

Howdens Joinery Flooring Guide



Contents



General information	Page 3
Product suitability	Page 4
Sub-floor preparation	Page 6
General storage & fitting	Page 7
Key installation points	
• Howdens Engineered Real Wood Flooring	Page 8
• Howdens Engineered Real Wood Herringbone Flooring	Page 9
• Howdens Rigid Vinyl Flooring	Page 10
• Oake & Gray Rigid Vinyl Flooring	Page 11
• Oake & Gray Rigid Vinyl Herringbone Flooring	Page 12
• Howdens Laminate Flooring	Page 13
• Howdens Chevron Laminate Flooring	Page 14
• Herringbone Laminate Flooring	Page 15
• Oake & Gray Water-Resistant Laminate	Page 16
• Quick-Step Rigid Tile & Plank (2 sizes)	Page 17
• Quick-Step Engineered Flooring	Page 18
• Quick-Step Hydro Engineered Flooring	Page 19
• Quick-Step Hydro Laminate Flooring	Page 20
• Karndean Flooring	Page 21
General care & maintenance	Page 22
Common installation issues	Page 23



General information



How to use this guide

This guide gives information on the flooring types sold by Howdens, as well as other useful information relating to care and maintenance as well as common flooring installation issues.

The flooring sections are split into a 'traffic light' format, enabling the fitter to see key installation points in before you start, the preparation and finally the fitting.

Each flooring product will come with its own installation guide, which should always be followed to ensure the correct installation of the flooring. Please speak to your local depot for flooring advice and product availability.

Follow the key below on each of the product pages



Before you start

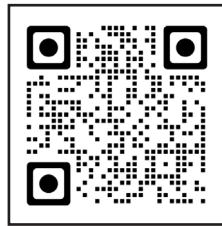
Preparation

Fitting



QR codes

Scan the QR code on the product pages using your smart device, to access the installation leaflet for the specified flooring. You don't need a special App to scan a QR code, simply put your phone onto camera mode and hover over the QR code. You'll then be prompted to view the page.



