. Lay the first row in a straight line and interlock the short ends by aligning the short edges to the adjoining planks accurately & tap down using a soft faced hammer/rubber mallet ensuring a tight fit. Install each sequential plank on the short end and be sure to line up evenly. Use a soft-faced hammer/rubber mallet to tap down on the short seam of the planks to ensure a tight fit (Figure 1.3). This is crucial for a good installation.

d. Stagger the rows so that the short-edge seams are not aligned in a straight, uniform manner. Refer to the "PREPARING FOR INSTALLATION" section for recommended installation patterns.

2. Installing the second and remaining rows

a. Start the second row with the plank cut at about 2/3 length; measure and mark the plank. Then, use a straight edge and utility knife or shears to score and snap the plank.

b. Attach the first plank of Row 2 by connecting the long side to the first row (Figure 2.1). Maintain your 6mm (1/4 ") expansion gap. Then, attach the second plank by connecting the long side to the first row and sliding it up to the short end of the first plank. Then, drop and lock (Figure 2.2). To ensure a tight fit, use a tapping block and soft faced hammer on the long seams (Figure 2.3), then, tap down on top of the plank at the short seams (Figure 2.4).

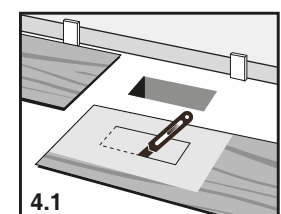
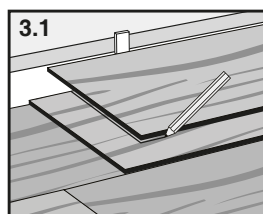
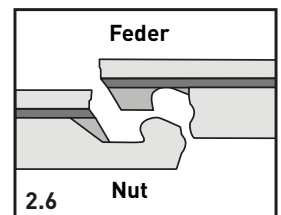
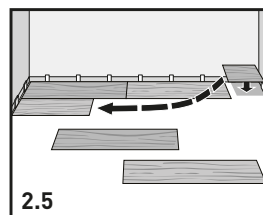
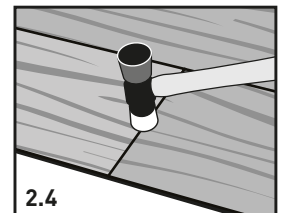
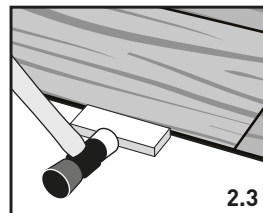
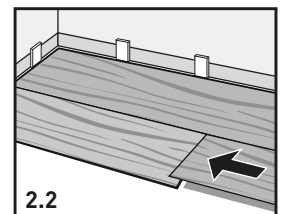
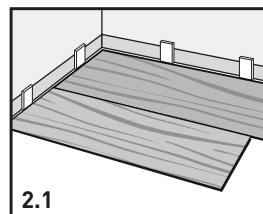
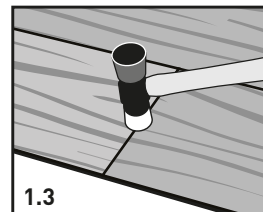
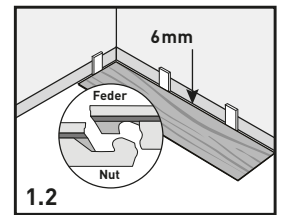
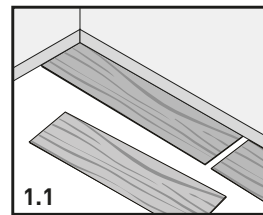
c. When cutting a plank to start a row, you will need to cut off the end with the groove. The remaining piece can then be used on the opposite side of the room, at the end of that row (if layout permits; Figure 2.5). Refer to Figure 2.6 for a close-up of the end-joint locking mechanism.

3. Installing the last row

a. Cut the first plank of the last row to length (following desired pattern). Place directly on top of the previously installed row. Then, take another plank and place against the wall (allowing for 6mm (1/4 ") expansion gap) and on top of the plank to be cut for width. Mark the plank, score and snap (Figure 3.1). Continue this method for the remainder of the planks in the last row. Always place the cut end of the plank against the wall.

