

## Tips and recommendations for the laying

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### A) General information about treating solid wood floorboards

The solid wood floorboards have to be kept in a dry area that is protected against humidity. Open the packages only shortly before the laying. The flooring systems made of wood should only be installed at the end of all building, plastering and tiling work. The climate of the room during and after the laying should provide a temperature of 18-20°C and a relative atmospheric humidity of 50-60%. A healthy room climate is as important for the wood floor as it is for the human well-being. The right climate should therefore be maintained throughout the year by means of humidifiers, because specially in winter the relative atmospheric humidity in heated rooms can drop below 45%. Before the laying, the solid wood floorboards have to be examined.

Possible complaints have to be communicated to the supplier before laying. Wood is a natural product and thus reveals natural differences in colours, structures and qualities. Wood is a living material and it swells when absorbing humidity and shrinks when the humidity declines. Mortises, different colours, different structures and knots are typical for this product and do not present reasons for complaint. Referring to the norm EN 13990 for soft wood, referring to the norm EN 13629 for hard wood – the indicated grading is classification-free.

### B) General recommendations for the laying

Before the laying, the surface has to be examined for compatibility with the demands of the respective kind of laying (levelness, solidity of the surface, lack of cracks, cleanliness, dryness). Always start the laying with the groove side near the wall and always keep a distance of a minimum of 15 mm to the rising fixed vertical parts with the help of inserted wedges, which allow the wood to move. In case the wall is not exactly straight, mark the line on the boards and cut the board respectively along its length.

Please check whether the boards lie at a right angle. The additional boards are then laid in direct continuation of the first row. The solid wood floorboards can be laid in an endless laying system, which means that the cut off of the previous row can be used as the first piece for the next row. There should be a distance of at least 30 cm between the abutments of the boards lying side by side. This method of laying reduces the wasted wood to a minimum. The last row of boards has to be adjusted with sufficient space for an expansion joint. The expansion joints in the area of doors or of elevations, such as stairs or steps, shall be covered with the respective transitory rails or finishing rails which are available in our accessory program. When removing the wedges, guide bars are installed in order to hide the expansion joints. However, these guide bars have to be fixed to the wall and not to the floor.

### **With floor-heating systems:**

The solid wood floorboards up to a width of 167 mm are suitable for a warm-water low temperature floor heating system if they are glued onto the whole surface. In this case, the guidelines and provisions of the respective norms (ÖNORM B2218, DIN 18356, DIN 18560) have to be respected. The maximum humidity allowed for concrete floors: for cement floors 1,5%CM; for anhydrite and calcium sulphate floors 0,3%CM. The log of the heating has to be presented. The temperature of the surface of the wooden floor must not exceed the maximum of 26°C. The wood species beech and maple cannot be recommended for floor-heating systems due to their tendency to expand and shrink. In general, when using wood floorboards on heated concrete floors one has to accept a more striking pattern of the joints as well as a light deformation of the board elements. Tongue and groove must not be glued along the length of the boards because this would cause splinters when the wood shrinks during the heating season. The relative atmospheric humidity should be at least 50% even during the heating season. Special devices which regulate the relative atmospheric humidity in rooms are available in accessory shops and help prevent an excessively dry climate in your home.

## **C) Methods of installation**

### **1) Screwing / Nailing**

Recommended for the following dimensions: 20 x 137mm / 20 x 167mm / 20 x 207mm / 24 x 137mm

Unpack as many boards as possible before the laying. Arrange the boards in a harmonious pattern. The solid wood floorboards have to be laid on dry floor joists/floor timbers (at a distance of 35-45 cm) or directly on the sub-floor. Please note that all surface types have to be dry (max. humidity: 12%). If necessary, a condensation barrier can be installed to prevent a possible loss of humidity: pull the foil on the wall to a height of ca. 10 cm and after fixing the guide bar to the wall, cut the foil flush with a sharp knife. In the floor area this foil has to be laid so that each foil overlaps the next by 20 cm. In order to avoid additional noise one can lay a layer of cork (2mm) between the floor boards and the sub-floor. Arrange the first row of the boards along the wall with the help of wood wedges and screw them tight. The tongue has to show in the direction of the laying. The boards are fitted together using a block and hammer and are then screwed or nailed at an angle of 45 degrees through the tongue side. Recommended screw dimension: 3.5x50 mm or 3.5x60 mm! The nails or screws have to be set in such a way that the tongue will not be squeezed. According to the type of wood, it is recommended to pre-drill with an adequate drill (hardwood!) and a countersunk drill. The abutting joints of the boards should be at a distance of at least 20 cm. Use the left over pieces of wood from the row just laid for the beginning of the next row. Conclusion: The last board has to be adapted and screwed in an exact way. Only in this row, the tongue and the groove should be glued along the length of the board. The distance to the wall has to be at least 15 mm. Now the guide bars can be fixed to the wall. You can walk on the floor immediately during and after the laying. In case of pre-sanded boards you can start the treatment of the surface immediately. Please note the respective care instructions.