Scan the QR code (left), for an electronic copy of this flooring guide



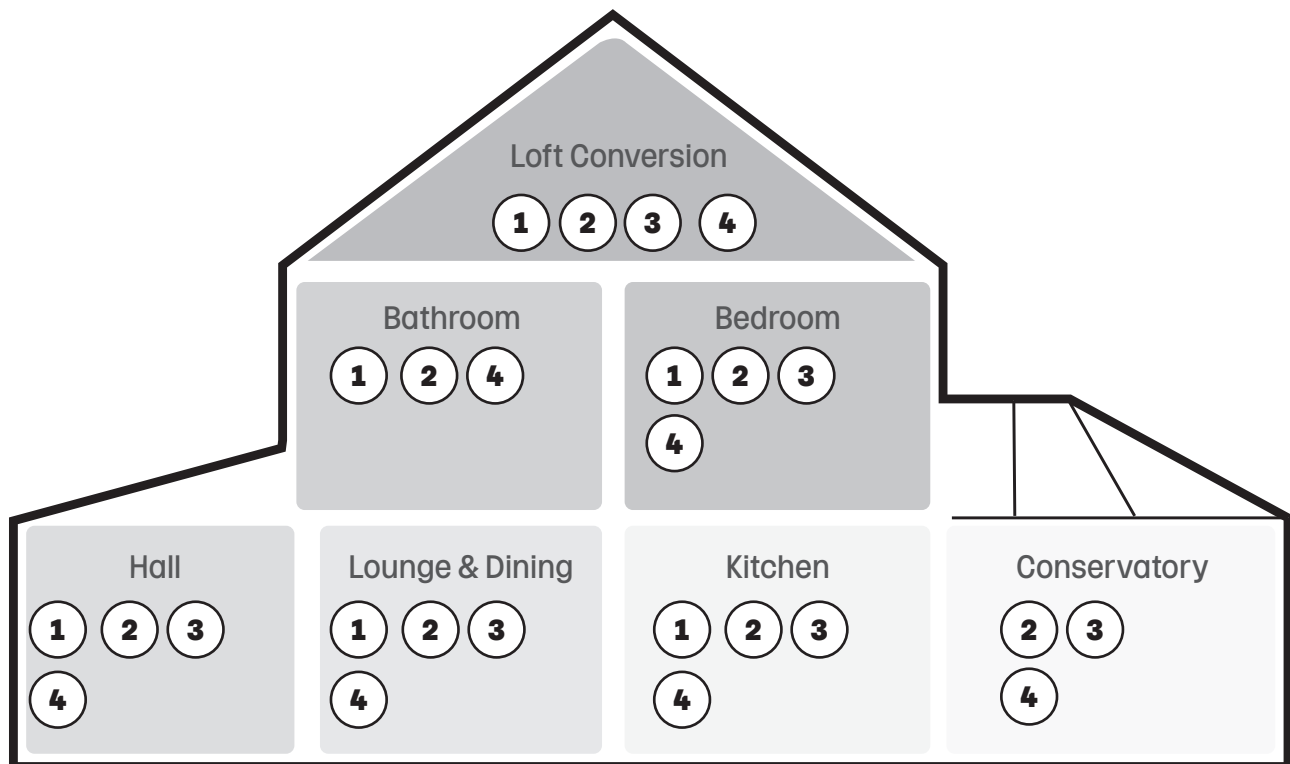
Product Suitability



Where is your floor being laid?

Flooring for every application

Howdens offers flooring solutions for all rooms in the home. The guide below visually shows the suitability of the flooring type for each room. In addition to the flooring, a range of underfloor protection is available and required as shown on page 6.



Howdens Rigid Vinyl Flooring (without underlay)



Howdens Engineered Real Wood Flooring



Oake & Gray, Quickstep & Karndean Rigid Vinyl



Howdens Laminate Flooring

Note: In conservatories, we recommend a temperature check is carried out prior to installation, this includes rooms with high exposure to sunlight through large windows and bi-fold doors.

Flooring is not suitable in unheated rooms such as garden rooms, garages and sheds.

Product Suitability

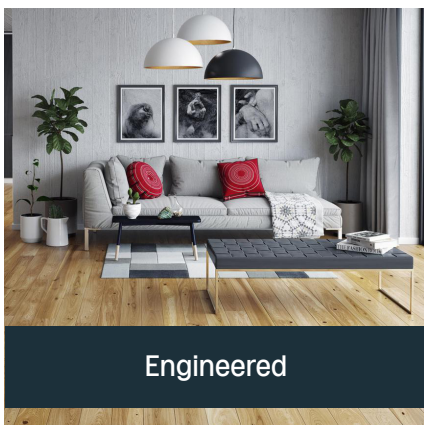
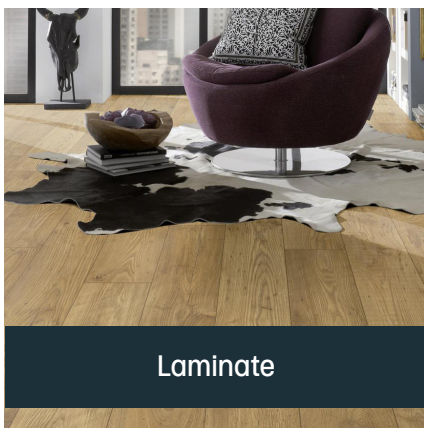


Wheelchair Suitability

Not all floor coverings are suitable for wheelchairs, as the wheels apply direct pressure to the joints and can cause failure of the floor. However, Howdens offer an extensive range of flooring which does accommodate for all stages of life, including suitable flooring for our disabled customers.

Flooring type

Suitability



Sub-Floor Preparation



Is your sub-floor fit for purpose?

Preparation is key

Sub-floor preparation is the key to ensuring the flooring is laid in the correct way. If the sub-floor isn't within the specifications laid out on the instructions of the flooring, you can expect to see issues down the line.

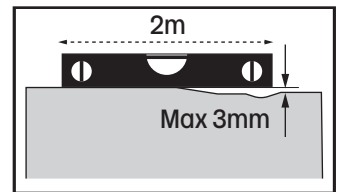
1

Sub-floor must be smooth, level, clean, and permanently dry. Level to 3mm over 2m (Maximum deviation).

Note: The £1 coin rule! A pound coin is almost 3mm in thickness.

