

Laminate, Solid & Engineered Flooring

Care and Information



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Fitter Checklist

The following checklist must be completed before the installation of wood floor products. The information on the checklist **MUST** be followed in every way. If any of these requirements are **NOT** completed, you **WILL** be jeopardising your wood floor performance and/or warranties and guarantees. Allowing any items to be over looked, could cause the installation to fail in the short or long term. Once this information is secured, a signed copy should be kept in a safe place in case future concerns arise.

PRE-INSTALLATION EVALUATION OF JOB SITE:

Date _____ Time _____ Job Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postcode _____ Telephone _____

UNTIL THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN MET, THE JOBSITE IS NOT READY FOR WOOD FLOOR INSTALLATION!

Exterior conditions:

- 1 Gutters and down pipes are properly placed to drain water away from structure:
YES NO
- 2 Soil surrounding the structure is properly graded to drain water away from the structure:
YES NO

Interior conditions:

- 1 All wet trades (tile, paint, plaster, etc.) have completed work on site:
YES NO
- 2 HVAC (heat ventilation, air conditioning) are in place and operating properly: (3-5 days prior to delivery of wood floor products)
YES NO

- 3 The building is enclosed; weather tight, including doors and windows:
YES NO

- 4 The temperature and relative humidity within the structure are at "normal living conditions" (Temp- between 18 -20°C and relative humidity between 45 – 55%)
YES NO

Concrete slab conditions:

- 1 Dpm has been installed under the slab:
YES NO
- 2 Concrete has a moisture content of under 4% (2.5% Cm test / din standard):
YES NO
- 3 If wood floor is to be installed over slab, it is flat and to specifications:
YES NO

Delivery and working conditions:

- 1 Driveway and side walks are installed:
YES NO
- 2 The flooring will not be installed below ground level:
YES NO

Moisture conditions:

- 1 Moisture content of the wood subfloor is no more than 4 Percentage points above or below the finish flooring and is within regional moisture content guidelines.
YES NO
- 2 Moisture testing of concrete began no sooner than 30 days after the slab was poured. Test results (below 4%) indicated that it is safe for wood flooring installation to begin, and all readings have been documented:
YES NO

WHAT TYPE OF TESTING EQUIPMENT WAS USED?

Results/readings: _____ Installer: _____

Company: _____ Tel: _____

I verify jobsite is ready for wood flooring installation

Signed _____ Date _____

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 if the job fails or has resulting problems.

Maintenance Guide

Besides being a warm, beautiful and durable product wooden flooring is very easy to keep clean and to maintain. Like laminate and ceramic tiles - wooden flooring is a hard floor covering, any dust or dirt will stay on top of the flooring and will not penetrate in to the wood as will become trapped in the fibres in a soft floor covering (like carpets). This feature also makes wooden flooring an anti-allergy floor covering.

To make sure that you will keep enjoying the floor in the years to come - we want to give you a few practical tips with regard to how to maintain your floor.

Maintenance can be divided in three categories, namely:

- 1 Preventive maintenance
- 2 Minor, regular maintenance
- 3 Major maintenance

Preventive maintenance

Prevention is nothing more than taking measures to prevent scratching, wear; expansion etc.

Preventive maintenance is the same for solid wood and engineered (semi – solid).

For example:

- Place mats at the external entrances of the property
- Fit felt pads under the legs of the sofas, chairs and tables and clean the pads occasionally
- Heavy furniture needs to be lifted not pushed
- Don't place porous flower pots or vases on the floor i.e. terracotta
- All Elka solid wood and engineered (semi – solid) floors are manufactured from natural products and can be damaged by high heels - therefore stiletto / spiked heels must be removed

- Prevent extreme humidity or dry atmosphere in the room i.e. tumble dryers must be connected to an outside vent
- Clean up spilled liquid immediately (e.g. due to watering the plants or knocking over drinks)
- Icy or snowy winters will need extra precautions to prevent salt / grit / water being walked on to the flooring

Oiled floors

Minor maintenance for oiled floors:

- Vacuum, sweep or dust mop your floor once a week, or more if needed. The vacuum head must be brush or felt, and a wand attachment is preferable. Do not use vacuums with beater or hard heads
- For a brushed and oiled floor use the appropriate maintenance products such as Elka maintenance oil
- Never clean or wet mop with water. Water may permanently damage the floor
- Never use any of the following products or similar in nature on your floor: ammonia-based cleaners, acrylic finishes, wax based products, detergents, bleach, polishers, abrasive cleaning soaps, or acidic materials such as vinegar
- Direct sunlight can alter the appearance of your floor

- Keep the relative humidity in your home between 45% and 55%.
- Treat the floor with Maintenance oil once or twice a year. The areas of heavy use (and where the floor looks “dry”) need to be treated more frequently