## 2) Clip method

Recommended for the following dimension: 20 x 137mm

The spring clip method of laying solid wood flooring is an alternative to conventional installation, and is favoured for use in renovating floors, when it is important to keep installation height as low as possible. The area to be covered should not exceed 6m in width. We always recommend laying a damp-proof membrane to block rising moisture. Spread the sheet so that it reaches about 10cm up the wall, and then cut away the excess after the skirting board has been fitted. On the floor area the sheets must overlap by about 20cm. Some form of impact insulation is essential, for example cork, felt or insulation boards, or similar. It is important to ensure that the rows about each other snugly and that there are no overlaps at all. Before you start to fit the flooring, unpack as many of the boards as possible. Arrange them into a neat pattern. Make sure that the underlay offers enough resistance to the metal clip so that it can press firmly into the groove on the underside of the board. Press the clips into each other, and make them into chains 70 cm apart. The fixing point of the clip must face in the direction the flooring is going to be laid (the next clip has to be pushed into the curved part from below). The clips on the first boards along the wall will have to be cut in half. Make sure you lay the first boards with their grooves on the side ready to receive the tongue of the next line of boards. Press the first clips into the correct groove on the bottomside of the boards so that they are firmly anchored (about 25 mm in from the tongue - make sure you use the correct groove, the two in the middle are not designed as part of this system!!!) and lay the boards straight. Maintain an expansion gap of at least 15mm between the boards and any ... vertical surfaces. Lay the next boards tongue-in-groove, firmly banging them down so the clips snap into the groove on the underside of the boards. Do this carefully, using a hammer and a tamping block. Apply a little glue to the adjoining top and bottom ends of the boards to prevent any movement of the boards after fitting. On no account should glue be applied to the lengthways edges of the boards. Continue to fit the boards continuously. The joints should be staggered by at least 20cm (Flemish bond). Use the cut-off end of the previous row as the first piece of the next. Finishing: the last board must be cut to fit and glued along its full length. In this row the tongue and groove joints should also be glued as well. Remember to leave an expansion gap of 15mm from the wall. Mouldings can now be fitted along the edges to cover the expansion gaps. The floor can be walked on both during installation and immediately afterwards. In the case of pre-sanded solid wood floorboards a surface treatment should be applied directly afterwards. Follow instructions for care and maintenance.

## 3) Gluing the whole surface

Recommended for the following dimensions: 15 x 139mm / 20 x 137mm / 20 x 167mm / 24 x 137mm

The solid wood flooring systems can be glued on every professionally prepared surface (cement, anhydrite, poured asphalt, laying chipboards, OSB and dry concrete floor) with the corresponding glue systems (e.g. SikaBond T54). Glue the flooring system at room temperature of 15°C-35°C and a relative atmospheric humidity of 40-75%. The permitted humidity of the sub-floor may not surpass 1.5% CM for cement floors, 0.3% CM for anhydrite floors, and 12% CM for magnesia floors. Unpack as many boards as possible before the laying. Arrange the boards in a harmonious pattern. A distance of at least 15 mm has to be kept to the walls or to other construction elements. The glue is applied with a special spatula over the surface. Apply only as much glue to the surface as you have time to lay boards. This open time is approximately 1 hour. An excess of glue or inadvertently protruding glue on the surface has to be removed immediately (while still fresh) without leaving any traces. The abutting joints of the boards should be at a distance of at least 20 cm. Use the left over pieces of

wood from the row just laid for the beginning of the next row. To obtain a perfect result of the laying, a weight should be applied and a tightening belt should be stretched on the boards for several hours. Conclusion: The last row has to be pressed carefully and weight has to be applied for several hours in order to obtain a perfect glue effect. For detailed specifications regarding the sub-floor specifications please see the information brochure of the glue producers. The distance to the wall has to be at least 15 mm. Now the guide bars can be fixed to the wall. You can walk on the floor immediately after the glue has dried. In case of pre-sanded boards you can start the treatment of the surface immediately. Please note the respective care instructions.