If you can fit it under a 2m straight edge that's laid across the sub-floor then your floor needs levelling.

IMPORTANT: Always refer to the instructions supplied with the flooring for specific information.



2

If the floor is not level - nail or screw floorboards, use ply board, or a levelling compound to bring your sub-floor within specification for the floor being laid.

3

If there is a risk that the sub-floor will exceed the maximum moisture level stated on the instructions, an appropriate moisture barrier must be used.

- DPM for mineral sub-floors
 - Bitumen Moisture Barrier Paper for timber sub-floors
- Note: Equilibrium RH moisture meters should be used



Have you chosen the right underlay?

1. Choose your floor

	Real Wood Engineered and Laminate		Real Wood Engineered Herringbone and Laminate Herringbone		Rigid Luxury Vinyl		Oak & Gray Rigid Luxury Vinyl with Underlay (inc. Herringbone)	
2. Identify Sub-floor	Concrete and Screeds	Timber	Concrete and Screeds	Timber	Concrete and Screeds	Timber	Concrete and Screeds	Timber
3. Select Underlay	SDH0900 SDH0909 SDH0915	SDH0900 SDH0909	SDH0923		SDH0929 **		Not Required - using additional underlay will damage the joints of the flooring	
4. Add damp proof membrane or moisture barrier*	DPM or Paintable DMP	Not Required	Bitumen Moisture Barrier Paper		DPM or Paintable DMP	Bitumen Moisture Barrier Paper	DPM or Paintable DMP	Bitumen Moisture Barrier Paper

*If required

**Do not install in rooms with areas of prolonged intensive sunlight. Read instructions thoroughly before starting to ensure compatibility of all installation components. Always check fitting instructions to be sure of under floor heating compatibility.

SDH0900 - Foam Underlay
SDH0909 - XPS Underlay
SDH0915 - 4 in 1 Underlay
SDH0923 - 3 in 1 Underlay
SDH0929 - Vinyl Underlay

General Storage & Fitting



Before you start!

Checklist

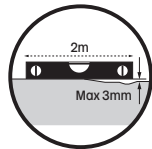
The inlay sheet provided should always be followed to give the specific laying instructions for your flooring. The tips below are general advice for all flooring installations.



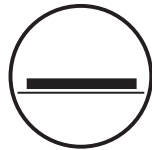
All heating/air conditioning systems should be commissioned and operating for a minimum of 2 weeks prior to installation.

Note: Check underfloor heating requirements before installation and refer to underfloor heating manufacturers guidance where applicable.

Increase UFH temperature gradually (24hrs after fitting) by 5°C per day, but do not exceed a max floor surface temperature of 27°C.



The sub-floor must be level, dry, clean and firm in order for the flooring to be laid. Any unevenness in the floor over a set span must be properly evened out.



Packs are to be stored flat on the floor with at least 50cm between packs and walls. **DO NOT STORE VERTICALLY.**



A selection of Howdens flooring needs to be acclimatised in the room where it will be installed for a minimum of 48hrs prior to fitting.



Do not open packs until you are ready to install the flooring. Once open, inspect each plank/tile for any damage, visual defects or colour variation prior to installation.



Do not install cabinets (or any fixed furniture) over the flooring, including kitchen islands.



Working from several packs at the same time can help achieve an even distribution of colour/finish. **Note:** For engineered flooring made with a real wood top layer, the natural characteristics of the timber such as knots and colour variation will be seen from plank to plank.



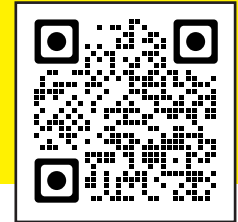
Exposure to extreme sunlight can cause changes to your floor, managing exposure will extend the life of your product. **Note:** Check whether your chosen floor is suitable for areas of prolonged intensive sunlight.

Howdens Engineered Real Wood Flooring



9 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting.

3

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature 27°C.



4

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

5

Use Howdens foam, XPS or 4-in-1 underlay (See page 6 for details).

6

Timber based sub floors must be securely fixed before laying.



7

A 15mm expansion gap must be left around the entire floor including cabinet legs, radiator pipes and door frames.