4. Fitting around irregularly shaped objects

a. Make a pattern of heavy paper to fit around pipes or irregularly shaped objects (Figure 4.1). Place the pattern upon the plank and trace. Cut along trace lines using a utility knife or sharp shears, and lay plank. Be sure to leave a minimum of 6mm (1/4") expansion space around all fixed objects, cabinetry, and metal door jambs. Undercut wooden door jambs. Fill any expansion spaces around potentially wet areas (such as refrigerators, tubs, and appliances) with premium, waterproof, 100% silicone caulk.



FLOORS CLICK RANGE

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Daily maintenance

- Sweep, dust, damp mop, or vacuum your floor regularly to remove any particles that could cause abrasion or scratch your floor.
- CAUTION: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a floor and should never be used.
- Use a damp mop to remove spots and soil. Use any high-quality, p/h-neutral vinyl cleaner. Alternatively, use a non-rinsing, biodegradable cleaner that leaves no residue or haze.
- For lightly soiled area, clean with distilled water.
- HINT: For best results, clean the floor in the same direction of the planks. When the cleaning cloth/mop becomes soiled, rinse or replace it with a clean one. Following up with a clean, dry cloth will remove residual streak marks and spots.
- Do NOT leave any amount of liquids (water, juice, soft drinks, spills, etc.) on the floor. Clean any wet spots immediately.
- Do NOT use a steam cleaner.
- Do NOT use a wet mop or douse the floor with water or liquid cleaners. Liquid can seep between the cracks and cause moisture damage.
- Do NOT use any cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish. Left over residue will form a dull film.
- Do NOT use steel wool, abrasive cloth or scouring powder which will scratch the floor.
- Do NOT use any dust cleaners, as they may cause your floor to become slick or damage the finish.
- Avoid spills of paints, dyes, or harsh chemicals.
- Avoid long term exposure to direct sunlight. Use window treatments or UV tinting on windows.
- Branded or off-the-shelf floor care products If none of the above are effective and you choose to use a store bought product, test the product in a non-conspicuous area (i.e., closet, corner, or scrap pieces) for potential adverse side effects.

Preventative maintenance

- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Protective sheets and/or plywood may be needed. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.
- Use flat floor protectors (nylon or felt) on all furniture legs. Clean protectors periodically to remove grit that may become embedded and cause scratching.
- Avoid excessive exposure to water from being tracked in during periods of inclement weather.
- Minimize abrasive material and dirt by placing mats on both sides of exterior doors and by using area rugs in high-traffic areas
- Rearrange furniture and rugs periodically to avoid uneven colour and shade changes from light exposure.
- Use protective mats beneath rolling chairs and keep furniture casters clean.
- Use NON-RUBBER backed mats at all entrances to avoid discolouration from asphalt driveways or prevent dirt and grit from being tracked onto your floor. Rubber backed mats can discolour your floor.
- We recommend the use of a hard surface (non-studded), non-rubber chair mat to protect your floor from office chairs with casters. Light, rolling furniture should be outfitted with broad-surface, non-staining casters that have been engineered for hard surface floors. Such casters should be a minimum of 2,5cm (1") wide and at least 5,1cm (2") in diameter.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed.
- Remove shoes with cleats, spikes or exceptionally pointy heels before walking on the floor.

Climate maintenance

- Care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35% - 85% range.
- Dry climates: A humidifier is recommended to maintain humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions during the winter months. This also will cause shrinkage in flooring.
- Humid, wet Climates: By using an air conditioner, heater, or dehumidifier proper humidity levels can be maintained to prevent excessive expansion due to high moisture content.

Floor repair

- Very deep scratches may require the replacement of the planks.

WARRANTY

This flooring product comes with a manufacturer Limited Wear Warranty. The warranty applies to the original purchaser against manufacturing defects within the flooring.

Full warranty details for all products are available at multipanel.co.uk/about-multipanel/30-year-warranty/.

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