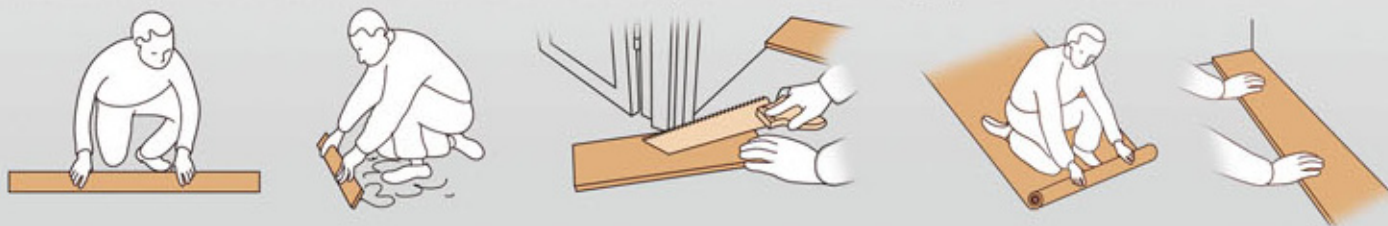


Installation

General installation instructions for 3-layer engineered wooden flooring

Before you start: the parquet can be laid free floating or glued on the subfloor. It should be laid on a clean, dry, level and firm surface. Concrete flooring, chipboard, old floorboards, plastic flooring and felt type wall to wall carpets are suitable surfaces. However the parquet should not be used as a self-supporting floor covering laid on joists. Before laying, ensure that the surface is dry. The parquet can be laid without damp proofing if the MC level of the concrete is under 3%. If the MC level of the concrete is higher than 3% and always in the case of any new building damp proofing has to be provided. Need to ensure that RH's between 40 and 60 %. Lightweight concrete flooring in rooms without basements and warm or damp rooms should be covered with damp proofing material consisting of 0.2mm plastic sheeting before the parquet is laid.

Check the surface of the sub-floor for unevenness using a rule or a piece of the parquet. The maximum tolerance for the unevenness of the surface should be 2mm over 700mm or 4mm over 2000mm. Concrete flooring should be levelled down with suitable fillers and sub-floors made of particleboard or wood should also be sanded down. Before sanding check the fastening of the old wooden flooring and nail down if necessary. A damp proofing material consisting of 0.2mm thick plastic sheeting is always recommended for concrete sub-floors. The film is laid with the edges overlapping by about 20cm and the seams sealed with adhesive tape. Place a 2mm underlay made of cork, corrugated cardboard or similar material between the sub-floor and the parquet to cover any unevenness and to absorb the noise. Remember to adjust the clearance between the door frame and the floor by about 14mm so that the parquet can be laid underneath.



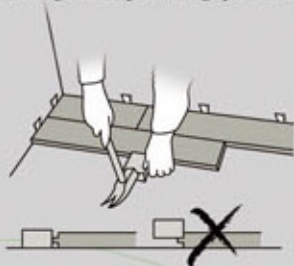
Tongue and groove



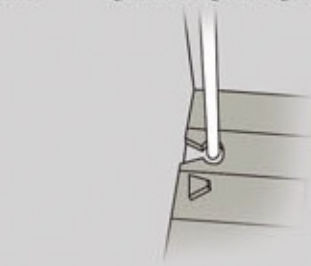
An expansion gap of at least 10mm must be provided between the edges of the parquet boards and the wall or other fixed structures, such as heating pipes or door frames. In very large rooms this gap is not sufficient and in such cases the necessary gap width is calculated by multiplying the maximum room width (in metres) by 1.5mm. Use wooden wedges for maintaining the expansion gaps during installation.

We recommend that the parquet boards are laid parallel to the direction of the main light source. If the parquet is to be laid on top of old wooden flooring, the boards should be laid perpendicular to the direction of the old flooring. We recommend that the first board be laid against the wall with the grooved edge facing the wall.

If the wall you start laying against is not straight, you will need to fit the boards to the shape of the wall by laying the first row against a string. Begin each new row with an offset left over from the previous row. The distance between the end-joints of adjoining boards must be at least 50cm.



