

You have decided to acquire a BerryAlloc parquet, and we wish to thank you for your choice and confidence to us. We are convinced that your floor will provide you with a timeless pleasure by the quality of its design. More over, your hardwood flooring during its production has been controlled several times in order to complete its joining and to ensure its longevity. In order to fully enjoy all the qualities of your floor, we wish to remind you that:

- Our hardwood flooring is made of genuine wood that is subject to variations in colouring and has knots for certain species, characteristics that give the charm of a genuine and natural hardwood floor. Depending on their source and the way the wood is cut, the boards can show differences in tones and shades that can be more or less important, even when compared to the reference sample.
- All woods tend to « darken » or « lighten » when exposed to daylight. It is a natural phenomenon. If you place a carpet, your floor under the carpet will show after some time a more or less marked variance in colour. This difference will fade over time with the natural oxidation of the wood under exposure to daylight, without entirely disappearing nevertheless.

If you want to put a carpet, wait for a few months (6 months to one year) that the tones of the wood become equal.

- Wood is a live material, which changes with the seasons. It is normal and natural that it expands and contracts depending on the conditions of heating times. For your comfort, and for a better behaviour of your floor, it is recommended to maintain a constant humidity level between 40 and 65% (possibly use humidifiers and dehumidifiers). A lack of ventilation, notably in vacation homes, can cause some warping to your hardwood floor; the same is true if the parquet is over-exposed to high temperatures (for example, in front of bay windows), without the quality of the parquet being in question. It is essential to closely observe the basic instructions stipulated in the present guide, or you would not be entirely satisfied with your hardwood floor. This basic advice is detailed in our Web site berryalloc.com. The floating installation must be made in accordance with the DTU 51.11 (new version) and the glued fitting in accordance to the DTU 51.2 (May 2009).

STORAGE ON SITE

The parquet floor will be stored flat in the room mentioned above), in their original packaging for at least 48 hours before starting the installation. The bundles will be opened only at the time of installation.

The installation of the parquet floor must be the last operation to be performed on the job site. The subfloor should be perfectly dry, all the windows in place, and any major building or finishing work (plastering, tiling, painting, wallpapering, etc...) must be completed. The room must be perfectly dry, closed, and the temperature between 18 and 20°C. Humidity must be maintained at a constant 40 to 65%.

OPENING OF BUNDLES

Wood is not a uniform material; each board of parquet is unique. In order to harmoniously distribute variations in colour, structural differences and knots, we recommend you to open 2 or 3 bundles at the time of installation and thoroughly mix up the boards, so as to obtain the best end result. Pay attention while handling the planks. We advise you to take note of the control number written at the back of the first plank you will fit.

Our hardwood floor has undergone stringent quality controls at every step of its manufacture. If, nevertheless, you were to come across a board with a visible defect, do not install but contact your supplier for assistance. We remind you that installed elements are considered to be accepted and could not be the subject of a claim at a later date. Handle the boards with care and record the inspection

SUBFLOOR CHARACTERISTICS

Your hardwood floor can be installed on every following type of subfloor: fibreboards, particle boards, pressed wood fibreboards or plywood, ceramic tiles, cement screeds, PVC floors, linoleum, old parquet flooring or old timber floors. For any other subfloor, please contact your retailer/supplier for assistance. Installation must be carried out on a subfloor having a rigid support, resistant to pressure and deflection. This subfloor must be **clean, flat, dry and sound**, that means:

- **Clean:** Clean in depth the surface of the subfloor, in order to eliminate all waste remaining.
- **Flat:** Check the evenness with a 2-meter rule. Any deflections (dips or peaks) should be no more than 5 mm, and with a 20 cm meter rule, deflections should be maximum 1 mm. Sand or fill in with smoothing mortar, if necessary.
- **Dry:** For cement screed or smoothing mortar, moisture should not exceed 3% for 2 cm thickness or 4.5% for 4 cm thickness. (In average, leave with for normal screeds at least 15 days drying per centimeter thickness (1 week can be enough by dry weather). In case of smoothing mortar, leave at least 5 days drying for 3 mm (of thickness). Wooden subfloors: the moisture content must not exceed 10%. For the fluid screeds containing calcium sulfate, the residual water content must be lower or equal to 0.5%. In all cases, we advise you to use an insulating barrier consisting of polyethylene plastic sheeting with edges overlapping at least 20 cm (Important: This barrier is designed to stop any rising damp. It is not, however, a completely hermetic barrier in case of a significant rise in humidity). To improve the acoustic comfort, the parquet will be installed on an adapted additional underlay material.
- **Sound:** Remove all dust and greasy substances from the subfloor. The surface must be free of powder, pattern cracking or surface crust.

Particular case of specific subfloors

Old parquet floors / Old timber floors pressed wood fibre boards or plywood / Beams and floor runners Carpets / PVC floors / Linoleum / Tiles. We recommend to take advice from a professional.

PERIPHERAL EXPANSION GAP

The boards will be installed parallel to the length of the room. An imperative peripheral expansion gap of 8mm minimum will be left around the entire periphery, along all the walls and around any obstacle like piping, staircase, rails, fireplaces, thresholds, etc.). Expansion gaps are maintained using wooden wedges placed at 50 cm intervals. The wedges are removed when the installation of the parquet is completed. This gap must always be left in each doorway to a room. To allow the parquet floor to expand/contract freely, the total width of the boards should not be more than 8 metres; for any greater width, arrange to leave an intermediary expansion gap, that will be hidden by a T-junction strip. It is imperative that a break be incorporated between each adjoining room having parquet flooring: this break will be hidden by a threshold strip.

Installation on low temperature heated floors

Floors with concealed heating must be designed and installed so that the surface temperature of the « finished flooring » (with parquet flooring in place) does not exceed 28° C.

Important: no hardwood floor can be installed on a floor heating system installed before 1990, because these systems normally produce a too high temperature.

Heating (natural drying of the subfloor completed by preheating in steps of 5° C per day until the operating temperatures reached - finished surface at 28° C maximum) will be maintained for at least 3 weeks before installing the parquet, whatever the season, even in summertime. It will be shut off 48 hours prior to starting the installation operation, and turned back on again progressively at least one week after the installation is completed.

For this type of installation, it is strongly recommended to glue the whole hardwood floor directly onto the subfloor, with no intermediate underlayment, using a non-water based glue suitable for varnished hardwood floors. See the DTU 51.2.

Installing parquets in beech or maple and jatoba is extremely inadvisable on heated flooring: the behaviour of these wood species make them unsuitable for this application.

The peripheral expansion gap will be of a minimum 8 mm.

There are in France specific rules that must be strictly observed. These texts are currently in effect France, and we cannot be held responsible for the non compliance with installation practices inherent to other countries. See also the french DTU regarding electric heating floor systems (electric cables) No. 65-7 January 1986, DTU Execution floor heating hydronic No. 65-8 February In 1990. These laws are in force in France and we do could be held responsible for non-compliance of these laying rules. Laying parquet on a electric heating floor is particularly restrictive and can cause serious disorders if not respect to various limitations. Note that it is necessary to leave a free space of at least 3 cm any element between the ground and furniture, also note it is prohibited to use any carpets and other obstacles to the evacuation of the heat generated by this type of heating.

For more information, see our web site berryalloc.com .

Installation in kitchens and bathrooms

Installing a hardwood floor in a damp room is not recommended and require very specific conditions (please check with a professional). Wood and water are not compatible in daily life.