

HERRINGBONE PATTERN INSTALLATION GUIDE

Our step by step fitting guide will walk you through the installation process.

Introduction

This guide will give you basic advice on how to layout and install Herringbone engineered parquet blocks in a herringbone pattern.

Step 1 – Before Your Flooring Arrives

Relative Humidity Must Be Correct

The Relative Humidity (RH) which is a measurement of how much moisture is present in the air. The correct RH of a room's atmosphere, for wood flooring to be installed, falls between 45-65% with an ambient temperature between 18 to 24°C. If necessary, employ a dehumidifier to maintain suitable conditions.

NOTE: Wood Floors are generally not suitable for bathrooms where there is regular running water or an accumulation of water vapour.



Wet Trades & Decorating Should Be Dry

All wet trades such as concreting, screening and plastering should be completed and the building should be thoroughly dried out. Wood is a hygroscopic material and will absorb any excessive moisture which can cause problems.

NOTE: Plaster may take several months to dry satisfactorily and concrete screeds depending on thickness may take considerably longer. As a rule of thumb drying time for cement and water based screed is one day per millimetre for the first 50 mm and unto 2.5 days for each subsequent millimetre.

IMPORTANT: As with all screeds please consult the manufacturer for precise drying times and accelerated drying with heat should be avoided as this may weaken the screed. Decorating should be completed where possible, and paint should be completely dry as this can also add moisture to the room. Any sanding should be done before the floor is laid as fine dust can permeate into the wood and can be impossible to remove without damaging the surface.

Room Temperature Must Be Just Right

Room Temperature will have an effect on relative humidity and should be stable before your flooring is delivered to site. Heating including underfloor heating should be fully tested

and working for at least two weeks before the flooring is laid. Room temperature should be between 18 to 24°C.

Direct Heat Sources Must Be Insulated

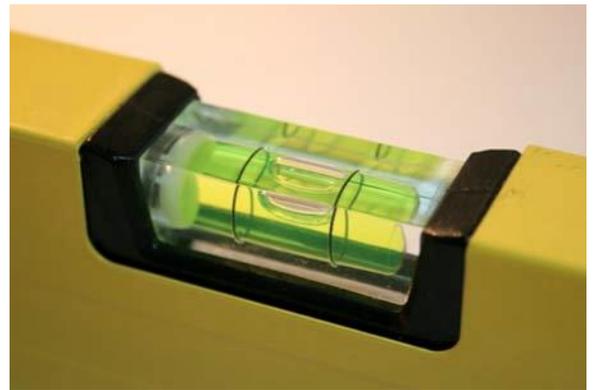
Flooring must not be exposed to excess heat such as from hot water pipes below floors.

Step 2 – Preparing The Subfloor

Subfloor Preparation

The subfloor is key to a successful installation and will help ensure your floor performs to its very best. The subfloor is likely to be either wooden or a cement based screed.

Sweep and vacuum to remove any dust and debris, Any decorators dust should be removed as this can be very abrasive and hard if not impossible to remove from the surface of a floor without drastic sanding and resealing. Existing floor coverings should be removed, this includes carpets, underlays, parquet blocks, ceramic tiles and any adhesive residues should be removed. It is important to do this so the subfloor can be verified as stable.



Subfloors Should Be Level

The subfloor must be free from excessive undulation and flat to within 3 millimetres over 2 lineal metres across the whole floor area. This means a maximum 3 mm gap under a 2 m long straight edge, at any point across the subfloor. Failure to keep to these tolerances may result in squeaking or deflection which may produce undue stresses on the joints, cause gaps between flooring elements and with fully bonded floors may result in inadequate contact between flooring and adhesive.

Subfloors Should Be Structurally Sound

Wood Flooring should only be laid on a subfloor which is structurally sound and free from movement. To prevent movement wooden subfloors must be of load bearing strength and free from deflection under loading. Suspended wooden subfloors should typically consist of a suitable board of 22 mm thickness on joist or battens at 600 mm centres or 18 mm thickness on 400 mm centres. For other types of suspended floor please check with the manufacturer.