8

DO NOT install cabinets over the floor.

9

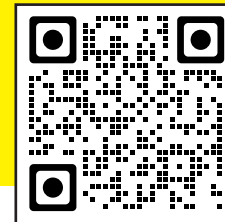
Install flooring from several packs at the same time, to give an even distribution of colour, grain and natural characteristics.

Howdens Engineered Real Wood Herringbone Flooring



11 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting.

3

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature 27°C.



4

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

5

Only use SDH0923 3 in 1 underlay (see page 6 for details).

6

Before you begin, find the centre line of the room.

7

Timber based sub floors must be securely fixed before laying.



8

A 10mm expansion gap must be left around the entire floor including cabinet legs, radiator pipes and door frames.

9

DO NOT install cabinets over the floor.

10

Herringbone floors tend to result in more cuts and waste due to the design.

11

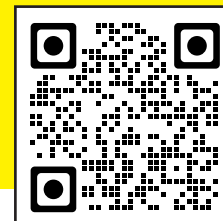
Install flooring from several packs at the same time, to give an even distribution of colour, grain and natural characteristics.

Howdens Rigid Vinyl Flooring



10 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Underfloor heating must be embedded in at least 12mm of screed, surface temperature must not exceed 30°C.



3

A DPM must be used when laid over mineral sub-floors, or bitumen moisture barrier paper over timber sub-floors.

4

Do not install flooring in areas subject to prolonged exposure to intensive sunlight.

5

Always use Howdens vinyl underlay (Laminate/Real Wood flooring underlays must not be used - see page 6 for details).



6

Use spacers to create the required expansion gap (minimum 6mm) around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes & cabinet legs.

7

Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

8

All long joints should be tapped in to place using a mallet and an off-cut piece of flooring (tapping block). No gaps should be visible on the long joints.

9

Ensure each row is checked for straightness before starting the following row.

10

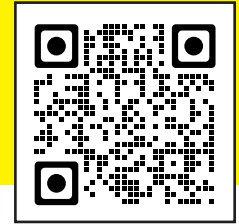
Use a straight edge and Stanley knife to cut the plank several times (with decor facing upwards) then snap for a clean break.

Oake & Gray Rigid Vinyl Flooring



10 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Underfloor heating must be embedded in at least 12mm of screed, surface temperature must not exceed 30°C.



3

A DPM must be used when laid over mineral sub-floors, or bitumen moisture barrier paper over timber sub-floors.

4

No additional underlay should be used as this will damage the joints of the flooring (see page 6 for details).



5

Use spacers to create the required expansion gap (minimum 6mm) around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes & cabinet legs.

6

Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

7

All long joints should be tapped in to place using a mallet and an off-cut piece of flooring (tapping block). No gaps should be visible on the long joints.

8

Ensure each row is checked for straightness before starting the following row.

9

Short joints should be a minimum of 200mm apart from the short-end joint on the previous row.

10

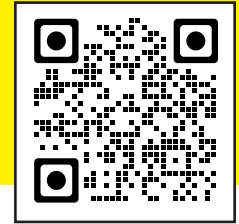
Use a straight edge and Stanley knife to cut the plank several times (with decor facing upwards) then snap for a clean break.

Oake & Gray Rigid Vinyl Herringbone Flooring



11 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Underfloor heating must be embedded in at least 12mm of screed, surface temperature must not exceed 27°C.



3

A DPM must be used when laid over mineral sub-floors, or bitumen moisture barrier paper over timber sub-floors.

4

No additional underlay should be used as this will damage the joints of the flooring (see page 6 for details).



5

Use spacers to create the required expansion gap (minimum 6mm) around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes & cabinet legs.

6

Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

7

All long joints should be tapped in to place using a mallet and an off-cut piece of flooring (tapping block). No gaps should be visible on the long joints.

8

Before you begin, find the centre line of the room.

9

Separate planks into Left Hand & Right Hand planks.

10

When installing double Herringbone pattern, glue is required on the short joints.

11

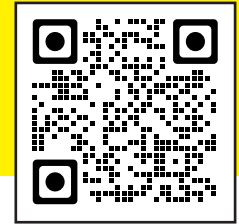
Herringbone floors tend to result in more cuts and waste due to the design.

