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## INSTALLATION GUIDE - STRAIGHT FLOORING

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### MATERIAL DELIVERY & STORAGE

All WOODCUT Premium Engineered Timber Flooring should be handled with care and remain in unopened packs until installed. WOODCUT timber should be stored in dry conditions and elevated at least 100mm off any ground floor concrete slabs. Conditions within the dwelling should resemble as closely as possible, the in-service conditions of the completed building or dwelling. If the normal in-service conditions of a building are regularly air-conditioned or heated at that time of the year when the floor is being installed, then if possible these conditions should be replicated, prior to floor installation and then maintained thereafter. Internal temperatures of 20 degree Celsius and relative humidity of 40% to 60% are indicative of moderately dry conditions, that are best suited to floor installation. The focus should be on comfortable indoor conditions.

### SUBFLOOR PREPARATION DIRECT STICK INSTALLATIONS.

For direct stick applications, a wide range of subfloors can be laid over provided the subfloor is in a suitable condition to accept the flooring as outlined below. In the case of direct adhesive stick applications, the structural integrity of the subfloor must be adequate to withstand forces associated with board expansion.

All subfloors need to be sound and structurally complying with relevant Australian construction standards. Any determined problems with an existing subfloor or overlaid product that may affect the performance or appearance of the installed engineered floor need to be corrected prior to floor installation.

All subfloors need to be sufficiently flat to accept the flooring system (floated or direct stick installation). This must not exceed 3 mm beneath a 3 m long straight edge, in any direction.

Where concrete subfloors are not sufficiently flat, levelling compounds, grinding or other means to level the subfloor need to be undertaken. With timber subfloors, packing of joists and sanding of sheet subfloors may be necessary.

The surface on which the flooring is to be adhered must be free from all contaminants that could prevent or reduce the effectiveness of the adhesive. In particular the surface needs to be free from any waxes, grease, paint, sealers and other similar substances. Sanding or grinding of concrete slabs may be required to provide a suitable surface.

When levelling compounds are used on a concrete slab, they are to be applied to manufacturers recommendations and care is needed to ensure sealers used in conjunction with the product are completely covered by the levelling compound. Sealers can prevent adhesion. The levelling compound also requires sufficient tensile strength to accommodate the expansion forces from the adhered flooring. Levelling compounds with low tensile strength are not sufficient for adhesive fixed floors.

### MOISTURE CONTENT – CONCRETE SLABS

Slab moisture must be assessed with a concrete moisture meter as well as an in-slab relative humidity test, prior to installation. Slab moisture must not exceed 6% when tested with a concrete moisture meter and 80% when tested using in-slab relative humidity test (hygrometer).

WOODCUT highly recommends with all direct stick installations, once the above readings have shown that they are within the percentages noted above, the TFS AA8800 4in1 Acoustic Adhesive and compatible trowel is used for fixing timber to the substrate.

### MOISTURE CONTENT - TIMBER AND SHEET SUBFLOORS

The drainage system provided to the dwelling site needs to ensure that run-off water will drain away from the building perimeter (not towards it) and that run-off water is prevented from entering the subfloor space

The subfloor space must be free from all building debris and vegetation. Landscaping, patios and the like should not limit air-flow around the external perimeter of the subfloor space, and structural elements should also not limit air-flow.

A minimum of three (3) resistance moisture meter test must be conducted in each area flooring is to be installed, before commencement of the installation and an expected average in-service moisture content should not exceed 11%-12%. This may vary greatly in tropical climates. Please contact WOODCUT for further information on installation in tropical climates.

### INSTALLATION – DIRECT STICK (DIRECT BOND INSTALLATION) OVER CONCRETE.

The timber flooring, is to be checked at the time of laying for manufacturing imperfections that could become a concern in the finished floor. This includes aspects of grade, imperfections in board shape, damage to boards as well as coating imperfections and moisture contents. You must notify WOODCUT of any concerns prior to the commencement of installation and affected boards should be set aside and not laid. WOODCUT will not replace any timber boards that have already been installed.

The installer is responsible for the placement of the boards in the floor in terms of colour and length distribution. Some boards may blend better to existing mouldings and placement of boards that create sharp contrasts that do not blend should be avoided. WOODCUT recommends end joints (staggered ends so they do not cluster) to be spaced at a minimum of 100 – 300mm apart.

