

PRONTO ENGINEERED OAK T&G INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

BACKGROUND

For our PRONTO Tongue & Groove engineered planks installed onto Particle Board (PB) or Plywood we provide key points that must be followed to ensure a quality install. Please read the document as a range of important considerations are provided for both Direct Fix and floating installations. Direct Fix is the optimum installation for floor performance, refer pg.3.

For Concrete Slab installation please refer ATFA Guidelines for adhesion to Concrete Slabs or review the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines. Concrete Slab substrates must be Dry approx. 2.5 – 4.5%.

Two methods are discussed, and we encourage you to use professional contractors to ensure the flooring is correctly installed. All direct fix slab installations require an appropriate Moisture Barrier (MB) system. A system approach with a compatible MB and elastomeric adhesive is required to support warranty provisions. You must follow the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines for trowel & adhesive spread heights. Substrate flatness is critical; sub-floor should not exceed 3 mm over a 3 m radius in all directions. Any hollows or humps need to be assessed and rectified prior to installation. Please follow manufacturer's guidelines for leveling compound application and drying times.

Under no circumstances install directly to a joist and bearer system or a timber batten system. Warranty will be void.

T&G planks can be installed for vertical wall features. There are various methods of fixing applicable to this type of application. Please consult with your contractor to assess the optimum approach as each application will vary from site to site. Generally, a combination of secret nailing along with an elastomeric adhesive will provide a suitable fixing.

Please note: Our structural warranty allows for the installation of PRONTO with Hydronic in-slab floor heating only. We do not provide a warranty for installation with any alternate method of floor heating, this will void your warranty.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRE-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL METHODS

Importantly, the installation should be performed by a professional contractor. The installation process and method selected is solely the responsibility of the contractor and you must be satisfied that the contractor is qualified to carry out your site installation. Should you have any concerns prior to installation contact your retailer for assistance or visit the helpful site at www.afta.com.au to locate a qualified installer near your location.

At site please store the product in original cartons placed on a flat, dry area away from any extreme temperatures.

1. The planks must be carefully inspected prior to install to detect any imperfections. This selection process is a normal function for the installer prior to the final installation of the planks.
2. **FAULTY PLANKS SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED** and will not be covered by warranty provisions. A waste factor of approximately 8-10 % is required

for length cutting, sorting and visual selection. If excessive product faults are detected please contact the point of purchase immediately for advice. **If in doubt do not install, STOP.**

3. Preparation is critical when working with direct fix adhesive installations. You should have the necessary cleaning solutions available to keep any adhesive or other substances away from the surface of the plank. Common baby wipes and eucalyptus oil on a clean rag are helpful items to have at ready for clean-up situations. Paints and adhesives may prove difficult to remove when the installation is complete. Do not use masking tape on the coating as it may permanently damage the surface. It is necessary to clean as you go, this will avoid messy clean up situations when the adhesive has been allowed to cure & will keep the work site tidy.

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FLOATING INSTALLATION. (CROSS-LINKED PVA D3/BS EN204 FOR T&G REQUIRED)

PVA adhesive such as Aquadhere (any type) cannot be used under any circumstance. Use a recognised wood flooring adhesive such as, Sika, Roberts or similar, they are cross-linked PVA adhesives that comply with the D3/BS EN204 formula. If a floating option is selected the structural and coating warranty remain however the install performance is a matter between buyer and reseller/ installer. Floating installs require a moisture sealed slab or 200um fully sealed / taped moisture barrier or a combined MB & acoustic U/lay on the substrate. Expansion provisions as per instructions.

1. Once the planks are selected use a cross linked PVA Adhesive which meets the D3/BS EN 204 specifications, apply to the top of the Tongue profile on both long and short ends. Apply adhesive to the front edges and not too deeply. Some installers apply the PVA to the underside of the short end. Note: do not use excessive adhesive as it may squeeze onto the pre-finished surface. Only apply adhesive to as many planks as you can install prior to the adhesive curing. If the adhesive is cured before assembly, you will not be able to fit the tongue and groove together without gapping.
2. **Floor expansion and contraction requires perimeter expansion of 12 – 15mm for floating installations. Width areas greater than > 6m and long runs greater than >11m will require installation of expansion and transmission joins. Allow, 1 - 2 mm expansion gap for every extra 1 m of width as a guideline. Note: caulking will hinder natural floor movement, it should not be used. Adequate space around heating and service ducts should be created to allow the floor to expand and contract. Refer Figure 2 & 3.**
3. **If the client objects to these inclusions, please keep a record that the client did not wish to include expansion trims. Wherever possible, each room should be treated as a separate install, this will reduce floor movement.**
4. **Kitchen Island benches cannot be placed on a floating floor. Install prior to floor install. Flooring must be around the perimeter of the bench or under the bench kick boards / fascia to allow for natural floor movement.**
5. First and last plank length should not be less than 300 mm. Short end joins on parallel planks should be at least 300 mm in distance from the adjoining plank, Figure 1. Plan the layout of plank lengths and visual aspects prior to final fix. This will assist in providing a balanced blend of grade, colour & alignment.
6. For optimum visual impact planks should run in the direction of the longest wall area.
7. The installer needs to establish a method for pulling the planks tightly together to ensure gapping or bowing does not eventuate during the install process. The installed plank areas are weighted with heavy bags to assist in keeping the floor flat whilst the adhesive is curing.
8. For natural flooring products, NO wet mopping or steam mops should be used to clean the floor before or after installation. Consult with your retailer to obtain a floor care guide.
9. Incidental scratching, chipping and indentations from external sources are site related and will not be covered by warranty provisions. Cover flooring with adequate protection if construction or painting is still occurring at the site. The floor should be protected from intense direct sunlight. Screens or blinds should be used to inhibit direct sun. Items such as rugs and mats should not be introduced until the floor has been able to acclimatise in its environment, this will take approx. 8 weeks. **Do not place untreated animal rugs on the floor without an appropriate protective backing.**

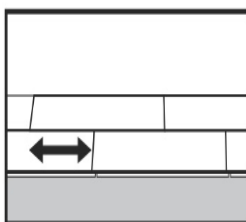


Figure 1.