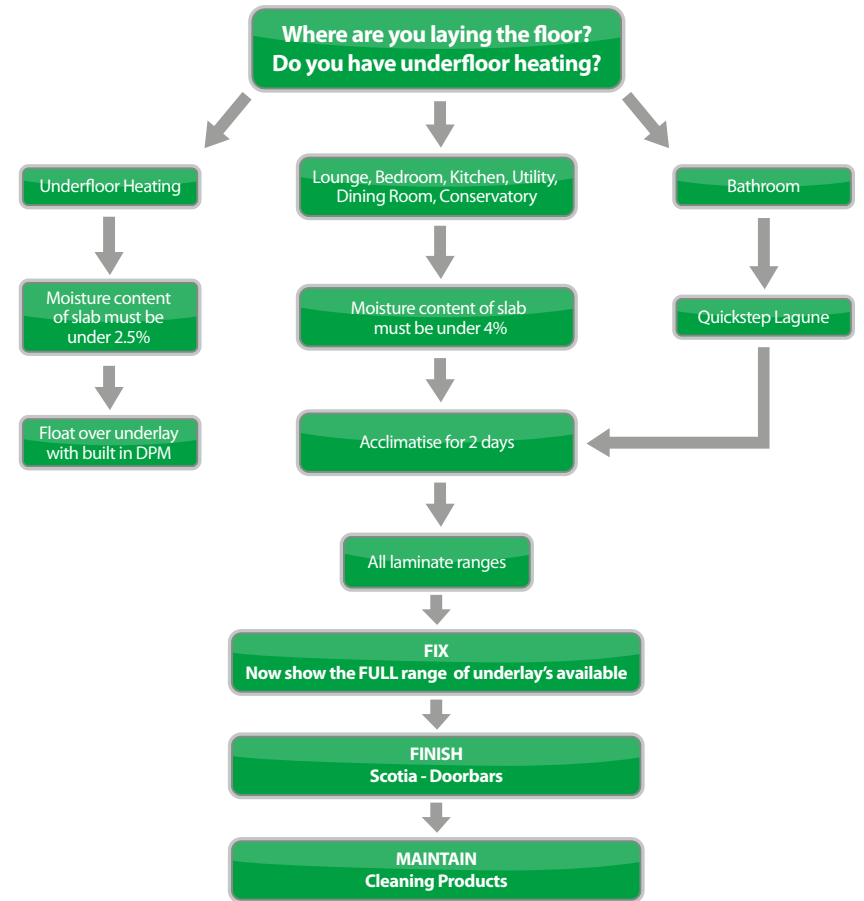
Major maintenance

- For major maintenance solid wood, wood engineered floors must be sanded and re oiled
- Sanding makes an uneven, rough or weathered surface even, smooth and clean again

Oiled floors

- If minor maintenance of the oiled floor is postponed too long, it is possible that the whole floor will have to be sanded and finished again

Laminate Flooring Guide



Please Note

- The building should be fully enclosed including doors and windows. Heating should be operational
- The delivered flooring must be left in the packaging with polythene wrapping intact
- The flooring should be stacked horizontally no more than 2 to 3 packs high or wide. Break up stacked cartons with battens to increase air circulation.
- The use of gas or paraffin heaters should be avoided. Do not store next to radiators.
- All wet work must have been completed otherwise the moisture will transfer from walls floors and ceilings to the hardwood flooring. The screed / concrete subfloor should be tested with a non destructive Moisture meter
- Checks must be undertaken by the installer to confirm the site is suitable to take the laminate flooring
- Each room must be individual and separated by a door profile ensuring 10mm expansion around the FULL perimeter of the room.
- Never run the floor over an area exceeding 10m
- The laminate should be run at a right angle to the floor boards
- Allow additional expansion for use in conservatories-also ensure that these are well ventilated and if possible shaded from direct sunlight as this will cause fading.

WET MAINTENANCE IS ENTIRELY FORBIDDEN!

FAQs

GENERAL

What is a laminate floor?

Quick-Step® is a laminate floor. The base of a Quick-Step® floor is a watertight, glued HDF board (High Density Fibre Board). This is covered with a design layer and a transparent overlay against wear and tear. Underneath, a barrier layer stops rising damp and prevents the boards from deforming.

The design layer is a photo of wood or tiles that is printed on paper. This paper is submerged in melamine resin. This is covered with a very strong and transparent protective layer. The melamine layers are pressed on the HDF board in a press, under high pressure and temperature. In addition, a wood or tile structure is also pressed into the top layer. For example, the oak designs have a wood texture that coincides exactly with the wood pattern. The highly refined printing technique means that you can hardly tell the difference between the photo and real wood. So you can have a “wooden floor” in your home without sacrificing valuable trees. In addition, you don’t have to worry about the disadvantages of a wooden floor. There’s a Quick-Step® laminate floor for every budget; they are easy and fast to install (yourself) and easy to maintain.

Allergies?

Thanks to the closed surface structure of Quick-Step® and the closed joints between the boards, there’s nowhere for dust to creep. Moreover, the perfect laying and finishing of your Quick-Step® floor means it’s easy to clean.

Dust mite and other allergy-causing organisms cannot survive on clean laminate floor and this will help you protect your home from allergens. This is extremely important for people suffering from asthma or dust allergies.

To maintain good hygiene it is essential that you always use a Quick-Step® maintenance product

for cleaning. These do not contain any wax or varnish which can attract dust.

With the Quick-Step® microfiber tissues (Quick-Step® maintenance kit) you can easily remove all dust.

Quick-Step® and static electricity?

Every Quick-Step® floor undergoes unique, permanent Antistatic treatment. Annoying discharges when touching conductive materials are a thing of the past. This makes the floors ideal for offices, stores, etc.