WOODCUT floors require expansion allowances of a minimum of 10mm at skirting boards and around fixed objects. Joinery cupboards are permitted to have a 5mm expansion gap allowance only with a direct stick (Direct Bond) installation. **WOODCUT PERMITS THE INSTALLATION OF JOINERY, OVER DIRECT STICK/DIRECT BOND TIMBER FLOORING.**

Greater expansion gap allowances may be required in areas deemed tropical, near the coast or with higher humidity levels. Further internal expansion allowances may be required in both the length and width of floors, if there is a concern with extreme fluctuations in humidity levels or temperature levels. It is to be ensured that internal expansion joints are installed and that appropriate expansion joints at doorways are also provided. Subfloor expansion joints and construction joints running parallel to the direction of laying should be mimicked in the engineered floor above.

The length and width at which internal expansion allowance is needed will depend on the area to which the timber flooring is being installed. With longer floors, expansion joints are required at doorways due to the differential movement of different sized floors in different rooms.

Aspects relating to the on-site storage and acclimatisation, the in-service environment, subfloor condition, safety aspects and equipment needed to complete the installation should all have been considered, prior to the point of floor installation.

WOODCUT recommends the use of the TFS AA8800 4in1 Adhesive with all WOODCUT Premium Engineered Timber Flooring installations, when moisture content of the subfloor is deemed to be within the parameters in the section [Moisture Content – Concrete Slabs](#).

A moisture vapour retarder compatible with the adhesive must be used if the moisture content exceeds the parameters in the sections [Moisture Content – Concrete Slabs](#)

The surface on which the flooring is to be adhered must be free from all contaminants that could prevent or reduce the effectiveness of the adhesive. In particular the surface needs to be free from any waxes, grease, paint, sealers and other similar substances.

Ensure that a minimum of 10 full packs of timber floorboards are opened during the installation. Alternate & install one timber floorboard, from every pack, to ensure a natural blend of colour. All opened packs must be installed on the day they are opened.

## INSTALLATION PROCESS

1. Set out a string line about 450 mm out from either end of the starting wall. The exact distance being a multiple of the board widths plus the expansion allowance as noted in the [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\)](#). Consideration needs to be given to walls that may undulate and rooms that are not square which may influence the positioning of the string line and necessitate cutting of the first row of boards lengthwise to suit. The required expansion allowance at walls needs to be maintained, as noted in the section [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\)](#).
2. The first rows of boards should be installed, seated in the adhesive with the groove edge lined up to the string line and the tongue edge facing the starting wall (longer and straighter boards being preferred for this row of boards).
3. When laying, it is usual to engage the end T&G joint with the side T&G's of the boards as close as possible. The side T&G's are then engaged with a minimal amount of sliding movement. This ensures minimal displacement of the adhesive and possibility of pull back.
4. Laying from the first row of boards will initially commence toward the starting wall. This row of boards can be held in position with a sacrificial row of boards nailed to the subfloor on the groove side of the boards. The board to the starting wall, if not otherwise trimmed, will likely need the tongue removed to provide adequate expansion allowance as noted in the section [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\)](#).
5. Laying can then continue away from the starting wall with the same method as outlined above. It should be noted that walking on the flooring just laid should be avoided as it can create numerous hollow spots when the floor is completed. If unavoidable in some areas, a kneeling board to distribute the weight should be used.
6. During installation, the transfer of adhesive can be checked by removing smaller floor boards after laying and checking the back of the board. If adhesive skins or application is inadequate the bonding will be compromised. WOODCUT recommends all timber floors to be weighted to achieve even transfer. Weather conditions affect the open time of the adhesive and care is necessary to not to spread the adhesive too far ahead of the work area.
7. Any adhesive on the board surface needs to be cleaned off during the laying with the recommended cleaner for the adhesive and cleaning cloths need to be frequently changed to prevent adhesive haze on the board surface.
8. During laying, joints should be continually checked to ensure that they are tight, that the floor is aligned and that board lengths are chosen to achieve a staggered appearance with a minimum of 100mm but preferably with board ends 100mm to 300mm apart.
9. Heavy foot traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hours and it should be noted that at this time, the adhesive will not have fully cured. Even so it is permitted to lift heavy items of furniture or benches back into place after this time.
10. The final row of boards will likely need to be cut lengthwise, again ensuring an even expansion gap to the recommended size, as mentioned in the section called [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\)](#) & is provided to the external wall. Wedges are also to be placed in the expansion gap to hold the final row of boards tight as the adhesive cures. When dry the wedges should be removed.
11. It is important throughout the installation to consider the overall floor area and where intermediate expansion joints and joints at doorways are required. Refer to the section [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\)](#). If using trims, make sure the appropriate trims are being used to permit floor expansion / contraction movement.
12. When the installation is completed and **PRIOR to any protection being laid** over the top the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. Any scuffing or minor scratches should be attended to prior by using an appropriate wax repair kit or filler. At times, minor imperfections may also be present in the floor and these can usually be filled with an appropriate colour matched filler or a hot wax repair. If the floor has been damaged and cannot be

repaired to an acceptable condition, the individual board or area of flooring may need to be replaced.