Howdens Laminate Flooring



8 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature 27°C.



3

A DPM must be used when laid over mineral sub-floors, or bitumen moisture barrier paper over timber sub-floors.

4

Use Howdens foam, XPS or 4-in-1 underlay (see page 6 for details).



5

Use spacers to create the required expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes & cabinet legs.

6

Short joints should be a minimum of 400mm apart from the short-end joint on the previous row.

7

Ensure joints are always fully engaged.

8

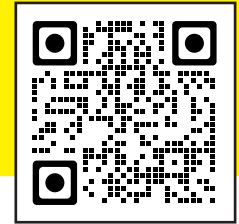
Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

Howdens Chevron Laminate Flooring



9 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature 27°C.



3

A DPM must be used when laid over mineral sub-floors, or bitumen moisture barrier paper over timber sub-floors.

4

Use Howdens foam, XPS or 4-in-1 underlay (see page 6 for details).



5

Use spacers to create the required 10mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes & cabinet legs.

6

Short joints should be a minimum of 200mm apart from the short-end joint on the previous row.

7

Separate planks into 'A' and 'B' planks

8

Ensure joints are always fully engaged.

9

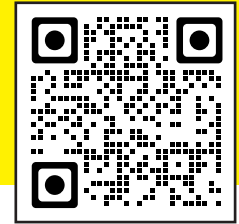
Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

Herringbone Laminate Flooring



10 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting.

3

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature of 27°C.



4

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

5

Only suitable for use with underlay SDH0923 (see page 6 for details).



6

Use spacers to create the 12mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes, and cabinet legs.

7

Find and mark out the centreline of the floor. The centre of the floor is fitted first before working outwards to the sides of the room.

8

Use a tapping block and hammer to correctly engage the joints.

9

Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

10

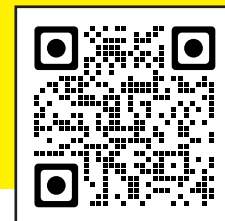
Herringbone floors tend to result in more cuts/waste due to the design.

Oake & Gray Water-Resistant Laminate Flooring



9 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting.

3

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature of 27°C.



4

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

5

Use Howdens Foam, XPS or 4 in 1 underlay (see page 6 for details).



6

Use spacers to create the 8mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes, and cabinet legs.

7

To ensure 12hr water resistance, ensure joints are fully engaged on both long and short edges.

8

For a fully water-resistant installation use SDH0089 & a low modulus silicone sealant around the perimeter of the room after fitting.

9

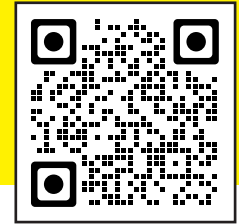
Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

Quick-Step Rigid Tile & Plank (2 sizes)



9 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting.

3

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature of 27°C.



4

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

5

No additional underlay should be used, as this will damage the joints of the flooring (see page 6 for details).



6

Use spacers to create the 8mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes, and cabinet legs.

7

Ensure each row is checked for straightness.

8

For a fully water-resistant installation use SDH0089 & a low modulus silicone sealant around the perimeter of the room after fitting.

9

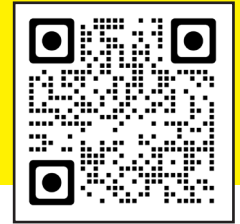
Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

Quick-Step Engineered Flooring



9 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting.

3

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature of 27°C.



4

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

5

Use Howdens Foam, XPS or 4 in 1 underlay (see page 6 for details).



6

Timber based sub-floors must be securely fixed before laying.

7

Use spacers to create the 12mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes, and cabinet legs.

8

Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

9

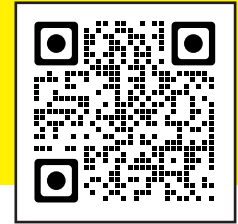
Install flooring from several packs at the same time, to give an even distribution of colour, grain and natural characteristics.

Quick-Step Hydro Engineered Flooring



9 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting. Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature of 27°C.



3

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

4

Use Howdens Foam, XPS or 4 in 1 underlay (see page 6 for details).



5

Use spacers to create the 10mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes, and cabinet legs.

