

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS AND SUBFLOOR PREPARATION GUIDE

Before starting the installation of flooring, carefully review the information contained in this guide. Incorrect installation may void the structural integrity warranty. Living Tree engineered floors are manufactured according to the highest quality standards. Each plank undergoes thorough multi-stage inspection. However, the final check immediately before installation is the responsibility of the installer and/or the owner. Ensure that the purchased product matches the color, pattern, selection, and construction. Before installing each plank, ensure it is free from defects. Do not install planks with defects (or use such planks only for cutting).

Room Readiness for Work

- All general construction and assembly work must be completed, including window and sill installation, air conditioning units, electrical wiring, and low-voltage systems (e.g., data and communication cables).
- Walls and ceilings must be fully prepared for finishing (painting, decorative plastering, or wallpapering).
- All water-related and dirty works must be completed.
- Wall moisture content must not exceed 3%, relative humidity should be between 45% and 55%, and air temperature should remain within +18°C to +22°C.
- Acclimatization of flooring should be done while keeping the planks in their original packaging. During summer, engineered floors should acclimatize for at least 48 hours. During winter (outdoor temperature below 10°C), acclimatization should last no less than 72 hours.

Subfloor Requirements

Parameter	Requirement
Flatness	Max. 2 mm deviation over 2 m
Slope	Max. 0.2% of room length
Strength	Min. 15 MPa
Moisture Content	Max. 3%

- Installation on the following surfaces is prohibited:
 - Self-leveling floors containing gypsum or other non-cementitious materials.
 - Cork underlay.
 - Floors with electric or infrared heating systems.
 - Subfloors with cracks or other defects.
- If subfloor irregularities exceed allowable levels, self-leveling compounds must be used. Self-leveling compounds must be cement-based with prior subfloor priming using specialized primer. It is recommended to invite a technician to verify the readiness of the room before starting work. The technical specialist will conduct measurements and prepare a report.

Check Before Installation

- Sort planks by color and grain pattern to account for natural variations in wood.
- Sort planks by length to minimize cut-offs.
- Determine the direction of installation (or refer to the floor plan).
- Stagger end joints of adjacent rows by at least 15 cm.
- For Chevron or Herringbone, begin by marking the layout on the subfloor according to the chosen design.
- Verify the room's squareness by measuring diagonals. If they are equal, the room is rectangular.
- Plan the installation direction and pattern alignment. Typically, the pattern follows the room's length or toward a focal point (main entrance, window, or fireplace).
- Pre-plan working lines, usually centered along the pattern ("centerline") and marked with chalk.
- Begin installation in the center of the room, securing the first plywood square to the subfloor in a diamond position, aligning the top and bottom points with the centerline.

Recommendations for Different Floor Types

- Engineered Plank (140 mm, 180 mm width): Can be installed directly on the subfloor using adhesive.
- Herringbone, Chevron: Installed on plywood.
- Planks with tongue-and-groove edges: Joined with splines. Splines are inserted tightly into corresponding grooves; gluing is optional but permitted.
- For rooms wider than 21 meters, expansion joints are recommended.
- Reserve several planks for potential repairs due to accidental damage.

Installation Methods

Choose the appropriate installation method and follow the instructions.

Installation of Engineered Floors on Screed (Without Plywood)

1. Apply primer with a roller in 1–2 layers (depending on substrate absorption). Refer to product instructions for drying time.
2. Prepare two-component polyurethane adhesive according to instructions.
3. Start installation from the far corner of the room, gradually moving toward the exit.
4. Apply adhesive to the screed using a notched trowel designed for parquet work.
5. Place individual planks onto the adhesive, pressing them firmly against the subfloor.
6. Immediately remove excess adhesive to prevent it from reaching the surface.
7. Assemble the first 2–3 rows, glue them, and allow sufficient time for adhesive polymerization before continuing with subsequent rows.
8. Ensure tight joints both transversely and longitudinally. Use tension straps for secure fixation. Install weights for additional stability.
9. Begin the next row with a plank that is at least 15 cm longer or shorter than the neighboring one.
10. Repeat the process for remaining planks. Trim the last row to leave an 8–15 mm gap from the wall, using shims if necessary.

