Australian Select Timbers®

Opulence

NATIVE COLLECTION

Installation Instructions

www.asttimbers.com.au

Opulence Native Collection Installation Requirements

Floated

Floated Floor Method: Yes

Raft Size: 12m (l) x 8m (w)

Underlay Required: Yes

Adhesive: Crosslinking PVA

Expansion Gap Floated: 10-12mm

Expansion Gap Floated (High Humidity Regions): 15-20mm

Direct Stick

Direct Stick Method: Yes

Raft Size: 12m (l) x 8m (w)

Underlay Required: No

Moisture Barrier / Adhesive: 2-Part Moisture Barrier and Direct Stick Adhesive

Expansion Gap Direct Stick to Subfloor: 5mm

Expansion Gap Dual Bond on Underlay: 10-12mm

Wastage: 5-10%

Hydronic Heated Slab: No

Nailed / Screwed to subfloor: No

Products Tested by the Manufacturer for use during installation

Floated

Roberts Crosslinking PVA

SelectUnderlay

SelectGuard

Direct Stick

Mapeproof 1k Turbo Moisture Barrier

Mapei Ultra Bond S955 1k Adhesive

SelectGuard

Lipping Tolerance

The Opulence Native Collection has a square edge finish. The lipping tolerance (height difference between the boards) for our Opulence Native Collection range is 0.5mm, any height difference between the boards under 0.5mm is considered as standard, not a defect. This will not form the basis of any warranty claim.

Please always visit our website www.asttimbers.com.au or for the most up-to date version of our installation instructions, warranty, technical data sheet and care & maintenance as it may have been revised and updated.

Engineered Timber Flooring Installation Instructions

General information

It is understood that;

IMPORTANT:

- **It is the owner's/installer's responsibility to read and be aware of the entire installation instructions before proceeding with the installation.**

- The installer assumes all responsibility for the final inspection of product quality. An inspection of each board should be carried out prior to installation. Carefully examine the flooring for colour, finish, and quality before installing. Use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with glaring defects, whatever the cause. All such inspections should be conducted in finished lighting conditions, particularly in areas that will be exposed to sources of natural light. Planks showing visible manufacturing defects should never be installed. If the flooring is not acceptable, contact your retailer before proceeding further with the installation. If deemed defective by the manufacturer, these boards will be replaced prior to the installation.
- Once installed, all boards are deemed to be accepted. Claims resulting from the installation of such planks will not be honoured.
- It's at the installer's discretion to remove or cut off pieces with deficiencies. The use of stain, filler, or putty stick for the correction of defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- Please note that engineered timber must be installed in a regulated environment to prevent possible damage not covered by warranty. A 'regulated environment' is one with a relative humidity of 45 - 60% and a consistent temperature range. As such, engineered timber should not be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home. The floor is designed to perform in an environmentally controlled structure.
- In almost all flooring installations, a moisture barrier will be required. The form of Moisture Barrier Membrane you should use will be dependent on the subfloor and the installation method used.
- Warranty exclusions include, but are not limited to:
  - surface checking
  - Lipping <0.5mm
  - cupping or convexing (doming) of boards
  - the presence of mildew/moisture
  - discolouration from extreme subfloor moisture and/or exposure to direct sunlight
  - poor cleaning/maintenance regimes
- Please contact your retailer and adhesive manufacturer immediately if you have any questions regarding these guidelines.