The floor is Antistatic in accordance with EN 1815 and in accordance with EN 14041 (European guidelines for construction products - CE mark.

Avoid dampness problems

It’s better to prevent dampness than to have to cure the problems afterwards so we have the following tips:

Despite the very good damp-proof characteristics of Quick-Step® laminate floors, it is not recommended to install laminate parquet in damp rooms (bathroom, sauna, laundry area, etc.) In addition, you must never (not permitted) clean Quick-Step® laminate floors with water. Avoid standing water and other liquids on the floor at all times.

With the Quick-Step® maintenance kit it is perfectly possible to clean the floor very easily without water. The Quick-Step® maintenance kit contains a microfiber mop and a spray with a suitable cleaning product. Loose sand and dust must be removed with the vacuum cleaner. Then you can remove stubborn dirt and grease with the dry microfiber tissue. To remove very stubborn dirt or to clean the floor more thoroughly, you can moisten this microfiber tissue slightly by spraying some Quick-Step® cleaning product diluted with water.

Can you use Quick-Step in bathrooms?

Until now, Quick-Step didn’t have a floor that was suitable for damp rooms. The answer to this is the new Quick-Step® “Lagune” range. This Quick-Step® range is suitable for all rooms, from the living room to the bathroom.

Can you use Quick-Step in a veranda?

Again, you don’t have to worry about traffic wear or discolouring in sunlight. However, make sure you put a suitable Quick-Step® underlay (with built-in moisture barrier) under the floor. In addition, standing water or other liquids should be avoided on the floor.

Put suitable doormats at the outside doors to collect dirt.

Can you use Quick-Step in a kitchen?

Quick-Step® has a highly resistant top layer. Quick-Step® is therefore not a problem in the kitchen.

The base of a Quick-Step® floor is a watertight, glued HDF board that exceeds the applicable EN and ISO standards. In addition, when laid the boards are pressed extremely tight together thanks to the ingenious Uniclic® system. So an accident with a glass of water for example is not a problem. It is recommended to remove any standing water as soon as possible.

Of course, a Quick-Step® floor in the kitchen will have to be cleaned more often, however, there’s no need to scrub the floor and in fact, this should not be done. The closed surface structure prevents dirt and dust from attaching to the floor. Usually, “dry” cleaning with Quick-Step® microfiber tissues is sufficient.

Quick-Step® laminate floors with bevelled edges (Perspective, Elegance, etc.) must be vacuumed first. If you want, you can clean the floor occasionally with slightly moist Quick-Step® microfiber tissues or with a well-wrung floor cloth, with water and the Quick-Step® cleaning product.

PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION

Can you use Quick-Step with underfloor heating?

Quick-Step® is ideal for underfloor heating. The floor is also laid with the floating method too. It is important that you choose the right Quick-Step® sub-floor.

You still have the advantages of the easy and fast installation of Quick-Step® Uniclic® and you also have the advantage that:

- Possible condensation is prevented by the moisture barrier; this is not possible with full-surface gluing.
- The floating installation and the pull resistance of the Uniclic® joint ensures that the joints open when the heating is on.

Important: Always follow the special guidelines for underfloor heating and ask your dealer for instructions.

Note: A heating system that is used to cool your home in the summer is not compatible with laminate, parquet or any other type of organic floor covering.

Can Quick-Step be laid on top of existing floor covering?

On the ground level, you must first remove any organic floor covering (carpet, parquet, etc.). Linoleum or vinyl do not have to be removed if you install one of the Quick-Step® levelling underlay floors. On plank floors on the ground level, you must first lay a plastic foil, softboard panels to level the surface and then Quick-Step® Uniclic® underlay on top. Under the plank floor you must have sufficient ventilation in the crawl space.

On the upper levels you do not have to remove carpets if they are short-pile and stable. However, you need to lay one of the levelling Quick-Step® underlay floors.

Can you install Quick-step on stairs?

Yes, with the Quick-Step® stair profiles. The steps of the stairs must be straight and not rounded.

Can office chairs be used on Quick-Step?

No problem at all. However, it is essential that the laminate is protected sufficiently.

1. Use soft casters. Soft casters have a soft surface in a different colour. Nowadays, most office chairs can be ordered with soft or hard casters. For existing chairs with hard casters, contact your supplier of office chairs to order soft wheels to replace the hard ones. Soft casters will extend the life of your laminated floor considerably and your floor will retain its attractive appearance.

Tip: soft casters on a hard floor covering such as laminate, increase sitting comfort.

2. You can also put a special transparent protective mat under office chairs. Choose a mat for hard floor coverings. The mat must not have any cleats (like under mats for carpets) and must be big enough.

Underlay for Quick-Step: why, when, which?

The purpose of an underlay floor is to level minor evenness in the sub-floor and provide acoustic (sound) and thermal insulation. To avoid problems caused by rising damp, you must always lay a plastic foil. If you choose a Quick-Step® underlay, the correct moisture barrier is already attached to the underlay.

Acoustic insulation - A distinction is made between transit sound and reflection sound.

Transit sound: the sound you hear when someone walks across a floor in the room above you. The Quick-Step® Transitsound underlay has been specially designed to minimise this noise. Recommended for multi-storey buildings.

