



WOODPECKER
TRADE

CRAFT

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

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Disclaimer: Installation guidance is advisory and is based on established good practice and the BS-8201-2011 standard. It is the fitter's responsibility to follow these procedures before, during and after installation. Woodpecker cannot accept responsibility for any issues relating to installation.

PREPARATION

BEFORE DELIVERY

The conditions must be ideal before any flooring is fitted. Wet floor screed needs to be fully dried out as residual moisture trapped below the new Craft flooring may cause mould formation and related problems.

EXPERT TIP: A rule of thumb for the drying time of a sand and cement-based screed is one day per millimetre for the first 50mm, and 2.5 days for each millimetre thereafter. So, a 50mm screed should take about two months to dry out, and a 100mm screed will take six months. Plaster takes up to six weeks to dry completely.

PREPARING THE SUBFLOOR

The surface immediately beneath a Woodpecker natural wood floor must be in good structural condition, free from damp rot, fungal or insect infestation, and contaminating residues. It must be flat with uneven areas not exceeding 3mm over a 2m area. Naturally, the surface should be vacuumed and totally free of debris before fitting begins. Hot pipes should be well insulated to prevent localised hotspots, which can cause Craft flooring to distort.

Likewise, certain types of underfloor heating systems incorporate a soft layer. In this instance, a hard overlay board or similar needs to be used.

N.b. The subfloor should be prepared for installation in accordance with the industry standards outlined in BS-8201-2011.

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

The room temperature needs to be stable before Craft flooring is delivered to site. Heating and/or air conditioning systems should be on and working for at least two weeks before the floor is fitted. The temperature of the floor should never exceed 27°C.

ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS

The room temperature shouldn't be lower than 18°C, or the floor temperature lower than 15°C.

Note that Craft flooring is not suitable for wet rooms, or in areas where there is a regular flow of water.

ACCLIMATISATION

The sealed, unopened boxes should be laid flat in the centre of the room for 24 hours before installation. The conditions where the flooring is acclimatised should be as close as possible to the typical living conditions.

INSPECTION

At Woodpecker the highest quality control procedures are in place, however it's essential that every plank is carefully checked before installation. If there are any problems, get in touch with us so that we can rectify them. We are unable to consider any defects after the floor has been installed.

MOISTURE TESTING

Moisture can cause damage. Even when a subfloor looks dry, it may contain excess moisture in the substrate. Using a professional moisture meter such as the Protimeter MMS will tell you whether or not it's safe to go ahead with installation.

Readings shouldn't exceed:

- 70% Relative Humidity (RH) for cement-based concrete.
- 11% Wood Moisture Equivalent (WME) for wooden subfloors or joists.

EXPANSION GAPS

Craft is a very stable product, and no expansion gaps are required in stable living conditions between 15 - 25°C. Where temperatures are expected outside of this range, expansion gaps of 2-3mm are needed at all perimeters and fixed objects, with additional expansion gaps required for larger floors exceeding 20 metres and in doorways. Where the floor is subject to direct sunlight, this will need to be increased accordingly and shading should be considered.

SOME EXTRA TIPS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

LAYING THE FLOOR

All Woodpecker Stratex® floors feature beautiful colour variation to mimic natural real wood. To ensure the overall effect has a good balance of colour and details, take care to blend planks from several packs.

The natural texture effect of Woodpecker flooring will really come to the fore if the planks are laid in the same direction as the light entering the room. However, if the floor is being fitted over existing floor boards, it should be positioned at right angles to the previous flooring planks.

THE FIRST ROW

Before installation can begin a few calculations need to be made, and you might have to do some cutting before you can start laying. When you've chosen your starting wall, measure the width of the room from there and divide that by the width of the flooring panels. This will give you the number of rows of boards you'll lay and the width of the last row. If your last row is going to be under 60mm wide, cut the boards in your first row lengthwise accordingly so that your last row isn't too narrow.

FLOOR PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

Always protect the surface of the flooring during installation. Use paper or cardboard that will allow the floor to breathe and tape this to the boards. Never use plastic or polyethylene sheeting to cover the flooring as this will trap moisture and could cause damage.

DOOR JAMBS

If there is a wooden door jamb, we recommend undercutting it according to the thickness of the flooring. Install the flooring underneath the door jamb but leave the necessary expansion gaps.

TRIMS

When fitting trims, always fix them to the walls. Never fix them to the floor itself as this will prevent the natural expansion and contraction of the flooring into the expansion space.

INSTALLATION

FLOATING

Craft can be installed over concrete, anhydrite, existing wood floor chipboard, ceramic tiles, terrazzo, metal, PVC, slate, marble, particleboard, OSB and plywood – but not carpet. Old parquet block floors can also be problematic.

Craft has its own integral underlay. **Do not use additional underlay.**

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO INSTALL

1. Check all planks for possible damage or defects. The installer is responsible for imperfect boards once fitted.
2. Start installing along the longest wall or an outside wall which is likely to be straight and square with the room. Using one of the longest boards, install your first plank with the groove facing away from the wall. Take great care with the alignment as misaligned starter rows can cause side and end gaps.
3. Use the remainder of the last plank in the first row to start the second row. If the off-cut is less than 200mm in length, cut a longer piece for the first board in your second row. As you continue to install, make sure that all boards are staggered so there's no less than a 300mm gap between joins in adjacent rows. This makes for a more appealing floor and reduces waste.
4. Install the planks separately, connect the long side of the board then use a block and mallet to tap the header joint into the next plank.

NOTE: Use a tapping block if you need to tap the floor together, do not use a rubber mallet directly on the flooring as it can damage the surface and joints.

INSTALLATION VIDEO

Scan the QR code to watch the installation video.