13. Prior to handover the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. If you do not have the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide, please contact WOODCUT at <https://woodcut.com.au/contact-us/>

After the flooring has been laid, skirting boards of sufficient width, should be fitted to cover the expansion allowance provided at walls etc. Ensure that the skirting board only sits on the timber flooring. Do not press skirting down on the timber flooring with force before fastening into the wall.

Where floors are laid with the skirting boards already fitted, timber abuts against metal window frames, pressed metal door frames, a fillet mould, c-channel trim or coloured caulking fill (elastomeric filler) is usually used to cover the expansion allowance.

## INSTALLATION – FLOATING OVER ALL SUBSTRATES.

The timber flooring, is to be checked at the time of laying for manufacturing imperfections that could become a concern in the finished floor. This includes aspects of grade, imperfections in board shape, damage to boards as well as coating imperfections and moisture contents. You must notify WOODCUT of any concerns prior to the commencement of installation and affected boards should be set aside and not laid. WOODCUT will not replace any timber boards that have already been installed.

The installer is responsible for the placement of the boards in the floor in terms of colour and length distribution. Some boards may blend better to existing mouldings and placement of boards that create sharp contrasts that do not blend should be avoided. WOODCUT recommends end joints to be spaced at a minimum 100-300mm.

WOODCUT floors require expansion allowances of a minimum of 10mm at skirting boards and around fixed objects. Expansion gaps around cupboards/joinery must have a 10mm expansion gap allowance. **WOODCUT DOES NOT PERMIT THE INSTALLATION OF JOINERY, HEAVY OBJECTS OR ANYTHING FIXED THROUGH THE TIMBER FLOOR INTO THE SUBFLOOR, WHEN USING A FLOATING TIMBER FLOOR INSTALLATION.** Greater expansion gap allowance may be required in areas deemed tropical, near the coast or in locations of higher humidity levels. Further internal expansion allowances may be required in both the length and width of floors, if there is a concern with extreme fluctuations in humidity levels or temperature levels.

The length and width at which internal expansion allowance is needed will depend on the area to which the timber flooring is being installed. With longer floors, expansion joints are required at doorways due to the differential movement of different sized floors in different rooms.

Aspects relating to the on-site storage and acclimatisation, the in-service environment, subfloor condition, safety aspects and equipment needed to complete the installation should all have been

considered, prior to the point of floor installation. Please refer to the section in this document titled Material Delivery & Storage

Floating floors are not to be fixed to the subfloor at any point. It needs to be ensured that the floor is free to move in all directions. That is, the floor is not to abut any vertical surfaces which include doorways, other adjoining floor surfaces, pipe work, benches or staircases. Similarly, the likes of kitchen benches are not to be placed on the floor, but the floor is to be cut around them.

It is to be ensured that internal expansion joints are provided where recommended and that appropriate expansion joints at doorways are also provided. Subfloor expansion joints and construction joints running parallel to the direction of laying should be mimicked in the engineered floor above. Construction joints in slabs need to be sealed from vapour transmission.

Ensure that a minimum of 10 full packs of timber floorboards are opened during the installation. Alternate & install one timber floorboard, from every pack, to ensure a natural blend of colour. All opened packs must be installed on the day they are opened.

## INSTALLATION PROCESS

Underlay must be rolled out onto the subfloor with integral moisture retarding barrier facing the subfloor as applicable. Joints in the underlay are butted together and taped to provide a continuous layer.