Reflection sound: the sound you hear when you walk on the floor. The Quick-Step® Unisound underlay has been specially designed to minimise (natural) reflection sound. Ideal for living rooms or office spaces where the tapping of high heels can be disturbing.

The thermal insulation of an underlay is important in the case of underfloor heating. More information can be found in the chapter "Can you use Quick-Step® with underfloor heating?".

Which underlay should be used on stone floors or existing tiles?

Always lay a plastic foil (Quick-Step® Screen) to prevent condensation.

If the existing tiles are too uneven, install Uni Softboard first on top of the plastic foil and then lay the 3mm Uniclic® underlay.

If the existing tiles are even enough, then one of the Quick-Step® Uniclic® underlay floors is sufficient for levelling.

Which underlay should be used on an existing plank floor?

On a plank floor it is recommended to first lay Uni Softboard boards to level any unevenness.

Lay the 3 mm Uniclic® underlay on top of this to level any unevenness between the Softboard boards.

If your plank floor is on the ground level, don't forget to lay a plastic foil (Quick-Step® Screen) and also make sure there is sufficient ventilation underneath the floor.

Which underlay should be used with underfloor heating?

It's important that you use a damp-proof foil. Either use the Quick-Step® Unisound underlay (with built-in damp-proof foil) or a separate plastic foil which is at least 200 micron thick (Quick-Step® Screen). The choice of underlay is determined by the heat resistance of the underlay. Always follow the instructions for underfloor heating. Ask your dealer for instructions.

Note: a heating system that is used to cool your home in the summer is NOT compatible with laminate, parquet or any other type of organic floor covering.

How long is the drying time for a new concrete floor or screed?

The concrete floor must dry long enough. You should allow one week per cm thickness of concrete, up to 4 cm. Allow twice as much time for the remaining thickness more than 4 cm. In other words, for a thickness of 6 cm, you must allow minimum $(4 \times 1) + (2 \times 2) = 8$ weeks drying time. For concrete thicker than 6 cm, allow 4

weeks drying time per additional cm.

Rules of thumb:

The building must be sufficiently ventilated.

A plastic foil must be laid between the sub-floor concrete and the screed.

Damp migrates from the bottom to the surface. This takes time. For new concrete floors, you must always lay a plastic foil on the concrete floor before installing the Quick-Step® planks; this is the case for the ground level as well as the upper levels. All Quick-Step® underlay floors have built-in plastic foil. Use Quick-Step® underlay floors to avoid problems later on.

What is the maximum length without expansion joint?

This depends on the shape of the house or space where the laminate is laid and the climate conditions. If the space is more or less a square and if there are not too many sudden changes of the indoor climate, between weekdays and the weekend or during the day, then it is possible to lay up to 15 running metres with extra expansion joints in the floor surface. The expansion joint along the walls depends on the total length of the floor. For lengths of 15 metres you must have 15 to 20 mm expansion joints.

It is also recommended to put expansion joints under the doors between rooms and as such separate the rooms. If the Quick-Step® floor is laid with a length of more than 10 running metres, from one room to another, across the corridor, etc., then this may lead to tension and possible distortion (upward warping) of the floor. This may occur when one room is heated and the other is not. Another possibility is to put a piece of heavy furniture in one of the rooms, etc. It is also recommended to separate some of the rooms from the rest by putting expansion joints under the doors between rooms.

Do we really need expansion joints between every room?

A Quick-Step® floor expands and contracts. The HDF core board is isotropic and expands and contracts in both the length and the width. This means it is extremely important to have expansion joints of 8 to 10mm along all walls.

It is also recommended to put expansion joints under the doors between rooms and as such separate the rooms. If the Quick-Step® floor is laid with a length of more than 10 running metres, from one room to another, across the corridor, etc., then this may lead to tension and possible distortion (upward warping) of the floor. This may occur when one room is heated and the other is not. Another possibility is to put a piece of heavy furniture in one of the rooms, etc. It is also recommended to separate some of the rooms from the rest by putting expansion joints under the doors between rooms.

Can Quick-Step be glued full surface?

Full-surface gluing is strictly not recommended. If it is done, the warranty is void.

Full-surface gluing is expensive, time-consuming and very difficult. The sub-floor must be perfectly even (= you need to level it) and damp-proof (= you need to apply an epoxy resin). In addition, you need an expensive two-component glue to glue the laminate to the sub-floor.

Why would you want to use the full-surface gluing method?

Can Uniclic also be glued because a glued joint must be stronger than a glue-free one?

It is absolutely incorrect to assume that a glued joint is stronger than a Uniclic® joint. What's more, with glued joints, a lot depends on how the planks were glued.

- Did you use the correct glue?
- Was the glue applied correctly?
- What is the correct amount?
- Was the glue able to harden long enough at the correct temperature?
- Wasn't the floor walked on too soon after gluing, so that the glue joints came loose?
- How long does the glue maintain its strength?

By contrast, Uniclic® has been synonymous with a perfectly laid laminate floor for many years. You can lay the floor by just clicking the planks together and without glue. The joints are guaranteed to remain sealed. Uniclic® offers many other benefits too:

- no warping
- A seamless floor
- Even floor surface
- Ideal for installation by both left-handed and right-hand people
- You can walk on the floor during and immediately after installation
- Moving: easy and without risks. You can remove your floor and install it somewhere else very easily.
- Lifetime warranty (see warranty terms and conditions)
- Quick installation without any risks

What is the best laying direction?