11. Leave expansion gaps of 6–9 mm (depending on the thickness of the cork expansion strip) between the flooring and doorways, thresholds, columns, or other materials. Fill these gaps with cork expansion strips.
12. Walking on the floor and light use are permitted after 1–2 days. Full adhesive curing time depends on room temperature. Refer to product instructions for complete polymerization time.

Installation of Engineered Floors on Plywood

Plywood is a very important element of the “pie”. It helps to connect two different materials - concrete and parquet. For a firm guarantee, parquet with a thickness of 12-13.5 mm is fastened to plywood with a thickness of at least 12 mm.

1. Apply primer with a roller in 1–2 layers (depending on substrate absorption). Refer to product instructions for drying time.
2. Requirements for plywood: birch-faced, formaldehyde-free (FK grade), with a minimum grade of 3/4 and dimensions of 1.525x1.525 m. Cut the sheet into 36 pieces (250x250 mm) to relieve internal stress, considering the specifics of installation without additional fastening to anchors.
3. Lay plywood sheets on two-component adhesive with staggered joints and expansion gaps of approximately 5–8 mm. Install weights for better fixation. Leave 8–12 mm gaps between plywood and walls.
4. After plywood installation, sand it to eliminate unevenness.
5. Apply two-component adhesive thinly and evenly using a notched trowel for parquet work.
6. Lay parquet onto the adhesive, pressing it firmly against the base, and additionally secure it with screws at least 30 mm long (SPAX).
7. Immediately remove excess adhesive to prevent it from reaching the surface.
8. Leave an 8–15 mm gap between parquet and walls around the perimeter of the room. Use shims if necessary for additional compression.
9. Leave expansion gaps of 6–9 mm (depending on the thickness of the cork expansion strip) between the flooring and doorways, thresholds, columns, or other materials. Fill these gaps with cork expansion strips.
10. Walking on the floor and light use are permitted after 1–2 days. Full adhesive curing time depends on room temperature. Refer to product instructions for complete polymerization time.

Installation of Engineered Floors on Joists

1. Plywood is attached to joists. With a standard joist spacing of 400 mm, the first layer's thickness must be at least 12 mm.
2. Lay the first layer in whole sheets (1525x1525 mm), securing them to joists with screws. Leave a 5–8 mm gap between sheets and a 10–12 mm gap between plywood and walls.
3. The second plywood layer must have a thickness of at least 12 mm, with the sheet cut into four parts. Attach plywood to the first layer using screws and polyurethane adhesive. Leave a 5–8 mm gap between sheets and a 10–12 mm gap between plywood and walls.
4. After plywood installation, sand it to eliminate unevenness.
5. Apply two-component adhesive thinly and evenly using a notched trowel for parquet work.

6. Lay parquet onto the adhesive, pressing it firmly against the base, and additionally secure it with screws at least 30 mm long (SPAX).
7. Immediately remove excess adhesive to prevent it from reaching the surface.
8. Leave an 8–15 mm gap between parquet and walls around the perimeter of the room. Use shims if necessary for additional compression.
9. Leave expansion gaps of 6–9 mm (depending on the thickness of the cork expansion strip) between the flooring and doorways, thresholds, columns, or other materials. Fill these gaps with cork expansion strips.
10. Walking on the floor and light use are permitted after 1–2 days. Full adhesive curing time depends on room temperature. Refer to product instructions for complete polymerization time.

Final Stage

- Do not place heavy furniture or perform any work in the room for the next 3–7 days after the flooring installation.
- Clean the floor using a vacuum cleaner or mop with a cotton cloth attachment to remove dust.
- If further work is planned in the room, cover the floor with rags, followed by porous cardboard and chipboard.
- Do not attach covering materials to the installed flooring using glue, tape, or adhesive strips.
- The manufacturer is not liable for damage to the finished coating.
- It is essential to follow all care recommendations for flooring provided by the manufacturer.