1. The first row of boards is laid with the groove side facing the starting wall and ensuring the recommended expansion allowance as noted in the section [Installation – Floating Over All Substrates](#), has been provided. Blocks or wedges can be used in the expansion gap to maintain the correct allowance. If the wall undulates then this row of boards will need to be scribed and cut so that the expansion allowance is even down the length of the wall. Also, consideration may need to be given that on the opposite wall the floor will not finish with a very narrow board. This can be another reason for cutting back the first row of boards.
2. Dry fit (without adhesive) the first few rows, so that it is then possible to check that floor is straight, that the required expansion allowance has been achieved, as noted in the section [Installation – Floating Over All Substrates](#), to the starting wall and side walls, and that end joints are appropriately spaced – WOODCUT recommends a minimum of 100 - 300 mm. It can also assist in providing a straight floor to have the first board in the first row shorter than the adjacent first board in the second row.
3. Once this is done the rows are disassembled and then boards are glued together, applying adhesive in all length & width grooves, from the initial starting position, and boards consecutively glued together in a staggered pattern. An unbroken bead of "cross-linked PVA" adhesive is placed in all T&G joints. This is necessary to provide the required bond strength and a degree of moisture resistance.
4. During the time when the adhesive is drying, often about an hour, the floor should not be walked on before proceeding with

the installation of the remainder of the floor.

- Throughout the installation both a tapping block, with groove fitting over the board tongue, and pull bar are used to gently tighten all joints. Clamps may also be used. Please ensure that this equipment is designed for timber flooring installation and does not scratch the surface of the new timber flooring.
- Throughout the installation, all traces of adhesive to the board surface must be cleaned off. A cotton cloth and regular changing of rinse water is necessary to prevent glue haze on the board surface.
- It is likely that the final row of boards will need to be cut lengthwise, again ensuring an even expansion gap, as noted in the section [Installation – Floating Over All Substrates](#), is provided to the external wall. Wedges are also to be placed in the expansion gap to hold the final row of boards tight as the adhesive sets. When dry, the wedges are removed.
- It is also important throughout the installation to consider the overall floor area and where internal expansion joints and joints at doorways may need to be provided, with appropriate trims being used to permit floor expansion / contraction movement.
- When the installation is completed and **PRIOR to any protection being laid** over the top the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. Any scuffing or minor scratches should be attended to prior by using an appropriate wax repair kit or filler. At times, minor imperfections may also be present in the floor and these can usually be filled with an appropriate colour matched filler or a hot wax repair. If the floor has been damaged and cannot be repaired to an acceptable condition, the individual board or area of flooring may need to be replaced.
- Prior to handover the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. If you do not have the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide, please contact WOODCUT at <https://woodcut.com.au/contact-us/>

After the flooring has been laid, skirting boards of sufficient width, should be fitted to cover the expansion allowance provided at walls etc. Ensure that the skirting board only sits on the timber flooring. Do not press skirting down on the timber flooring with force before fastening into the wall.

Where floors are laid with the skirting boards already fitted, timber abuts against metal window frames, pressed metal door frames, a fillet mould, c-channel trim or coloured caulking fill (elastomeric filler) is usually used to cover the expansion allowance.

When the installation is completed and **PRIOR to any protection being laid** over the top the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. Any scuffing or minor scratches should be attended to prior by using an appropriate wax repair kit or filler. At times, minor imperfections may also be present in the floor and these can usually be filled with an appropriate

colour matched filler or a hot wax repair. If the floor has been damaged and cannot be repaired to an acceptable condition, the individual board or area of flooring may need to be replaced.

Prior to handover the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. If you do not have the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide, please contact WOODCUT at <https://woodcut.com.au/contact-us/>

## INSTALLATION – DIRECT STICK/DIRECT BOND OVER EXISTING TIMBER FLOORING.

The timber flooring, is to be checked at the time of laying for manufacturing imperfections that could become a concern in the finished floor. This includes aspects of grade, imperfections in board shape, damage to boards as well as coating imperfections and moisture contents. You must notify WOODCUT of any concerns prior to the commencement of installation and affected boards should be set aside and not laid. WOODCUT will not replace any timber boards that have already been installed.

The installer is responsible for the placement of the boards in the floor in terms of colour and length distribution. Some boards may blend better to existing mouldings and placement of boards that create sharp contrasts that do not blend should be avoided. WOODCUT recommends end joints (staggered ends so they do not cluster) to be spaced at a minimum of 100 – 300mm apart.