Acclimatisation & site inspection

- Before beginning installation, the installer must determine that the environment of the job site and conditions, and the type of subfloor involved are acceptable. Thus, ensuring that it meets or exceeds all requirements stipulated in the installation instructions that follow. The manufacturer declines any responsibility or job failures resulting from, or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloor or job site environmental deficiencies.
- Engineered timber flooring can be installed below, equal to, or above ground level.
- All sources of moisture must be rectified prior to the installation of the floor. In addition, all moisture levels in the rooms fitted with engineered timber flooring should also be maintained at a stable level, in line with normal living conditions.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for any additional compound or material you use.
- In addition to this set of instructions, we suggest installers refer to the ATFA (Australasian Timber Flooring Association) Engineered Flooring industry standards technical publication (Version 1 – Feb 2012), for moisture content & humidity guidelines prior to installing the timber floors.
- **DO NOT INSTALL** in bathrooms, laundries, toilets, saunas, or areas subject to regular moisture or water.
- Window coverings should be used to protect the floor from direct sunlight, which would otherwise cause discolouration and/or damage to the boards.
- In a new construction building, engineered timber flooring should be one of the last items installed. All work involving water or moisture (plumbing, acoustic ceilings, wall lining, etc.) should be completed prior to flooring being installed. Heating and cooling systems should be fully operating, maintaining a comfortable room temperature.
- Flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in and cement work, plastering, painting, and other materials are completely dried. Concrete and plaster should be cured and at least 60 days old. Check basements and underfloor crawl spaces to be sure they are dry and well ventilated to avoid potential damage caused by moisture.
- Always handle with care. **DO NOT STAND** packs on their ends.
- **DO NOT STORE** directly on concrete or near outside walls. Cartons should be placed in the installation area and remain unopened until commencement of installation.
- The boards should always be stored in the room in which they are to be fitted, to acclimatise for 48 hours on site in a protected area and should be carefully stacked in their packaging to allow air to circulate. **DO NOT OPEN CARTON UNTIL COMMENCEMENT OFINSTALLATION**. Store packaging flat, unopened, up to 5 boxes high with 300mm gap between piles.
- Extremes in humidity levels in the home must be prevented all year round. Engineered timber is a living product that reacts to humidity level variations. During summer, when the humidity level is usually at its highest point, the engineered timber is expected to expand as it absorbs moisture from the air. These variations must be controlled with the use of a dehumidifier. As for winter, when the heating system is working, the humidity level is lower. It is then recommended to use a humidifier to minimise the extreme effects of shrinkage.

Installation tools, accessories & materials

- Safety glasses
- Dust mask
- Measuring tape and square
- PVA crosslinking glue
- Sharp 'Stanley' type knife
- Pencil
- Pull bar
- Hammer
- Tapping block
- 'V' Notched trowels
  (For **DIRECT STICK INSTALLATIONS ONLY**)
- 'Table type' power saw with dust collector or a circular saw with carbide-tipped blade, or a power jigsaw, multi-tool, drop saw, and undercut saw
- Small hand tools associated with woodworking
- Expansion wedges (Suitable sized spacer blocks of plastic or wood)
- Suitable adhesive, moisture barrier, and residue remover
- Suitable underlay
- Trims
- Scotia
- Stair Nosing
- Suitable floor protection

Engineered Timber Flooring Installation Instructions for Floating Floor Method

IMPORTANT: Colour variation occurs with all-natural timbers; it is expected that some tone and grain variation of engineered timber flooring will be present.

Engage a professional floor layer to install these floors.

Proceed with a visual inspection of the boards before installation. Once installed, the boards are considered accepted by the installer and the homeowner.

The use of silicone or caulking compound is NOT ALLOWED around the perimeter for this installation method. This will void the manufacturer's warranty as it will leave the floorboards inadequate space to expand and contract.

Floating floors are designed to move unrestricted, and as such are not allowed to touch the perimeter, and cannot be glued, nailed or tacked to the subfloor in any way. Restricting movement of the flooring will void its warranty, this includes downward pressure caused by skirting boards and scotia, etc.

Step and brick stagger patterns are not permitted and will void the warranty. The boards must be randomly staggered.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for any additional compound or material you use.

DO NOT USE duct tape and/or any other industry tape during installation. The use of low-tack masking tape is acceptable on the surface of the floorboards for a maximum of 72 hours.

Avoid using solvents of any kind to clean the floor. Solvents include (but are not limited to) methylated spirits, turpentine, bleach, ammonia, eucalyptus, citrus, vinegar and any non-pH neutral cleaners. These solvents may damage the surface, which is not covered under warranty.

Method

Engineered timber flooring can be installed as a floating floor method. That is, the floorboards are joined together as a panel (raft) via a Tongue and Groove joining system to each other and floated over suitable underlay.

A successful installation will rely heavily on adherence to these instructions. The two most common causes of failure are uneven subfloors and inadequate expansion to the perimeter of the floor.

An uneven subfloor and inadequate expansion will lead to the movement of the flooring underfoot and within the joining system. This can result in excessive noise, which often sounds like 'cracking' or 'creaking'.

When installing engineered timber as a 'floating' floor, you must leave an expansion gap around the perimeter of the room (Please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover). The floorboards must not be glued, tacked, nailed, or fixed to the subfloor in any way.

Installations greater than the stipulated raft size (Please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover) will require compartmentalisation with the use of a moulding to provide proper expansion space.

DO NOT INSTALL any cabinets or kitchen islands on top of floating floors. An expansion gap must be maintained when meeting cabinetry (please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover). This also applies to any obstructions and fixed items (columns, pipes, etc.) in the installation. Door jambs must be undercut to allow for expansion; do not force the floorboards under tight door jambs.

Preparation - Subfloors:

IMPORTANT:

- Subfloors must be checked prior to installation.
- Should the moisture content of the concrete slab be above 4.8%, flooring should not be installed.