## **D) General information about the oiled surfaces of wooden floorings**

Wood is a living material! Oiled wood is an improvement of your room climate. In periods of high atmospheric humidity, this humidity is stored in the wood. Thus, the room climate and the atmospheric humidity are well balanced and pleasant for us. However, the oiled wooden surface is also very robust and dirt-resistant. Rugs that collect dirt in the entranceway help avoid the penetration of dirt and water into the floor and wear on the surface. For coloured floor boards this measure is especially important for preventing the appearance of footprints. Chairs and tables should be fitted with anti-skidding material (felt or Teflon) to prevent scratches on the surface.

**How to oil the floor in the right way:** Apply a thin layer of the oil to a cotton cloth and then rub it well into the wood. Carefully wipe away the oil which has not been absorbed by the floor after approximately 30 minutes.

**ATTENTION:** The cloths soaked with oil have to be washed with soap and dried in a well-ventilated area. Danger of spontaneous combustion.

**Care instructions:** For normal cleaning use a mop, a broom or a powerful vacuum cleaner to prevent the build-up of dirt in the joints. A dirty floor can also be cleaned with a well wrung, damp cotton cloth. Wipe the floor immediately afterwards with a dry flannel cloth so that the water cannot penetrate into the joints. Never use micro-fibre cloths as they might cause a sanding effect!

**Wet cleaning with vegetable oil soap:** Dilute the vegetable oil soap in water in the relation which is recommended by the producer. Then wipe the dirty floor with a wet cloth. Afterwards wipe the floor with clean water and a well-wrung cloth (two-bucket system).

**Recommendation:** In case of serious dirt, stains etc. you can clean the surface with pure vegetable oil soap. Afterwards wipe the spot with clean water and let it dry well. If necessary do the aftercare with vegetable maintenance wax oil or parquet oil.

**Nicks, scratches, dents:** Sand the damaged spot with a sandpaper of grain n.150/180 or a sand fleece. Then drop some water directly on the nick and steam it with a hot iron and a wet cloth. Repeat this procedure several times. The wood swells and the nick will be reduced or closed. Allow the surface to dry for at least 24 hours and then sand it once again with sandpaper of grain nr.180/240 and afterwards oil the spot.

## E) Quality guarantee for solid wood floorboards

### Duration and coverage of the guarantee

The Weiss GmbH guarantees the functionality of the wood flooring system for a period of 25 years, as of the purchase date, assuming that the guarantee conditions have been respected and that the solid wood floorboards have been used exclusively in standard private living spaces and kept constantly under the requested climate conditions. This guarantee does not cover damp locations or other excluded types of rooms. Furthermore, this guarantee also excludes purely optic effects such as differences in colour, natural darkening, joints, impressions, knots, fillings, and deformations due to changes of the climate and the wear of the treated surface. The natural deformation of single floorboards is not covered by this guarantee. All damages due to an improper use, to the effects of humidity, to accidents, to non-suitable room climate, or to a force majeure are also excluded.

The same prevails for all kinds of uncommon events. The guarantee extinguishes as soon as the solid wood floorboards are renovated.

**Installation:** This guarantee only applies if all instructions concerning the laying of the solid wood floorboards have been obeyed. The solid wood flooring system has to have been laid according to the laying instructions published by Weiss. The sub-floor and the sub-construction have to be suitable according to the specific rules for the laying of floorboards. In order to be able to guarantee such a suitability, it is indispensable that said suitability is checked and judged by a qualified specialist. The instructions according to the humidity of the underground (concrete floor), to the conditions of the climate, and to the preparations before the laying have to have been noted in a separate way. The laying instructions as well as the guide lines can be found in a leaflet inserted in the floorboard packaging. Treatments, care and maintenance. This guarantee is only valid if the solid wood flooring system has been cleaned, cured and maintained according to the care instructions by Weiss.

**Wear due to utilisation:** The surface layer of the solid wood floorboards is a layer, which is subjected to wear and in time gets a naturally used look. This wear due to utilisation is not covered by our guarantee.

**Complaints:** This guarantee is only valid if the damage was communicated in written form to your Weiss dealer immediately after its appearance. The original proof of purchase has to be shown for any guarantee claims.

**Guarantees:** In the case of justified complaints, the damage will be repaired by Weiss or your Weiss dealer will be sent an equivalent substitute material from the current sales programmer as a compensation for damaged parts. If there is no homologous substitute material available, Weiss will deliver another similar compensation material. All further claims to Weiss, including the compensation for costs of dismantling, costs of laying or other consecutive costs are also excluded from claims for compensation of damages – as are any damages which do not appear in the delivered good itself. Any use of a guarantee performance does not prolong the duration of the guarantee.