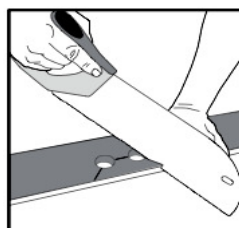


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

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DIRECT FIX INSTALLATION ONTO PLYWOOD, PARTICLE BOARD (P/BOARD) AND CONCRETE SLAB. THIS IS OUR RECOMMENDED OPTION FOR OPTIMUM OUTCOME.

1. A thorough understanding and inspection of the specific site conditions needs to be undertaken by the installer prior to commencing work. Site specific circumstances such as proximity to water, along with other climatic extremes may require more complex installation methods and maintenance. Under floor inspections should be carried out before installation.
2. Substrate materials such as structural Plywood and P/Board should be flat, free of moisture ingress and secure. Concrete Slab substrates must be Dry approx. 2.5 - 4.5% prior to installation. We recommend all slabs are fully sealed with a roll-on moisture barrier compatible with the adhesive type being used.
3. Substrate flatness is critical; sub-floor should not exceed 3 mm over a 3 m radius in all directions. Any hollows or humps need to be assessed and rectified prior to installation. Follow leveling compound application and drying times, do not install on wet levelling.
4. All PB & Plywood edges and surfaces should be lightly sanded to ensure flatness, particularly at the joins. Surface area should be sanded to remove any foreign substances such as waxes or paint etc. This will aid the adhesion process.
5. Inspect planks carefully prior to install to detect any imperfections etc. **FAULTY PLANKS SHOULD NOT BE INSTALLED** and will not be covered by warranty provisions. If certain planks are displaying slight bow or twist set aside under load to assist with site acclimatisation. These planks can be recycled into the installation later. If further assembly issues arise, please contact point of purchase immediately.
6. Where possible cover windows 24 hours prior to install to moderate the interior temperature and to block excessive sunlight.
7. Ensure humidity and temperature levels are comfortable. Avoid installation during excessive weather conditions. Follow Adhesive manufacturer's guidelines.
8. An optimum install requires full trowel adhesive using a minimum 4-6 mm square notched trowel. A recognised wood flooring adhesive such as Sika, Mapei, or similar is recommended. Refer, Pictures 1 & 2. Planks should be weighted to assist with high bond outcomes.
9. To optimise structural and visual performance, First and last plank length should not be less than 300 mm. Short end joins on parallel planks should be at least 300 mm lengthways in distance from the adjoining plank. Refer, Figure1.
10. Installer needs to carefully plan the layout of plank lengths and visual aspects / knots etc. prior to final fix. This will assist in providing a balanced blend of grade, colour and joint alignment.
11. **Large objects such as Kitchen Island benches can be installed onto a direct fixed floor or installed later.** Please make sure the installed floor is well protected if other trades are still to complete their fit outs.
12. Regularly review installs alignment throughout the entire installation.
13. For optimum visual impact planks should run lengthways in the direction of the longest wall area.
14. On Plywood and P/Board, along with the trowel adhesive you can also secret nail at 200-300mm intervals to improve alignment, stability, and adhesion in difficult areas.
15. For direct fix installs perimeter expansion will vary from site to site. **An allowance of 5 to 6mm for smaller areas is typically for many installations.** Installer will need to assess opportunities to maximize the natural movement of the floor for expansion and contraction especially around door thresholds, service ducts etc. Every installation will require expansion assessment. **Note: all buildings & sub-soils can move throughout the lifecycle of a property.**

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16. Incidental scratching, chipping and indentations from external sources are site related and therefore will not be covered by warranty provisions. **Please cover flooring with adequate protection if construction or painting is still occurring at the site.**
17. The floor should be protected from intense direct sunlight. Screens or blinds should be used to inhibit direct sun. Items such as rugs and mats should not be introduced until the floor has been able to acclimatise in its environment, this will take approx. 8 weeks. **Do not place untreated animal rugs on the floor without an appropriate protective backing.**
18. For natural timber flooring products, **NO wet mopping or steam mops should be used to clean the floor before or after installation.** Static or toweling mops for natural timber floor surfaces to clean and for accidental spills. **Refer Picture 3. Bona Floor Care is recommended.**
19. **Please make sure that masking or similar adhesive tapes are not placed on the surface coating of your pre-finished floor as they may lift or damage the surface coating when removed.**
20. Please consult with your retailer to obtain an up to date **Cleaning and Maintenance Guide** or visit **our website.**



Picture 1. Trowel spread



Picture 2. Plank bonding.



Picture 3. Clean spills promptly.

Your new PRONTO engineered oak floor is a living material that will expand and contract in shape if moisture or humidity is raised. It may also shrink if moisture or humidity becomes exceptionally low. As a natural product damage from these circumstances may lead to irreversible deformation of the floor if the room climate and humidity is left too high or too low for an extended period. In winter months for example if the relative humidity (RH) in a heated room goes below the specified 45% the floor may be subjected to conditions that could result in plank changes. In this case you should install an air humidifier to prevent damages to the floor. The same may also be necessary with air-conditioned rooms.

Disclaimer: Preference Floors has used its reasonable endeavors to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained herein and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be liable for any inaccuracies, omissions or errors in this information nor for any actions taken in reliance on this information. Products must be installed in accordance with relevant installation recommendations and industry best practices.

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