

## Product Specifications

- SmartFloor – Engineered Timber Construction
- Joint Profile – Tongue & Groove
- Dimensions – 189mm wide, 2.2m length, 15mm thickness, 4mm European Oak Wear Layer.
- Recommended Installation – Direct stick



## Storage

- SmartFloor Engineered Timber Flooring should be left flat in the original unopened packaging in the areas it is to be installed in for at least 48 hours prior to installation, this allows the product to acclimatise to the room temperature and minimize the likelihood of any shrinkage or swelling. The timber should be stored out of direct sunlight, away from walls and radiators and on battens fully supporting the timber.
- The product should be kept in a shaded and protected dry place (18°C - 25°C). **Do not store the timber flooring outside**

## Sub-floor Preparation Guidelines

- I. The entire sub-floor should be checked for any unevenness. The sub-floor must also be level before installation, not exceeding 3mm of variation in height for every 1m<sup>2</sup> of floor area.
- II. The substrate must be completely dry, clean and level before installation begins and free of any cracks.

## Concrete

- A new concrete slab will usually take 90 to 150 days to dry thoroughly depending on size of concrete slab and weather conditions. The substrate should be moisture-tested with a hygrometer; if the hygrometer reading is above 70% RH (Relative Humidity), then a coat of the recommended moisture barrier should be applied to the concrete slab before laying, the RH reading of the substrate should be re-checked once it is dry. If the hygrometer reading is still too high, another coat of the moisture barrier should be applied to the concrete substrate. Continue this process or wait until the hygrometer reading is below 70% RH.
- The sub-floor must also be level before installation, not exceeding 3mm of variation in height for every 1m<sup>2</sup> of floor area.

## Timber

- A timber substrate should be machine sanded in conjunction with the levelling recommendation, not exceeding 3mm of variation in height for every 1m<sup>2</sup> of floor area. If the substrate is not within our recommendation a levelling compound can be applied to the substrate.
- The moisture content difference should be no more than 4% between the SmartFloor Engineered Timber and timber substrate.

## Laying Conditions

- The surface temperature of the substrate, at the time of installation, should be at least 15°C but never exceed 27°C, with the ideal relative humidity between 45% and 55% but never below 30% or exceed 60%.
- The substrate must be within the acceptable tolerance in conjunction with Forté's 'Sub-floor Preparation Guidelines', ensure that the surface is free of cracks, resins and other coatings that could prevent the adhesive and or moisture barrier from bonding or working effectively. The substrate should be levelled, cleaned and dried to meet Forté's 'Substrate Preparation Guidelines' for the adhesive and moisture barrier to bond to. Failure to adhere to this process will void the suppliers warranty.

**Please ensure you have read and understood the guidelines above before proceeding to install the floor.**

## Installation Tips & Tricks

- Always work out of several different packs concurrently to ensure there is an even consistence of tone thought out the area. SmartFloor is a natural product and will showcase colour variation, every plank will be slightly different.
- As a general rule, wood flooring looks best when running in the same direction as the longest dimension of the room. We recommend that all flooring be laid lengthwise against the longest wall of the room, starting from the corner furthest from the entrance. This enables proper workspace practice by not walking unnecessarily on the newly laid floor.
- Ensure the first row of planks that is installed are perfectly straight to avoid the pattern running off.

## Warranty Claims and Returns

- Damage caused during transportation must be notified to the supplier within 5 days of delivery, prior to the installation of the floor.
- The installer has the responsibility to check the boards before installation. In the case of usage of defective boards, the product is not subject to claim.
- Where full packs are left over after job completion, they may be returned for credit. Freight arrangements and costs are at the owner's expense and a return fee of \$100 applies, which may be deducted from your credit. Note that only undamaged, unopened boxes may be returned - any opened packs are not accepted, even if product has not been taken from them.
- Forté's full warranty can be viewed on page 6 or at [www.forteflooring.co.nz/careandmaintenance](http://www.forteflooring.co.nz/careandmaintenance)