WOODCUT floors require expansion allowances of a minimum of 10mm at skirting boards and around fixed objects. Joinery cupboards are permitted to have a 5mm expansion gap allowance only with a direct stick (Direct Bond) installation. **WOODCUT PERMITS THE INSTALLATION OF JOINERY, OVER DIRECT STICK/DIRECT BOND TIMBER FLOORING.**

Greater expansion gap allowances may be required in areas deemed tropical, near the coast or with higher humidity levels. Further internal expansion allowances may be required in both the length and width of floors, if there is a concern with extreme fluctuations in humidity levels or temperature levels. It is to be ensured that internal expansion joints are installed and that appropriate expansion joints at doorways are also provided. Subfloor expansion joints and construction joints running parallel to the direction of laying should be mimicked in the engineered floor above.

The length and width at which internal expansion allowance is needed will depend on the area to which the timber flooring is being installed. With longer floors, expansion joints are required at doorways due to the differential movement of different sized floors in different rooms.

Aspects relating to the on-site storage and acclimatisation, the in-service environment, subfloor condition, safety aspects and equipment needed to complete the installation should all have been considered, prior to the point of floor installation.

WOODCUT recommends the use of the TFS AA8800 4in1 Adhesive

with all WOODCUT Premium Engineered Timber Flooring installations, when moisture content of the subfloor is deemed to be within the parameters in the section [Moisture Content – Timber and sheet subfloors](#).

A moisture vapour retarder compatible with the adhesive must be used if the moisture content exceeds the parameters in the sections [Moisture Content – Timber and sheet subfloors](#).

The surface on which the flooring is to be adhered must be free from all contaminants that could prevent or reduce the effectiveness of the adhesive. In particular the surface needs to be free from any waxes, grease, paint, sealers and other similar substances.

Ensure that a minimum of 10 full packs of timber floorboards are opened during the installation. Alternate & install one timber floorboard, from every pack, to ensure a natural blend of colour. All opened packs must be installed on the day they are opened.

## INSTALLATION PROCESS

1. Careful consideration must be made when determining the new timber flooring is to be laid. All WOODCUT timber flooring, when installed over existing timber flooring, must run perpendicular in direction, to the direction of the existing timber floor.
2. Should you wish to install the new timber flooring in the same direction as the existing timber direction, plywood sheeting must be installed over the existing timber flooring first, before the new timber floor can be directly stuck/directly bonded. Plywood sheeting must be a minimum of 5mm-7mm thickness. Ply sheeting should be nailed & glued in a “brick pattern” formation.
3. Should you wish to install the new timber flooring perpendicular to already polished/stained existing timber flooring, the existing timber flooring must be sanded thoroughly, using a sanding machine removing all coatings, before any timber can be bonded.
4. Set out a chalk line about 450 mm out from either end of the starting wall. The exact distance being a multiple of the board widths plus the expansion allowance to the wall as noted in the [Installation – Direct Stick/Direct Bond Over Existing Timber Flooring](#).
5. Consideration needs to be given to walls that may undulate and rooms that are not square which may influence the positioning of the string line and necessitate cutting of the first row of boards lengthwise to suit. The required expansion allowance at walls needs to be maintained in, as noted in the [Installation – Direct Stick/Direct Bond Over Existing Timber Flooring](#).
6. The first rows of boards should be installed, seated in the adhesive with the groove edge lined up to the string line and the tongue edge facing the starting wall (longer and straighter boards being preferred for this row of boards).
7. Any adhesive on the board surface needs to be cleaned off during the laying with the recommended cleaner for the adhesive and cleaning cloths need to be frequently changed to prevent adhesive haze on the board surface.

8. During laying, joints should be continually checked to ensure that they are tight, that the floor is aligned and that board lengths are chosen to achieve a staggered appearance with a minimum of 100mm but preferably with board ends 100mm to 300mm apart.
9. Heavy foot traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hours and it should be noted that at this time, the adhesive will not have fully cured. Even so it is permitted to lift heavy items of furniture or benches back into place after this time.
10. The final row of boards will likely need to be cut lengthwise, again ensuring an even expansion gap to the recommended size, as mentioned in the section called [Installation – Direct Stick/Direct Bond Over Existing Timber Flooring](#) & is provided to the external wall. Wedges are also to be placed in the expansion gap to hold the final row of boards tight as the adhesive cures. When dry the wedges should be removed.
11. It is important throughout the installation to consider the overall floor area and where intermediate expansion joints and joints at doorways are required. Refer to the section [Installation – Direct Stick/Direct Bond Over Existing Timber Flooring](#).
12. If using trims, make sure the appropriate trims are being used to permit floor expansion / contraction movement.