From a technical point of view, any direction is possible and you can install the planks lengthwise or widthwise. The choice is a personal and aesthetic one. You will obtain the most attractive effect if you lay the floor in the same direction as the main light source and in the same line as the most frequently used door entrance. However, if you have several doors and windows in the room you can choose the direction that facilitates the actual laying.

How can I cut a laminate floor?

You can cut laminate floors with a wide range of saws:

- Hand saw: fine(r)-toothed and with the design side up
- Electric circle saw: also fine-toothed. For example: saw with 22 cm diameter - 60 teeth. Also with the design side up.
- Jigsaw. If you want a clean cut, saw with the design side down unless you use saw blades with reversed teeth. Normal saw blades are used for sawing.

Example types: Bosch brand: T 127 D (rather coarse). For finer work: T 101 B.

In most cases the saw cut does not need to be perfect. They are usually covered by profiles or skirting boards.

FINISHING

How are the skirting boards mitred correctly?

The skirting boards are the widest at the bottom. They are slightly oblique to make them more attractive. This has an effect when cutting. Clamp the skirting board firmly so it can't move when you are cutting it.

Put the skirting board upright in the mitre box, like you would put it against the wall, and rotate the saw to the left or right depending on the angle you want to obtain.

If you are working with an electric circle saw whose motor you can turn left or right, put the skirting board flat on the saw bench with the design side up. This method is the most practical because it allows you to attach the skirting boards easily.

With the clip skirting boards, you need to hold the supplied wooden spacer under the skirting (with the thickest edge under the skirting) in order to obtain a perfect mitre. Otherwise, the same guidelines as above apply here too.

How are the Quick-Step profiles attached?

There are two kinds of profiles:

- 1 Laminate covered plastic profiles (with a light brown rail)
- 2 Laminate covered multiplex or MDF profiles (with a black rail).

The laminate covered plastic profiles are attached to the laminate floor using light brown rails. You clasp the laminate floor between the profile. You can also glue the lower rail to the sub-floor with polystyrene-compatible glue.

For the laminate covered multiplex or MDF profiles, you must attach the black plastic rail to the sub-floor with screws or glue (again, with a glue that is polystyrene compatible). If you need to bridge a height difference, you can also attach this black rail on and through the underlay. In this case, the only option is to use screws.

Then you can install the laminate. Leave the usual expansion joint, using the spacers, along this plastic rail. To finish, remove the spacers and click the laminate profile in the rail.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

Can a Quick-Step floor get scratched?

The surface of a laminate floor is made of melamine. Melamine is scratch-resistant but not scratch-proof. European directives have determined the standards and tolerances. Sharp objects can certainly scratch the floor. For this reason, you should take the necessary precautions.

Sharp objects like dirt, sand and/or grit can stick to your shoes. This dirt can be collected efficiently at the exterior days by placing the correct doormats.

Furniture (chairs, tables, cabinets, etc.) should be fitted with adequate protection under the legs. This is usually felt or soft plastic caps. Make sure no sand or grit is trapped in the protective caps of furniture legs. Pets with very sharp nails can also cause scratches.

Soft caster must be used under 'mobile' furniture such as office chairs, seats and sofas (see question: "Can office chairs be used on Quick-Step?"). Hard or damaged casters can cause scratches. Make sure the casters turn properly. If this is not the case, use adequate protectors (see photos) The furniture can be moved on these protectors.

When using a vacuum cleaner, check that the wheels and the brush are not damaged or too hard, and that they can revolve freely.

How do you maintain Quick-Step?

The daily maintenance routine consists of removing dust and loose dirt. This can be done dry.

With the Quick-Step® maintenance set you clean dry as well as slightly moist. When cleaning dry, the microfiber tissue collects all dirt effectively thanks to its special shape and material. For more intensive maintenance, a slightly moist clean is sufficient. For the slightly moist cleaning, the microfiber tissue is moistened with the water spray and a little Quick-Step® cleaning product, or you can use a well-wrung floor cloth.

For cleaning floors with bevelled V-grooves, it is recommended to only clean dry because moist cleaning may cause the dirt to accumulate in the

bevelled grooves and this will be difficult to remove. For this reason, you must always vacuum the floor first or clean with a dry microfiber tissue. Then use a slightly moist tissue if necessary.

Always use a dry microfiber tissue to finish cleaning.

Is a special cleaning product necessary for normal maintenance?

If the floor is used intensively, a greasy layer may build up on the surface and then you should use the Quick-Step® maintenance product with water. If you walk about the house in your socks or if small children play or crawl around on the floor, or if you have a dog, then this is even more the case.

A suitable maintenance product is a product that does not build up layers on the floor, and does not contaminate the seams and cause them to swell. Quick-Step® maintenance product has been specially developed for this. Combined with the Quick-Step® microfiber tissues, this guarantees perfect and carefree cleaning.

How can I remove traces of paint or felt pens on Quick-Step?