### Installers Obligation (Direct Stick)

- SmartFloor Engineered Timber is a natural product that will display natural variations of colour, grain, texture and other characteristics of European Oak, these are not considered as defects.
- Each board should be thoroughly checked for damage or defects prior to laying. If an installer is not happy with a board, do not install it. Never install damaged or defective boards - it is the responsibility of the installer to conduct this final check.
- If you come across boards you don't like the colour or look of, put them aside and use them in an area that is not as prominently visible, such as a wardrobe.
- In the case of usage of defective boards, the product is not subject to claim.
- **Please do not apply adhesive or tape to the floor surface for any reason.** The substances in the adhesive can damage the coatings of some floors, particularly the friction when removing the tape.

### Installing with Underfloor Heating

For installation of flooring with an underfloor heating system, ensure that procedures below are adhered to.

- If the heating system is new, the system must be switched ON for at least 3 weeks prior to laying the floor. Ensure the system is switched OFF 48 hours before the start of the installation. The heating system can be started again 7 days after the floor installation is completed, gradually increasing the temperature is important.
- The surface temperature from the underfloor heating must not exceed 27°C and the wattage should not exceed 60 watts/m<sup>2</sup>. When installing over a concrete substrate with an underfloor heating system, the moisture content of the sub-floor must not exceed 70% RH, please refer to the 'Sub-floor Preparation Guidelines'
- It is essential that the temperature is changed progressively, 2°C per day is recommended.
- The Underfloor Heating system must be provided with a regulator that avoids the temperature dropping lower than 18-22°C and never exceeding 27°C.

### Direct Stick Floor Expansion Recommendation

- An allowance of 5 to 10mm should be provided around the perimeter when direct fixing SmartFloor Engineered Timber to accommodate for expansion, including at doorways, heating tube outlets, connections with tiles and any fixed items in the area where the floor is laid.
- For areas greater than 10 meters, please contact Forté's technical team for our specific recommendations.
- Spacing wedges can be used to assist in maintaining the expansion gaps during installation
- When laying the SmartFloor Engineered Timber through several adjoining rooms, you may require expansion-joints at doorways.

### Direct Stick Installation Method

When planning the area try to balance the board width against the two most prominent walls taking into account focal points such as fireplaces. In small areas this is more critical than in larger areas where you cannot visualise both sides at the same time.

You must always try to have at least half a board at each side as smaller width boards are difficult to fit and do not look good, particularly if the wall is not straight.

We recommend dry laying the first 2 or 3 rows adjusting the first row to the wall contours and adjusting for the width you have planned. Make sure you have at least a 300mm distance between joints. Once complete, mark a glue line on the sub-floor and move the boards whilst applying the adhesive. Immediately place the boards into the adhesive which must be prior to the adhesive skinning over. Place spacers between the boards and the wall to keep the expansion gap whilst the adhesive is curing.

- I. The substrate must meet Forté's 'Sub-floor Preparation Guidelines' before commencing the installation.
- II. A flexible adhesive should be used to adhere the product to the substrate using a trowel. Forté do not recommend squiggle or spot gluing. Follow the glue manufacturer's application instructions and be sure to choose the correct size trowel.
- III. Following the spread rate and curing time, spread the glue evenly on the substrate ensuring the installer can lay the planks in time for best result of the glue.
- IV. Remembering to work from several packs, select your boards and, with groove side facing the wall, lay a working line parallel to the starting wall to set up the baseline of installation.
- V. Remember to allow for a 5-10mm expansion gap against the wall. Ideally skirting's should be off. If not, skirting's will need to be undercut.
- VI. Lay one row of plank along the entire length of work line. Add each additional row of flooring, offsetting or staggering the joints at least 30cm apart.

### Installation in Wet Areas

- Forté does not recommend installing SmartFloor into high risk wet areas. However, if you do wish to install the product in wet areas please contact Forté.

### Finishing

- SmartFloor Engineered Timber is supplied pre-finished.