6

To ensure water resistance, ensure joints are fully engaged on both long and short edges. **Note:** There are two methods for installing this flooring - please scan the QR code for instructions.

7

For a fully water-resistant installation use SDH0089 & a low modulus silicone sealant around the perimeter of the room after fitting.

8

Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

9

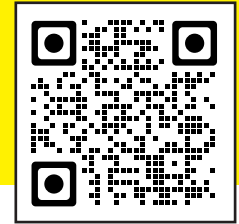
Install flooring from several packs at the same time, to give an even distribution of colour, grain and natural characteristics.

Quick-Step Hydro Laminate Flooring



9 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting.

3

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature of 27°C.



4

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

5

Use Howdens Foam, XPS or 4 in 1 underlay (see page 6 for details).



6

Use spacers to create the 10mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes, and cabinet legs.

7

To ensure water resistance, ensure joints are fully engaged on both long and short edges. **Note:** There are two methods for installing this flooring - please scan the QR code for instructions.

8

For a fully water-resistant installation use SDH0089 & a low modulus silicone sealant around the perimeter of the room after fitting.

9

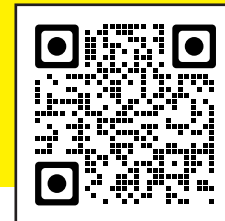
Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

Karndean Flooring



9 Key Installation Points

Use the key points below in conjunction with your installation inlay sheet to ensure your flooring is fitted correctly.



1

Sub-floor must be clean, flat, permanently dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm over 2m.

2

Flooring must be taken out of the packaging and allowed to acclimatise in the room 48hrs prior to fitting.

3

Underfloor heating (hot water or electrical) must not exceed a surface temperature of 27°C



4

Always use a DPM on concrete floors and any other mineral based sub-floor.

5

No additional underlay should be used, as this will damage the joints of the flooring (see page 6 for details).



6

Ensure each row is checked for straightness.

7

Engage the short joints with a roller or rubber mallet.

8

Use spacers to create the 5mm expansion gap around the edge of the room and all fixed objects including door frames, radiator pipes, and cabinet legs.

9

Do not install kitchen cabinets on top of the floor.

General Care & Maintenance



How do I look after my floor?

All flooring types

Care and regular maintenance/cleaning will ensure the flooring lasts for many years. Below are some helpful tips to maintain flooring.

1

Use a soft brush or vacuum cleaner to remove any surface dust. Do not use abrasive cleaners, steel wool or scouring pads, as they will damage the floor.

2

For regular cleaning use a cloth, ensuring it is well wrung. It is important not to apply excess moisture to the floor.

3

Always check the inlay before using steam mops/cleaners on your floor.

4

The use of felt pads under furniture to protect the floor is essential. Any single piece of furniture placed on the floor should not exceed 115kgs in weight.

5

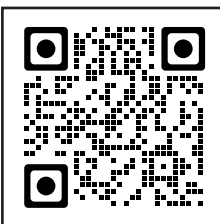
Door mats should be used inside and outside of all external doorways to prevent grit from being carried across the floor, to protect the surfaces from excessive wear and tear. Do not use rubber backed mats as these will permanently discolour vinyl floors.

6

Wipe up spills immediately.

7

Moveable furniture/chairs should be on soft castors or placed on a plastic mat.



Scan the QR code (left), for an electronic copy of the Howdens care and maintenance guide.

Common Installation Issues



What to watch out for?

All flooring types

The correct installation of flooring is essential to product performance. The main product issues that may arise after an installation are shown below, with details of specific questions that should be asked when dealing with a claim. When answered, these questions will enable some guarantee claims to be swiftly dealt with at Depot level, improving the service given to Howdens Joinery customers.

There are four main installation issues which are each directly related to the environment in which the flooring has been installed; Cupping, Splitting/Cracking, Bridging/Lifting & Creaking/Squeaking.

Cupping (affects Laminate, Real Wood)

The term cupping relates to the board becoming concave in appearance with the edges of the board becoming raised. This is not a result of a product defect but is caused by the environmental conditions where installed.

Cause: The issue occurs when the underside of the board absorbs moisture faster than the topside of the board.