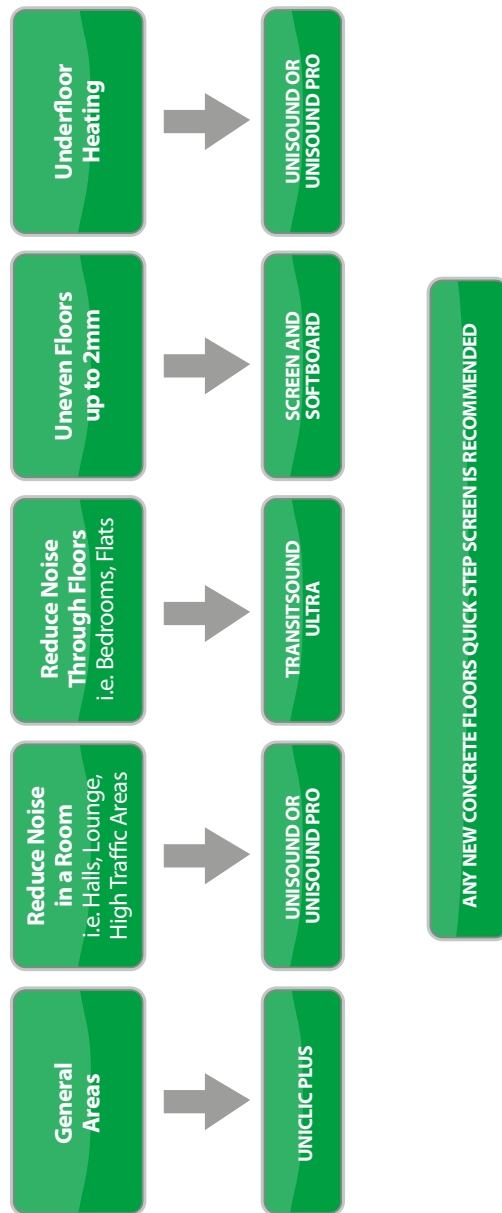
You can easily remove these kinds of stains with organic solvents such as white spirit, thinner, etc. These products will not harm your Quick-Step® floor at all. Always apply these products on a cloth and never directly on the laminate floor.

Can I repair a Quick-Step floor?

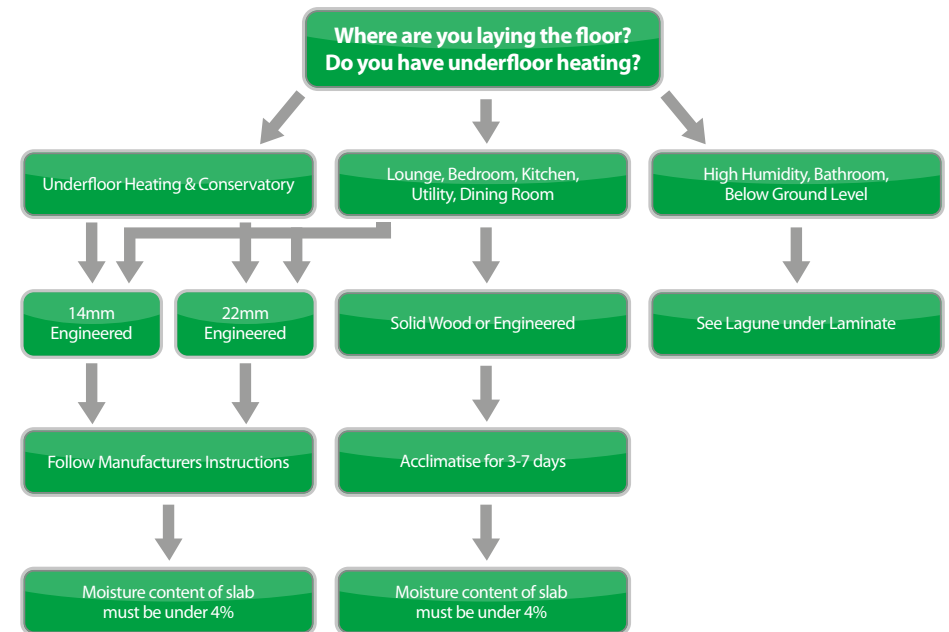
Minor damage to the surface (scoring) can be filled with Quick-Step® Fix. Cracks in the floor can be repaired with Quick-Step® Kit. Both products are available in all Quick-Step® designs. The damage can hardly be seen once repaired.

More serious damage can be repaired by replacing one or more planks, even in the middle of the floor. This is very easy thanks to the Unidlic(x)® system.

