



Fitting and Finishing your Russwood Floor



I am delighted that you have chosen Russwood for your flooring project, and know you will enjoy the look and feel of your investment for a very long time indeed. We are passionate about our products and fully recognise that satisfied customers are the one true measure of our success. To achieve the effect and finish you envisage we have written a set of guidelines for laying and finishing your floor based upon our experience.

Following these few logical steps at the outset will ensure that long term maintenance is kept to a minimum. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on

01540 673648 or visit our website www.russwood.co.uk

Glen Tanki
Flooring Manager



Pre Laying Guidelines

All our timber floors have a moisture content of 8-10% (+/-2), and are tested before they leave the yard. It is important that the flooring is stored correctly and allowed to acclimatise before laying. In all cases we recommend that the flooring is acclimatised in the room where it is being laid for at least one week, but preferably two, at room temperature (18 degrees). The longer the floor acclimatises, the more stable it will be when laid. To allow for seasonal variations in temperature and different levels of heating, an expansion gap of at least 10-15mm should be left all round the perimeter of the floor with the skirting laid on top or a beading strip fitted if the existing skirting is left in place.

Underfloor Heating

It is very important that the concrete subfloor or screed is of a lower moisture content than the flooring prior to laying. Our solid flooring up to 150mm wide and our Multiplank engineered range are suitable for underfloor heating; however special care must be taken in preparation to ensure the best results.

An additional one week's acclimatisation should be allowed in the room with the underfloor heating turned on. If fixing with Sikabond the heating should then be turned off for at least two - three days before laying. If possible, maintain the room's temperature when the heating is off using another heat source. A period of 24 hours must be allowed prior to re-starting the heating. For starting the heating after installation it should be left on low temperature (16-20°C) for the first week. The following week it may be adjusted according to your supplier's recommendations, however the maximum floor surface temperature should not exceed 28°C. There should not be hot and cold areas within the same floor, always remember that if rugs or loose carpets are used the temperature underneath may exceed the recommended maximum.



Laying Guidelines

Sikabond

Please note any concrete sub floor must be at a moisture content less than your flooring prior to laying – This should be tested with the appropriate equipment if possible.

When a concrete subfloor exists, great care must be taken to check that it is completely dry before the floor is laid. Sikabond should be applied 3mm thick with a square notched trowel. A 13kg tub should cover 13sqm if the subfloor is of a smooth finish but if the subfloor is not even then the sikabond will level out any slight deviations and in our experience will cover between 10 and 13sqm. Please note Sikabond will begin to set in 20 minutes, therefore working areas should be kept to a manageable size. We recommend using gloves while applying the glue.

Nailing

From our experience boards up to 200mm wide can be secretly fixed to the sub-floor using a Porta-nailer and serrated-edge nails. Ideally the joists should be at 400-450mm centres. Alternatively face-fixing and plugging can create a feature and be an attractive option.

Alufoam

Alufoam provides a barrier between the flooring and the sub floor. It can be used on top of a solid sub floor to level any small variations in height and also to reduce contact sound. Alufoam should be laid foil side down and can be used in conjunction with nails or compression clips.



Images

- 1 - Nailing with alufoam underlay
- 2 - Hard Wax Oil
- 3 - Filler & Dust
- 4 - Sikabond
- 5 - Alufoam
- 6 - Elastilon

Compression Clips

Compression clips should be used along with Alufoam (foil side down) to allow the floor to "float" above the subfloor. The clips should be laid 1m apart along the edge of the floor and at the end of every second board across the width. This allows the flooring to move naturally while keeping the boards tight together. Skirting can then be fitted over the gap or a plinth strip used if existing skirting is still in place. When laying the floor, 15mm wedges should be used, then the clips slotted in place and the wedges removed.

Elastilon

Elastilon is designed for use on a concrete sub floor and allows the floor to "float". Elastilon should be laid sticky side up. For the first row the protective foil should be pulled back for one board width only and thereafter the foil should be folded back on itself but left attached to the adhesive surface until the board has been fitted tightly in place. The foil can then be pulled out and the process repeated. Please ask Russwood for a more detailed instruction sheet.

New buildings should be well ventilated and as dry as possible. All wet trades should be finished before your floor is introduced into its new environment.

Finishing Guidelines

Filler & Dust (For Russwood Character B)

Once the flooring is in place, depending on the timber and grade chosen, you may decide that you wish to use our filler and dust prior to sealing. The dust should only be used to colour the filler and not mixed to a thick paste. Where there are larger knots, we recommend filling in stages. Knots should be overfilled and then sanded flush.

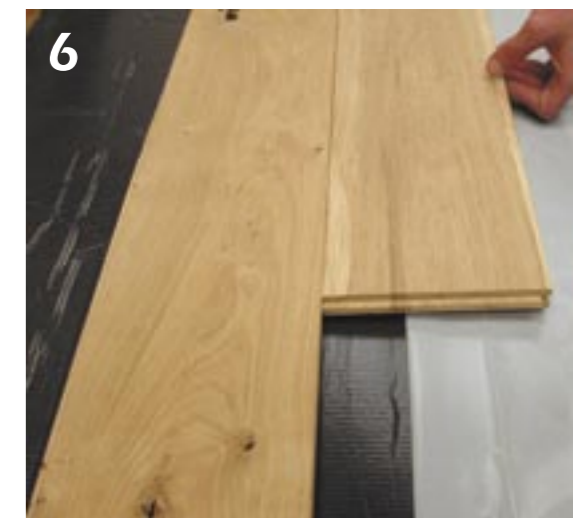
Hard Wax Oil

We recommend using Russwood or Osmo Hard Wax Oil to finish your floor. The oil should be thoroughly stirred before use, and to ensure the best protection 2 - 3 coats should be applied. When using coloured oil, it is advisable to determine your desired shade on an off-cut of flooring prior to coating the floor, as oil can be applied in different ways (e.g brush on, sponge off). If only one coat of coloured oil is needed to achieve your desired colour then at least 1 coat of clear oil must be applied on top. In areas of heavy use an extra coat of clear oil may be applied.

Please ensure that you have received the correct product and are happy with it prior to laying. Tolerances up to 2mm are acceptable as our solid boards are a natural product. Once installed, products are considered accepted by the owner or installer. The environment the floor will be introduced into is out of Russwood's control, therefore our guidelines are offered based on our own experiences.

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Floors should be kept clean using a brush or Hoover followed by mopping with a damp mop.

Maintenance

Floors should be kept clean using a brush or Hoover followed by mopping with a damp mop. In time, some areas may require a further coat of Hard Wax Oil or Maintenance Oil (depending on initial application) which should be applied with a brush or soft cloth after the area has been lightly sanded with a fine grade sand paper or wire wool. Osmo offer a full range of cleaning products which can be purchased at:

www.russwood.co.uk/acatalog



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