Tap the individual boards into the groove using a protective wood block of 30 - 40 cm in length between the hammer and the tongue edge.



For pipe lead-throughs, drill holes with a diameter about 20 mm larger than of the pipe. Saw out a piece as shown in the diagram. Insert the sawn out piece after the parquet floor has been laid.



Saw the last row of parquet into its correct width taking into account the expansion gap required. Use a specialized tool-knock in for the last board.

After the installation, cover the expansion gap with skirting and fasten by nailing or with dowels. The skirting should not rest too tightly on the parquet otherwise it will prevent free movement of the flooring. Cover pipe lead-throughs with fittings.

Cover the joints between the parquet and other floor materials, eg in adjoining rooms with thresholds and trims. Remember to leave an expansion gap under the trims.

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Install next board as shown in the picture.



Cut the last board of the row to size and install it in place. Use the cut piece of the previous row to start the next row, min. length 30 cm.



Press the first board of the next row at an angle against the board in the previous row and lay it flat. Check, that the groove of the board of the previous row is free from grit and dirt. In case a gap remains between the boards, tap with your hand on the board joint.



Place an installation wedge underneath the end of the installed board.



Install first at an angle the short end of the board into place and after that the long edge of the board.



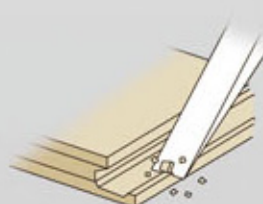
Remove the wedge and tap with the side of the wedge the board in its place.



After three rows have been installed, the distance between the wood-flooring and the walls (min. 10 mm) can be adjusted by using wedges.



In case the wall is not straight, the shape of the wall can be drawn on the boards of the first row. Lift the boards of the first row up and cut them to match the wall. Reinstall the boards from left to right.



In case the last row of boards is to be installed underneath a door frame, cut away the locking edge, apply glue on the groove and install the board.



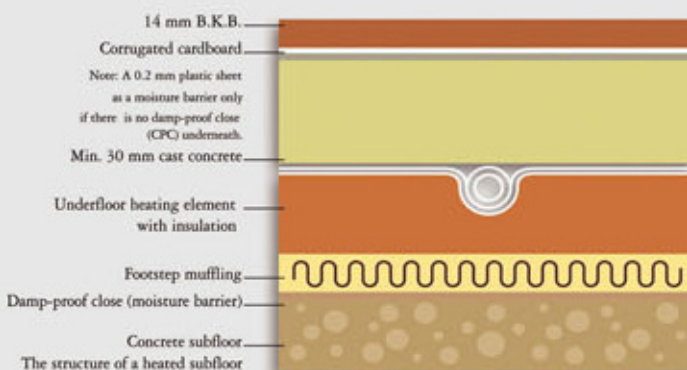
Drill a hole into the flooring for the pipe and saw out the piece. When the board is in position, glue the sawn out section back into place and cover with pipe ferrules. Remove the wedges and fasten the skirting boards, without pushing them too tightly against the floor.

Important Note :

Newly installed floors may occasionally squeak and this will disappear over time. This is not a manufacturing defect and is therefore not covered under BKB Limited Warranties.

Underfloor heating

Two weeks before installing B.K.B. flooring, the underfloor should be heated to half the capacity of the heating system. At the same time, the rooms should be properly aired and ventilated. The heat is then increased gradually for about one week. Seven days before installation the underfloor heating should be gradually reduced and completely shut down 1 – 2 days prior to the installation. The underfloor heating should be turned off during installation. After installation the underfloor heating can be turned on again. The heat should be gradually increased by 5-8°C per day over a period of 3 – 4 days. The surface temperature of a hardwood strip floor must not exceed 28°C. A moisture barrier must always be used with the underfloor heating. Cork-grained felt is not recommended for a heated subfloor as a footstep muffler.



* BKB does not recommend the following wood species for underfloor heating : Wenge, Jatoba, Kempas, Maple, Beech and Ash.