

Floor Seasons

The Hardwood Flooring Company

Timber with Underfloor Heating

The Duplex board is an engineered plank that can be manufactured up to widths of 400mm. We can make any width and also the planks can be made for structural use or as an overlay on top of an existing level and dry floor. It is important to remember that timber flooring is a living material. The wood, although no longer growing as part of a tree, is still very much part of the environment, responding to light, temperature, humidity, and wear. It is normal to see some movement in the boards, as some gaps open up owing to changes in temperature and humidity – fluctuations, which are brought about by heating and the naturally changing seasons of the year. The use of standard, micro-bevelled planks will also minimise the visual impact, if shrinkage/movement occurs.

It is important to follow the guidelines below to obtain the best performance of your new floor.

Radiant heated sub-floor:

Before installation, heat up the water of the system to 20°C and raise the temperature everyday by 5°C until you reach a maximum of 45°C. Maintain this temperature for 5 days. In the following days, lower the temperature by 5°C per day until you reach 20°C again, then turn off the heat and wait until the floor has reached room temperature. A temperature indicator should be installed in the screed. After installing the floor you should allow the floor to cure for 2 days before turning on the heating. The heating should then be turned on at an ambient temperature and should only be raised by 1°C per day until the desired heat is required. A room temperature of 20-23°C should be maintained.

Fitting

The floors can be fitted with a flexible adhesive and glued directly to the level and dry screed. Glues such as Sika T54 (available from Floor Seasons) should be used and will act both as an adhesive, moisture barrier and thermal conductor. Nail-down application if possible (timber sub-floors/timber battens) and gluing Tongue & Groove and floating on 3mm Heatflow underlay are all acceptable forms of fitting with underfloor heating: Maple, Jatoba & Lapacho are not suitable with underfloor heating.

Points to remember:

1. The maximum temperature of the surface of the screed should be 28°C and kept steady (check with the heat system manufacturer).
2. For correct water temperature inside heating pipes, check the manufacturers suggested guidelines.
3. Heating pipes must be located 3cm below the surface of the screed and the screed must dry naturally to below 1.8% moisture content (anhydrite: 0.3%). Do not turn the underfloor heating on before the correct moisture level is achieved.
4. Make sure the boards acclimatise in the area for 3-7 days before installation and keep the air temperature between 10-20°C and the relative atmospheric humidity between 50-65%. There is no need to remove the boards from the packaging.
5. The room temperature should not vary dramatically and again 50-65% humidity must be maintained.
6. If these conditions are not maintained and moisture loss is severe, there can be a breakdown of the cellular structure of the wood, leading to splits in the wear layer.
7. The responsibilities for the site conditions are the clients and should be adhered too. Problems may occur if not!