Moisture Content Of Wooden Subfloors

Wooden sub-floors should contain no more than 11% moisture content and must not be more than 2% higher in moisture than the Wood Flooring. When installing wood flooring at ground floor level (or below) above a ventilated cavity (e.g. floorboards suspended on joist),

it is essential that a purpose made moisture barrier building paper is installed over the sub-floor before flooring can be installed. The moisture barrier must taken up the walls by 30 mm at the perimeter, and all joints overlapped by a minimum 200 mm and taped with a water proof jointing tape.

Moisture Condition Of Concrete Subfloors

Concrete slabs and sand-cement screeds must be sound, dry, free of laitance and other substances which may impair adhesion (e.g. Bitumen adhesive residues etc). Mineral based sub-floors must be less than 75% equilibrium relative humidity and less than 65% relative humidity for glue down of engineered flooring. Anhydrite screeds must be less than 0.3% actual moisture content. Sub-floors at ground level or below must contain an effective damp proof membrane to protect flooring from ground water in compliance with British Standards. If there is any doubt that the sub-floor meets the required standard for moisture or the sub-floor does not have an effective integral damp proof membrane, a suitable surface applied damp proof membrane must be installed.

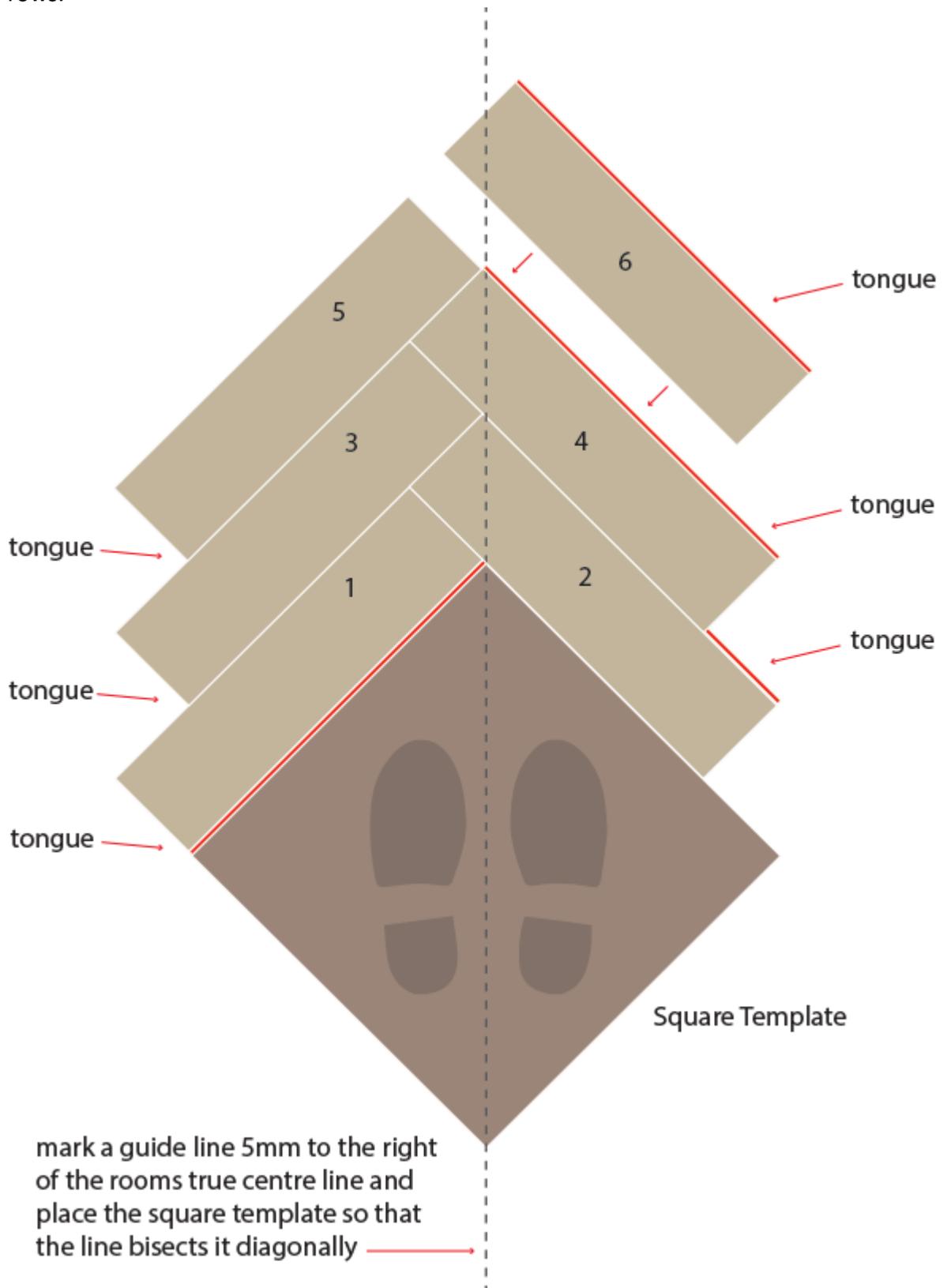
Step 2 – Setting The First Row

It is important to be precise with a herringbone installation so ensuring the first row is correctly positioned and square is key. The following method makes layout simple using a perfect square template to set the first row. Ensure the square template is screwed to the subfloor so it can be easily removed once the first row is set. Once correctly positioned the square template will give a solid start point making it easier to move the blocks into position without gaps opening up.

1. Plan the direction of the herringbone pattern, usually this will follow the length of the room.
2. Find the centre of the room and use a plumb line to mark out a centre line. The apex of the first row of blocks will run along this line. **Note:** If the centre line is used to align the square template then the row apex will be offset by the depth of the tongue which is approximately 5 mm. If total accuracy is required then first find the room's centre line and then mark an offset guide line 5 mm to it's right and use this line to place the square template. The template should have sides equal to, or greater than the length of the blocks.
3. Starting close to the wall place the square template so that the offset guide line bisects square diagonally from opposite angles. Once positioned screw the template to the subfloor.
4. Working from this template will ensure the first row's apex follows the centre line.