When the installation is completed and **PRIOR to any protection being laid** over the top the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. Any scuffing or minor scratches should be attended to prior by using an appropriate wax repair kit or filler. At times, minor imperfections may also be present in the floor and these can usually be filled with an appropriate colour matched filler or a hot wax repair. If the floor has been damaged and cannot be repaired to an acceptable condition, the individual board or area of flooring may need to be replaced.

Prior to handover the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. If you do not have the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide, please contact WOODCUT at <https://woodcut.com.au/contact-us/>

After the flooring has been laid, skirting boards of sufficient width, should be fitted to cover the expansion allowance provided at walls etc. Ensure that the skirting board only sits on the timber flooring. Do not press skirting down on the timber flooring with force before fastening into the wall.

Where floors are laid with the skirting boards already fitted, timber abuts against metal window frames, pressed metal door frames, a fillet mould, c-channel trim or coloured caulking fill (elastomeric filler) is usually used to cover the expansion allowance.

## INSTALLATION – DIRECT STICK (DIRECT BOND INSTALLATION) OVER PARTICLE BOARD OR SHEET FLOORING.

Typically, joist and bearer structures or second levels in a home, are usually fitted with a 19mm or structural type particle board or sheet



style substrate. This substrate is designed to create a platform (for timber flooring to be installed directly over.

There are two types of particle board used typically:

**Yellow Tongue** – Has a resin enriched surface. **This surface must be sanded using a sanding machine prior to installing a timber floor, when using a direct stick/direct bond installation method.** The reason for this is that the resin does not allow adhesive to spread evenly & therefore will compromise the installation.

**Orange Tongue** – Does not have a resin enriched surface. This surface can be installed over using a direct stick/direct bond installation method.

The timber flooring, is to be checked at the time of laying for manufacturing imperfections that could become a concern in the finished floor. This includes aspects of grade, imperfections in board shape, damage to boards as well as coating imperfections and moisture contents. You must notify WOODCUT of any concerns prior to the commencement of installation and affected boards should be set aside and not laid. WOODCUT will not replace any timber boards that have already been installed.

The installer is responsible for the placement of the boards in the floor in terms of colour and length distribution. Some boards may blend better to existing mouldings and placement of boards that create sharp contrasts that do not blend should be avoided. WOODCUT recommends end joints (staggered ends so they do not cluster) to be spaced at a minimum of 100 – 300mm apart.

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The length and width at which internal expansion allowance is needed will depend on the area to which the timber flooring is being installed. With longer floors, expansion joints are required at doorways due to the differential movement of different sized floors in different rooms.

Aspects relating to the on-site storage and acclimatisation, the in-service environment, subfloor condition, safety aspects and equipment needed to complete the installation should all have been considered, prior to the point of floor installation.

WOODCUT recommends the use of the TFS AA8800 4in1 Adhesive

with all WOODCUT Premium Engineered Timber Flooring installations, when moisture content of the subfloor is deemed to be within the parameters in the section [Moisture Content - Timber and sheet subfloors](#).

A moisture vapour retarder compatible with the adhesive must be used if the moisture content exceeds the parameters in the sections [Moisture Content - Timber and sheet subfloors](#).

The surface on which the flooring is to be adhered must be free from all contaminants that could prevent or reduce the effectiveness of the adhesive. In particular the surface needs to be free from any waxes, grease, paint, sealers and other similar substances.

Ensure that a minimum of 10 full packs of timber floorboards are opened during the installation. Alternate & install one timber floorboard, from every pack, to ensure a natural blend of colour. All opened packs must be installed on the day they are opened.

## INSTALLATION PROCESS

Set out a string line about 450 mm out from either end of the starting wall. The exact distance being a multiple of the board widths plus the expansion allowance as noted in the [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\) Over Particle Board or Sheet Flooring](#).

Consideration needs to be given to walls that may undulate and rooms that are not square which may influence the positioning of the string line and necessitate cutting of the first row of boards lengthwise to suit. The required expansion allowance at walls needs to be maintained, as noted in the section [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\) Over Particle Board or Sheet Flooring](#).