Before installing the flooring, you must clean, sweep, or vacuum the subfloor so that it is free of dirt and debris. Verify the moisture content of the subfloor using a moisture meter or another approved method.

It is essential that the moisture content of any subfloor complies with the relevant standard. For Australian conditions, the recommended standard is a maximum of 4.8% for concrete/screed subfloors and 14% for wood subfloors. All potential sources of moisture (e.g. walls, drains, damp proof courses, plumbing, fridges, washing machines, etc.) must be thoroughly checked and rectified if found to be an issue. The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the installer.

Wooden and wood-based materials (plywood, OSB, particle board) must be dry, with a moisture reading no greater than 14% (this should be checked with a moisture meter). All wooden subfloors must be greater than 19mm thickness. Ensure that the boards of the subfloor are properly fastened to the supporting beams and that you do not have any squeaking or depressed areas.
Fill depressed areas if needed with floor levelling compound. Raised areas must be sanded down.

Please ensure the subfloor or surface that the flooring is being installed over is flat. Deviations in any subfloor must not exceed

3mm under a 1 lineal metre straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using a good quality cementitious levelling compound.

Engineered timber flooring **CANNOT** be installed over any existing flooring that has an attached cushion or is a floating floor, such as carpet or carpet underlay but can be installed over well-bonded vinyl or ceramic tiles if the surface is flat.

The subfloor must be smooth, flat, structurally sound, and free of deflection.

If the concrete subfloor moisture level is between 4.4-4.8% as measured by an approved moisture meter that complies with the current Australian ATFA codes, you must first install a 200um minimum plastic moisture-proof membrane or sheeting.

Where the membrane edges meet, they must overlap by 300mm, and the joins must be sealed using a waterproof tape. The membrane must be extended up along all walls and vertical fixtures and then trimmed to the suitable height based on the skirting and/or beading that will be put in place.

Floor installation

Please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover.

Getting started:

Check the floorboards before you start to make sure that they are not in any way damaged or have quality defects. After cleaning the subfloor, roll out a suitable underlay. The underlay must be applied with a minimum 100mm overlap and sealed with waterproof tape.

All walls and vertical fixtures must have the underlay turned up and then trimmed back to the appropriate level depending on skirting and/or beading to be installed.

During installation, installers should open a few cartons at a time to ensure natural colour variations between boards are blended throughout the installation.

The boards should be fitted lengthways towards the main incoming light source and, where possible, down the length of the room. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel where possible.

Installing the first three rows:

Select a starting wall that is long and visible, the first three rows will be installed parallel to this wall. Run the first row of plastic if required. If not required, proceed to roll out the first row of underlay. Lay the first row of boards (groove/female side to the wall) to assess the straightness of the starting wall. If the starting wall is undulating or uneven, square this row off to the other side of the room using a tape measure and scribe the first row of boards to cater for the undulations while accommodating a uniform expansion gap.

Engineered timber may grow by over 2mm per lineal metre in the width, so ensure you leave enough expansion gap (minimum requirement is 10-12mm) to allow for such expansion. The wider the floor, the bigger the gap that may be required.

Now, lay the first row directly against the wall. Apply the **PVA CROSSLINKING** glue as a continuous bead into the entire length of the floorboard groove. Then gently tap it into the next board (we will space off the first three rows later).

Cut the end board and leave the correct gap that is required: 10-12mm is a rule of thumb. Fit a suitable sized spacer at the start of the row to set the gap required.

Always apply PVA CROSSLINKING glue to the entire floorboard groove, including the end join.

The offcut from the last board in the first row now starts your second row. (Note: Always ensure that the end joints are randomly staggered at least 450mm.) Step and brick stagger patterns are not permitted, the boards must be randomly staggered.

To install the first board of the second row, apply the **PVA CROSSLINKING** glue as a continuous bead into the entire length of the floorboard including the end join, and then gently tap it in. Continue installing the floor left to right using the offcut from row 2 to begin row 3. We can now slide these three rows off the starting wall and install the suitable sized spacers against the starting wall.

Continuing installation:

Lay row 4 and the rest of floor by repeating the above instructions, make sure to stagger the end joints by greater than 450mm. Any small gaps present can be filled using a non-silicon-based filler.

If using floor protection, you must clean, sweep, or vacuum the installed floor so it is free of dirt and debris. This limits the potential surface damages that may occur on-site.

Finishing:

Where skirting boards have been left in place, it is now time to fit colour-matched scotia mouldings to the perimeter of the floor. This covers the expansion gap after removing the expansion wedges.