Underlay Guide



Solid & Engineered Flooring Guide

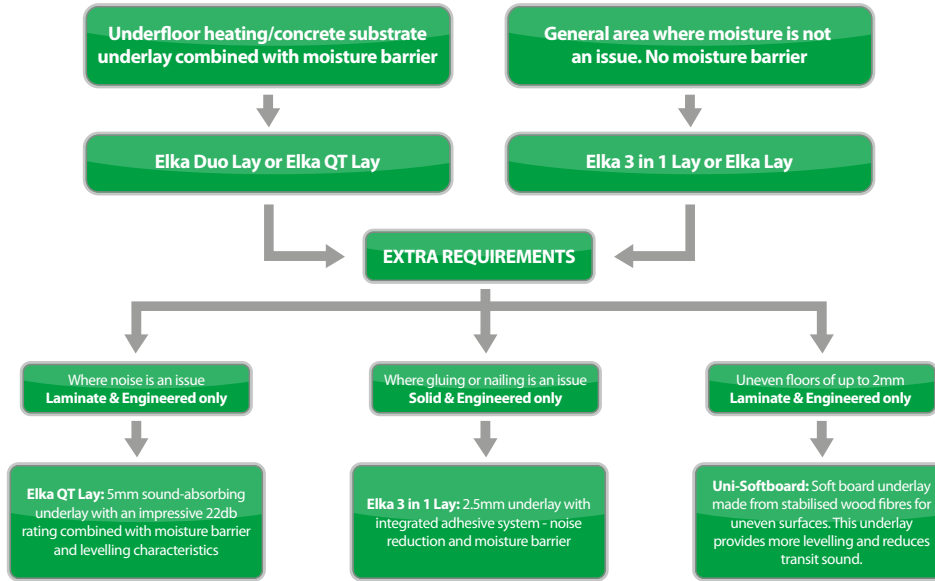


Please Note

- The building should be fully enclosed including doors and windows. Heating should be operational
- The delivered flooring must be left in the packaging with polythene wrapping intact
- The flooring should be stacked horizontally no more than 2 to 3 packs high or wide. Break up stacked cartons with battens to increase air circulation.
- The use of gas or paraffin heaters should be avoided. Do not store next to radiators.
- All wet work must have been completed otherwise the moisture will transfer from walls floors and ceilings to the hardwood flooring. The screed / concrete subfloor should be tested with a non destructive Moisture meter
- Underfloor heating: Follow Manufacturers instructions.
- Further checks must be undertaken by the installer to confirm the solid wood flooring is in equilibrium with the site it's to be installed.
- Subfloor must be level within 3mm over a 3m running area.

WET MAINTENANCE IS ENTIRELY FORBIDDEN!

Underlay Guide



Pre-install Checklist

Question	Laminate Flooring	Engineered / Semi-Solid	Solid Hardwood
Method of Installation			
Floating	Yes - Must have an underlay	Yes - Must have an underlay	Yes - Use <i>Elka 3in1 underlay only</i>
Nail down	No	21 / 22mm Structural Engineered Only	Yes
Glue down	No	14mm Full trowel down only - 21 / 22mm Batten with Elka trade flex or Full towel down with Elka rigid or Trowel Flex	Yes Batten with Elka trade flex or Full towel down with Elka rigid or Trowel Flex
Over under floor heating	Yes - Over underlay with DPM	Yes - Over underlay with DPM	No unless specialist underlay manufacturer extends warranty to cover the flooring. Elka do not extend the guarantee to this
Screw Down	No	14mm No / 22mm Yes Only with Elka Tongue Tile	Yes Only with Elka Tongue Tile
Suitable sub floors	ELKA 3in1 Lay ELKA 5in1 Lay ELKA Duo Lay ELKA QT Lay	ELKA 3in1 Lay ELKA 5in1 Lay ELKA Duo Lay ELKA QT Lay	ELKA 3in1 Lay ELKA Duo Lay ELKA QT Lay
Concrete / Screed	Yes - Over underlay with DPM and Screed must be under 4%mc	Yes Must be under 4% Mc	Yes - Check moisture content of the sub floor is below 4%
Timber	Yes - Floated Over underlay	Yes 14mm floated only over underlay. 21 / 22mm glue, nail or float	Yes - Check moisture content of the floor is 9 to 14% and within 2% mc of the flooring to be fitted
Stone	Yes - Over underlay with DPM and must be under 4%mc	Yes Must be under 4% Mc if glued and Underlay used if floated	Yes - Check moisture content of the sub floor is below 4% & use a suitable adhesive - Batten with Elka trade flex or Full towel down with Elka rigid or Trowel Flex
Asphalt	Yes - Floated - Over underlay with DPM	Yes floated - Over underlay with DPM	Yes float - Over Elka 3in1 underlay with DPM
Moisture content for concrete / screed	Below 4% - refer to the manufacturers instructions	Must Be Below 4%	Must Be Below 4%
Acclimatisation	Minimum 24 Hours - refer to the manufacturers instructions	None Required	Minimum 3 to 7 days dependent on environment

Please note: 95% of all problems encountered with flooring are due to unstable site conditions and installer error. **Read carefully the below**

- (a) Always undertake Moisture - Humidity & Temperature Checks **'Never install until the minimum requirements are met'**
- (b) Always keep each room individual and separate at doors with a threshold allowing the expansion below.
- (c) Always allow the recommended expansion around the 'FULL' perimeter of the room.
- (d) Always acclimatise the flooring in line with the manufacturers instructions in the room where the flooring is to be installed.
- (e) if in doubt - Find out

Underfloor Heating Guidelines

The type of system must be waterborne not electric matting, this said the electric under floor heating manufacturers sometimes extend their warranty to cover the flooring therefore please check if this is the case.