1. The first rows of boards should be installed, seated in the adhesive with the groove edge lined up to the string line and the tongue edge facing the starting wall (longer and straighter boards being preferred for this row of boards).
2. When laying, it is usual to engage the end T&G joint with the side T&G's of the boards as close as possible. The side T&G's are then engaged with a minimal amount of sliding movement. This ensures minimal displacement of the adhesive and possibility of pull back.
3. Laying from the first row of boards will initially commence toward the starting wall. This row of boards can be held in position with a sacrificial row of boards nailed to the subfloor on the groove side of the boards. The board to the starting wall, if not otherwise trimmed, will likely need the tongue removed to provide adequate expansion allowance as noted in the section [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\) Over Particle Board or Sheet Flooring](#).
4. Laying can then continue away from the starting wall with the same method as outlined above. It should be noted that walking on the flooring just laid should be avoided as it can create numerous hollow spots when the floor is completed. If unavoidable in some areas, a kneeling board to distribute the weight should be used.

5. During installation, the transfer of adhesive can be checked by removing smaller floor boards after laying and checking the back of the board. If adhesive skins or application is inadequate the bonding will be compromised. WOODCUT recommends all timber floors to be weighted to achieve even transfer. Weather conditions affect the open time of the adhesive and care is necessary to not to spread the adhesive too far ahead of the work area.
6. Any adhesive on the board surface needs to be cleaned off during the laying with the recommended cleaner for the adhesive and cleaning cloths need to be frequently changed to prevent adhesive haze on the board surface.
7. During laying, joints should be continually checked to ensure that they are tight, that the floor is aligned and that board lengths are chosen to achieve a staggered appearance with a minimum of 100mm but preferably with board ends 100mm to 300mm apart.
8. Heavy foot traffic should be avoided for at least 24 hours and it should be noted that at this time, the adhesive will not have fully cured. Even so it is permitted to lift heavy items of furniture or benches back into place after this time.
9. The final row of boards will likely need to be cut lengthwise, again ensuring an even expansion gap to the recommended size, as mentioned in the section called [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\) Over Particle Board or Sheet Flooring](#) & is provided to the external wall. Wedges are also to be placed in the expansion gap to hold the final row of boards tight as the adhesive cures. When dry the wedges should be removed.
10. It is important throughout the installation to consider the overall floor area and where intermediate expansion joints and joints at doorways are required. Refer to the section [Installation – Direct Stick \(Direct Bond Installation\) Over Particle Board or Sheet Flooring](#).
11. If using trims, make sure the appropriate trims are being used to permit floor expansion / contraction movement.
12. When the installation is completed and **PRIOR to any protection being laid** over the top the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. Any scuffing or minor scratches should be attended to prior by using an appropriate wax repair kit or filler. At times, minor imperfections may also be present in the floor and these can usually be filled with an appropriate colour matched filler or a hot wax repair. If the floor has been damaged and cannot be repaired to an acceptable condition, the individual board or area of flooring may need to be replaced.
13. Prior to handover the timber floor should be cleaned thoroughly using the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide. If you do not have the appropriate cleaning products recommended by WOODCUT in the WOODCUT Maintenance Guide, please contact WOODCUT at <https://woodcut.com.au/contact-us/>

After the flooring has been laid, skirting boards of sufficient width, should be fitted to cover the expansion allowance provided at walls

etc. Ensure that the skirting board only sits on the timber flooring. Do not press skirting down on the timber flooring with force before fastening into the wall.

Where floors are laid with the skirting boards already fitted, timber abuts against metal window frames, pressed metal door frames, a fillet mould, c-channel trim or coloured caulking fill (elastomeric filler) is usually used to cover the expansion allowance.

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING INSTALLTION

When installing engineered boards over a heated slab, the maximum board width is 260mm and the maximum board thickness is 15mm.

For boards wider than 260mm or thicker than 20mm the veneer structure and structural integrity of the core can be compromised and WOODCUT will not warrant these products on a heated slab.

A few general but very common rules need to be observed when installing your timber floor.

The moisture content of concrete subfloor should be <3% when underfloor heating is to be used. To achieve this you may need to have your floor heating turned on prior to installation. Ensure that the instructions of heating procedures are followed before laying the floor boards.

The temperature on the surface of the subfloor can be a maximum of 26°C. If the subfloor heating system is newly installed, the system has to be switched on and left on for at least 3 weeks prior to laying the floor. Switch off the heating system 48 hours prior to installation. Turn the heating system on again 1 week after the floor installation is completed, with a gradual increase of 1oC per day in accordance with the heating system regulations.

WOODCUT only warrants WOODCUT/WOODlife/Deep Down installations over heated slabs in conjunction with the TFS AA8800/ Kley MS Polymer 4 in 1 adhesive which can be purchased from WOODCUT.