During the installation of scotia, skirting boards, trims, and door jambs, ensure no downward pressure is applied to the boards. It is recommended that a minimum 1mm gap allowance is given where the accessories meet the boards.

Scotia is to be pinned to the skirting only so it does not inhibit the free movement of the floor. If skirting boards have been removed or are yet to be fitted, they will usually cover the expansion gap well. It is often the case where professional installers will also undercut the plasterboard to afford an additional 12-15mm or so expansion to the perimeter of a floor. This is often recommended in areas of higher humidity where the flooring will expand more.

Install any end, connector, or adaptor profiles that have not been fitted during the installation process. These trims must hold the floor in place to provide full and free expansion of the flooring under or inside the trim profile.

Proper installation of finishing pieces (i.e. skirting boards, scotia, etc.) is crucial as they provide stability to the perimeter of the flooring. Failure to install them results in an unstable edge due to the absence of full-length boards.

At doorways or where boards meet tiles or carpet, transition moulding should be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one-floor type to another.

Engineered Timber Flooring Installation Instructions for Direct Stick/Glue Down

IMPORTANT: Colour variation occurs with all-natural timbers; it is expected that some tone and grain variations of engineered timber flooring will be present.

Engage a professional floor layer to install these floors.

Proceed with a visual inspection of the boards before installation. Once installed, the boards are considered accepted by the installer and the homeowner.

During installation, remove any remaining adhesive residue on the floorboards surface IMMEDIATELY by using appropriate adhesive manufacturer's approved wipes.

Allow 12-24 hours for adhesive or compounds to cure. We recommend using suitable floor protection to cover the installed floor.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for any additional compound or material you use.

DO NOT USE duct tape and/or any other industry's tapes during installation. The use of low tack masking tape is acceptable on the surface of the floorboards for a maximum of 72 hours.

Avoid using solvents of any kind to clean the floor. Solvents include (but are not limited to) methylated spirits, turpentine, bleach, ammonia, eucalyptus, citrus, vinegar and any non-pH neutral cleaners. These solvents may damage the surface, which is not covered under warranty.

Method

IMPORTANT:

- Subfloors must be checked prior to installation.
- Please do not use the direct stick method on any unstable/unsuitable concrete slabs.
- The direct stick method CANNOT be used on Hebel slabs.
- Should the moisture content of the concrete slab be above 4.8%, flooring should not be installed.

Engineered timber flooring can be installed as direct stick/glue down method. That is, the floorboards are directly adhered on to the concrete/wood-based subfloor via glue, which is trowelled onto the subfloor surface.

The boards can also be installed via dual bond using a suitable underlay. Dual bond is where a suitable underlay is directly adhered to the subfloor, and the boards are bonded to the underlay.

A successful installation will rely heavily on adherence to these instructions. Some of the most common causes of failure are uneven subfloors, inadequate expansion to the perimeter of the floor and improper adhesive application.

When installing engineered timber via a direct stick or dual bond method, you must leave an expansion gap around the perimeter of the room. (Please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover.)

Installations greater than the stipulated raft size (Please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover) will require compartmentalisation with the use of a moulding to provide proper expansion space.

Preparation - Subfloors:

Before installing the flooring, you must clean, sweep, or vacuum the subfloor so that it is free of dirt and debris. Verify the moisture content of the subfloor using a moisture meter or another approved method.

It is essential that the moisture content of any subfloor complies with the relevant standard. For Australian conditions, the recommended standard is a maximum of 4.8% for concrete/screed subfloors and 14% for wood subfloors. All potential sources of moisture (e.g. walls, drains, damp proof courses, plumbing, fridges, washing machines, etc.) must be thoroughly checked and rectified if found to be an issue. The final responsibility for determining if the subfloor is dry enough for installation of the flooring lies with the installer.

Please ensure the subfloor or surface that the flooring is being installed over is flat. Deviations in any subfloor must not exceed 3mm under a 3 lineal metre straight edge. Raised points must be sanded/ground down and depressions filled using a good quality cementitious levelling compound.

The below requirements apply to all subfloor options detailed throughout this document. All details must be carefully followed to minimise the risk of problems occurring with the flooring post-installation.

- The flooring can be installed onto concrete/screed subfloors and existing wood, provided they are dimensionally stable.
- Ensure the subfloor is clean and free from all contaminants and loose material by vacuuming prior to installation.
- Existing concrete/screed bases' moisture content can be checked using a moisture meter, or alternatively sheets of polyethylene approximately 1m x 1m squared, taped onto the screed with a heavy weight placed on top for 24 hours. Presence of moisture in the screed will be confirmed if the screed is discoloured, or moisture is apparent on the underside

of the polyethylene sheet. Your floor must not be fitted until the problem has been rectified. If installing on wood, the moisture vapour content of a wood subfloor must not exceed 14%.

