

# Preparation & Planning for Engineered Wood Flooring

## Your Guide to a Flawless Installation

### Phase 1: Before You Order – Crucial Checks

#### 1. Acclimate Your Flooring (Mandatory!)

- **What to do:** Upon delivery, bring the flooring boxes into the room where they will be installed. Open the boxes to expose the planks.
- **Why it matters:** Wood is a natural material that expands and contracts with temperature and humidity. Acclimation allows the wood to adjust to your home's specific conditions, preventing warping, buckling, or gapping after installation.
- **Duration:** Typically 48-72 hours. Follow your manufacturer's specific instructions.

#### 2. Inspect the Subfloor

- **Requirement:** Your subfloor (the base beneath your flooring) must be:
  - **Clean:** Free of all dust, debris, and old adhesive.
  - **Dry:** For concrete subfloors, a moisture test is essential. The moisture content must be within the manufacturer's allowable limit. Example: If wood is at 9%- concrete should be within 2% range no more than 11%.
  - **Level:** Variations should not exceed 3mm over a 1-meter span. Any high or low spots must be leveled.
  - **Structurally Sound:** Firm and free of any movement or squeaks.

#### 3. Check the Room's Environment

- Your home's indoor climate should be consistent with its normal living conditions (typically 59°F-77°F and 40%-60% relative humidity). This is vital for long-term performance.

### Phase 2: Planning Your Layout & Design

#### 1. Direction of Planks

- Installing planks parallel to the longest wall or the main source of light (e.g., a large window) generally makes a room feel more spacious and aesthetically pleasing.

#### 2. Pattern & Staggering

- Plan the layout so that end joints between planks are staggered randomly, with a minimum recommended distance (e.g., 15cm) between joints in adjacent rows. This creates a natural look and enhances structural integrity.

#### 3. Transition Strips

- Plan for transition moldings in doorways where the new flooring meets another type of flooring (e.g., tile, carpet) or in rooms that are excessively large, to allow for expansion.

**Pro Tip:** Always refer to the **installation guidelines** provided by your specific engineered wood flooring manufacturer. Requirements can vary based on the product's construction, locking system, and finish.