Under floor heating:

When laying a floor where under floor heating has been installed it is important to follow these guidelines:

Floating Installation Only

- 1 The heating has been started up at least 2 weeks before laying the floor to achieve an ambient living environment
- 2 Make sure that there is no water leaking from the pipes
- 3 If the subfloor is concrete, make sure the concrete is dry. This means not more than 4% moisture, full depth of screed when the heating is turned off and the floor is cool
- 4 The subfloor has to meet all the requirements for under floor heating
- 5 Installation method should be as a floating floor and a combination underlay incorporating a DPM must always be used
- 6 The surface temperature of the ground (subfloor below the flooring) cannot exceed +27°C
- 7 The heating has to be turned off 48 hours before laying the floor
- 8 2 - 3 days after laying the floor, the heating should be turned on gradually, increasing 2-3°C every 24 hours
- 9 A minimum temperature of 18°C must be maintained

Sub base:

This flooring can be floated on most types of flooring which is dry and level, e.g. sand and cement screeds, timber floor boards, chipboard, ply etc.

When fitting to a sub base (Screed, ply, chipboard etc) the sub base must conform to BS 8204: Part 1 1987, which states that it must not deviate by more than + or - 3mm under a 3m straight edge in any one direction.

Wooden sub structures must be sound and securely fixed. They must be a minimum of 18mm in depth in order to be supportive. (This applies to Ply or Chipboard also)

Screed subfloors must be under 4% moisture content, above this will cause excessive dimensional change in the wood flooring resulting in problems such as delaminating not covered by the guarantee.

On ground floors a surface moisture inhibitor such as Elka Combi Underlay or 1000g Visqueen must be laid with joints over lapped by 6" (150mm) or more and lapped up the wall behind the skirting board. These joints should be taped.

Underlay:

Engineered flooring, if floated must be installed over a minimum of 2mm foam or poly type underlay incorporating DPM. If an acoustic underlay has been installed first and is suitable according to manufacturer's instructions for flooring to be laid directly on top then a 2mm

foam or poly type underlay is not necessary. However, if a 1.5mm cork or bitumen type acoustic barrier is used, then a 2mm foam in particular is recommended to install over same. The foam stops "grinding" between wood flooring and O.S.B., ply, etc. underneath.

Moisture inhibitors (such as 1000g poly) will only assist in protecting the floor from residual moisture when the concrete sub floor is 4% or less. They will not cover up an inherent moisture problem that should be addressed prior to installing the flooring.

Expansion:

All engineered floors will react to changes in the presence of moisture within the boards. In the winter months when central heating is present, moisture leaves the wood causing the floor to contract. In the summer months when the humidity is higher the wood will expand. This needs to be allowed for during the fitting process. Therefore it is important when installing an engineered floor to leave the proper expansion area around the perimeter and to ensure the flooring is fully acclimatised prior to installation.

An expansion gap of 15mm must be in place around the "FULL" perimeter of the room. Flooring must "NOT" be run through doorways in to other rooms, instead it should be broken in the doorway again allowing 15mm; this gap is covered by a profile (such as the Elka 3 in 1 system) that is not fixed to the new flooring.

Please note with a large area (lengths in excess of 10 m) the floor must be divided with an expansion gap provided on both length and width. On completion, this gap is again covered by a profile that is not fixed to the new flooring

Guidelines Floating Installation:

On completion of the preceding tasks the following steps should be followed for Installation.

1 Elka Grip specialist adhesive (or equivalent D3 rated PVA glue) should be applied to the head of the board in a 150mm strip. Along the length of the board apply glue every 150-200mm leaving

a gap of 80-100mm between each application of glue. This is to allow any excess glue space to fill up, rather than glue being squeezed to surface.

2 Generally you will want the flooring to run the length of the room towards a natural source of light for aesthetic reasons.

3 If fitting over an existing floor, Install at a right angle to floorboards, if this is not possible, fit 6mm plywood so that the direction can be changed. This way the floor will be stiffer and less prone to joints separating.

4 Under cut the bottom of door frames, wardrobes, etc. to allow for the floor board and underlay to fit under it.

5 Open 4 or 5 packs and "shuffle" the boards to ensure an even distribution of colour and character.

6 If you discover a defective piece DO NOT LAY IT. You are the final judge of acceptable quality.

7 ELKA or its dealers will not be responsible for costs associated with installing, finishing and/or replacing of flooring installed with obvious defects.

8 Always stagger the end joints by a minimum of 150mm. Measure and trim the last board to fit, allowing the 15mm expansion gap.

9 Mark a straight line parallel to the chosen wall, allowing a 15mm gap for expansion. It may be necessary to scribe the first row of boards to achieve correct alignment

10 The first board should be laid groove to the wall allowing for expansion of approx. 15mm between the wall and first board.

11 The last board in the first row should be fitted using a puller bar ensuring a 15mm expansion gap at the head of the board.

12 Once the first row of boards is correctly aligned and glued in to place, weight them down while the glue sets. Any surplus glue that may seep out on to the surface of the wood must be removed immediately with a damp cloth.

13 The second row and all following rows should be started with the off cut from the last board on the previous row. It is necessary to ensure that the end joints of adjoining rows are at least offset by 500mm, this leaves the floor stronger and is visually more attractive.

14 Tapping blocks should be used to tap boards together, direct contact of hammer or mallet on the board edge is not recommended.

15 All perimeter gaps should be covered with skirting or Scotia using cover strips at thresholds.

16 Flooring straps can be used to pull the boards together and hold them firm whilst the glue sets.