- Flooring can be fixed directly onto preinstalled wood (particleboard, yellow tongue, or conventional hardwood) provided this subfloor meets all of the requirements detailed at the beginning of the 'Subfloors' section. If the subfloor is not flat and even, then you will need to overlay it with structural grade plywood (min 19mm thick). All existing floor coverings must be securely fixed to the subfloor to minimise the risk of squeaking. Where poor adhesion between the subfloor and existing boards, planks, or tiles exist - secure if possible. Otherwise, remove the existing floor covering completely.
- On a wood subfloor, your new boards should be laid in a direction that is 90 degrees (perpendicular) to the direction of the boards below. If this is not possible, then plywood sheets (minimum depth 6mm) should be nailed, stapled, or screwed to cover the existing floor, allowing a 3-5mm perimeter gap (against walls) for expansion. The new floor can then be laid directly onto the plywood sheet.

Floor installation

Please refer to the Installation Requirements inside the front cover.

Getting started:

If any self-levelling compound is used on the subfloor, it must be allowed to dry out completely before applying a suitable liquid **Moisture Barrier Membrane**. Comply with all instructions provided by the adhesive manufacturer.

Inspect your **Moisture Barrier Membrane** to ensure it is dried and clean prior to beginning of installation and take moisture readings to ensure levels are correct.

Check the floorboards before you start to make sure that they are not in any way damaged or have quality defects.

During installation, installers should open a few cartons at a time to ensure natural colour variations between boards are blended throughout the installation.

The boards should be fitted lengthways towards the main incoming light source and, where possible, down the length of the room. In narrow hallways, install the floor parallel where possible.

Installing the first three rows:

Begin your installation against a sound, straight wall (starting in the left corner and working right), it may be necessary to scribe the first row of boards to achieve correct alignment. Always begin the installation with the groove side of the plank facing the wall. Install the first 3 rows and allow time for the adhesive to cure before continuing with the installation in that section.

Glue the boards down with a professional direct stick adhesive to the slab over the Moisture Barrier Membrane, using a 6mm 'V' notched trowel (or an adhesive manufacturer's specified).

Spot weight across the floor and weigh down any hollow or drummy areas to ensure floorboard and subfloor contact.

When installing engineered timber flooring in multi-residential developments, dual bonding with acoustic matting may be required to reduce noise transfer. Over a prepared slab—see above subfloor preparation, the acoustic matting will need to be applied to the slab with a professional direct stick adhesive using a 3mm 'V' notched trowel and allowed to dry according to the manufacturers' specifications. Glue the boards directly to the matting with a professional direct stick adhesive, also using a 6mm 'V' notched trowel (or an adhesive manufacturer's specified). Spot weight across the floor and weigh down any hollow or drummy areas, to make sure floorboards and subfloor bonded.

Continuing installation:

Lay row 4 and the rest of floor by repeating the above instructions, make sure to stagger the end joints by greater than 450mm. Step and brick stagger patterns are not permitted, the boards must be randomly staggered. Any small gaps present can be filled using an appropriate colour filler.

Removal of Glue Residue/Compounds:

It is vital that all glue residues are removed immediately after laying each prefinished board.

Make sure to use the professional wipes (or a suitable solvent) recommended by the adhesive manufacturer to remove the glue residues.

Always test solvents first on an offcut to establish that the solvent does not affect the colour or finish.

Use a damp cloth to wipe away any solvent residue during installation.

Always follow the adhesive/compounds manufacturer's instructions.

Finishing:

Any spacing wedges used can now be removed.

The expansion gap around the perimeter of the floor can be covered by re-fitting the skirting boards. Never fix them directly to the installed floor. A minimum 0.5mm gap is required between the skirting boards/ mouldings and trims and the flooring surface.

If the skirting boards were not removed for installation, you can cover the expansion gap using moulding trims that attach to the skirting with glue or panel pins.

At doorways or where boards meet tiles or carpet, a door threshold strip should be used to protect the edges of the floor and provide a decorative transition from one-floor type to another.

Any visible joints or gaps should be filled with a non-silicone-base filler to match the colour of the timber.

After completing installation, visually inspect the finished floor to ensure that there are no glue residues or compounds left. Allow 12-24 hours for adhesive or compound to cure. Use suitable floor protection to cover the installed floor. Before installing the floor protection, you must clean, sweep, or vacuum the finished floor so that it is free of dirt and debris. This limits the potential surface damages that may occur on-site.

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