5. Standing on or behind the square template, apply approved adhesive with a Mapei Trowel to the area in front of the square. **Note:** It is good practise to loose lay the first row to make sure you are happy with the orientation guide line and placement of the square template. **Tip:** It is also important to mix the blocks to ensure an even distribution of grade, grain and colour variation across the finished floor
6. As per the diagram below, place **block 1**, with tongue against the left hand side of the square template so that the leading header is in line with the right hand edge of the square template

7. Place **block 2** with tongue facing away so that the grooved edge is pressed against both the header joint of **block 1** and the righthand side of the square template.
8. Repeat points 6 & 7 placing blocks onto the bed of adhesive ensuring that they connect, the leading corner of the herringbone pattern should be positioned over the centre line which is 5 mm left of the guide line. **Tip:** Use a hammer and tapping block to push the blocks together, occasionally lift a block and check the adhesive has full coverage.
9. Once the first row has reached the opposite end of the room or the finish point, use a tapping block and hammer to make any adjustments while the adhesive is still wet and remove any adhesive which has not been covered. Important **Tip:** Remove any adhesive spills from the face of the blocks while it is wet with a damp cloth before the adhesive sets. Allow the adhesive to fully cure and this row will form a fixed point template for subsequent

rows.



Step 3 – Complete the Installation (refer to the diagram below)

1. Working off the first row, loose lay the second row placing checking that that the apex of the second row is parallel to the centre line.
2. Once you are happy to install, apply adhesive to the area adjacent to the first row.
3. Starting at the 'End Wall', install the first half of the second row in two halves. The first block(19) should be placed so that the long grooved edge is pressed against the header joint from the last block in the first row (18) and the header joint groove connects with the next section of exposed tongue the next block(16) in the first row. Repeat this process with the first half the second row until the square template is reached.
4. Once the first half of the second row is in place there is no need to wait for the adhesive to set. The second half of the second row is installed. Beginning at the 'Start Wall' place the next block(28) so that the long grooved edge is pressed against the header joint of the last block (27) and the grooved header joint connect with the exposed tongue of the next block(26)
5. Repeat this process to fill both sides of the first row cutting blocks to fit the perimeter of the room so that adequate expansion gap is maintained which can then be covered by skirting or moulding.
6. A border may be installed using a plunge saw to cut away the blocks to make the required space. A groove can then be machined into the cut edge so that blocks can

be joined.