Solution: It is essential to test the suitability of the environmental conditions prior to any installation of flooring. Suitable conditions of temperature and humidity during the product's life span are essential. In addition to this, a suitable moisture barrier should be used.

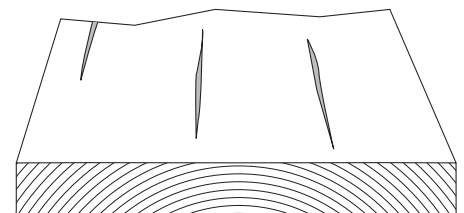


Splitting/Cracking (Real Wood)

Splitting or cracking can be a variety of small openings in the timber surface, where there is a separation of the wood within its structure.

Cause: Humidity levels and underfloor heating are often the causes of splitting. Exposed to heat, timber flooring can become excessively dry causing the splitting. In the same way, an increase in humidity will make the timber expand. As the humidity decreases it will shrink. Abnormal levels of this type of exposure will result in splitting.

Solution: Ambient humidity must be maintained throughout the year. To achieve this, humidity should be monitored. Domestic humidifiers can be used to correct humidity levels. Any remaining splits can be filled with flexible filler. Please refer to the filler instructions before use to ensure suitability.



Common Installation Issues



Bridging/Lifting (All flooring)

Either the whole floor or portions of the floor have become separated from the sub-floor to form a bridge. This is often accompanied by various degrees of cupping.

Cause: Bridging or lifting is most common when inadequate expansion gaps are left.

Expansion in timber products is caused by a rise in moisture, expansion in vinyl products is caused by a rise in temperature.

If horizontal movement of the flooring is obstructed, this results in the floor lifting, creating the bridging effect.

Solution: On solid, real wood or laminate floors, firstly find the source of the moisture problem if one exists. Once rectified, the flooring can be re-installed.

On vinyl floors, find all sources of heat including south facing windows, glazed doors, or skylights. Ensure that the temperature of the floor is managed by controlling the floor's exposure of heat and sunlight and is within its stated operating range.

In the case of floating floors where there has been an inadequate expansion provision (rather than a moisture or temperature issue), the problem can be solved by trimming the boards at each end to increase the expansion gap.



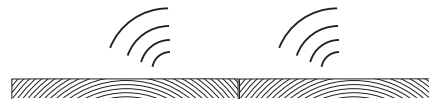
Creaking/Squeaking (Real Wood)

This issue is common in timber flooring and is often only in some areas of the laid flooring and not others.

Cause: Creaking or squeaking is caused when excessive vertical movement in the floor has occurred, leading to joints moving on each other. Some common reasons for this

are that joist battens are too far apart or the timber base (to which the floor has been laid) is too thin and flexible, the sub-floor is uneven or the floor has been laid on top of existing flooring.

Solution: Ensure the floor has not been laid on top of existing flooring. Widespread creaking may require the flooring to be replaced, with a new suitable sub-floor installed. Localised creaking can be solved by injecting adhesive between the floor and sub-floor. Additional secret nailing can also be used to remedy this issue.



Gapping of Joints (All flooring)

Gapping can occur for multiple reasons, dependent on the type of flooring used, some common causes can be identified by checking the following:

Cause: Has the sub-floor been suitably prepared and in line with the specification? Has the correct underlay been used?

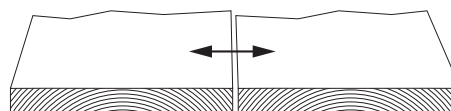
Was the correct installation method used? Are the joints free of debris?

Is there anything causing excessive and rapid expansion and contraction of the floor (Temp/Moisture)?

Are there any heavy items of furniture restricting the expansion or contraction of the floor?

Solution: Best practice would be to assess the floor and address any issues found with the installation. Uninstall the floor and check the affected planks for damage. Replace damaged planks and re-lay the floor following the instructions closely.

Sometimes it is not practical to uplift the floor, in these circumstances there is a quick fix but the trade off is that it will need monitoring for some time afterwards to see if the issue persists. Using a wooden block with double sided tape on one side, stick the block to the affected plank and use a mallet to move the plank and close the gap. A bead of glue may be used before closing the gap if necessary.



Notes



Notes



