

## Tavernflor Fitting Instructions

Hardwood is a 'living' substance that reacts to changes in relative humidity. It gains and loses moisture before and after installation as surrounding conditions fluctuate, expanding in the summer (when humidity levels are high) and contracting in winter (when humidity levels are much lower).

To minimise the expansion / contraction of your hardwood floor, it is recommended that the building in which the floor is to be laid should be well ventilated and the relative humidity level maintained at around 45% all year round.

Before you begin laying the floor all plastering and cement work must be completely dry.

It is strongly recommended that the flooring to be laid is left to acclimatise at room temperature for at least 48 hours – at the ideal relative humidity level of 45%.

### Preparation

For new construction or renovation – be sure to maintain occupancy level temperature and humidity for at least five days. The house must be heated to 22°C.

Using a moisture meter, verify the subfloor's (probably plywood) moisture levels. Do not exceed recommended industry standards. If in doubt, check with the supplier.

Screw the subfloor securely and if necessary install an adequate moisture barrier.

Using a handsaw, slit the bottom of the doorframes 19mm (3/4") in order to slice a flooring strip beneath the door.

### **Please note – this product is not suitable for use with underfloor heating or floating floors**

### Tools and maintenance required

- hardwood floor nailer (with rubber mallet)
- electric drill and bits
- tenon saw, circular saw or handsaw
- claw hammer and nail punch
- measuring tape
- chalk line

Before you begin, it is important to verify the working condition of the hardwood nailer to prevent damage to the strips

### Step by step installation

1. Using the chalk line, draw a line parallel to the starting wall, 85mm (3 1/2") larger than the width of the flooring planks
2. Select flooring planks and lay them out on the floor in the general pattern in which they are to be laid – the straightest planks should be used for the first and second rows
3. Always select your planks with care – planks with bad flaws should be re-cut
4. Lay the tongue edge of the first plank along the guide line, leaving at least 19mm (3/4") space between the groove edge and the starting wall – this "expansion" space will allow the wood to expand if necessary
5. the first row must be secured to the subfloor using screw shank flooring nails
6. drill holes in the planks 25mm (1") from the edge at approximately 300mm (12") intervals
7. secure using a claw hammer and punch

8. to finish the row, measure and cut a plank to the required length – the surplus will be used to start the second row with so this final plank must be long enough to yield a strip of adequate length
9. leave a 19mm (3/4") space between the end of the plank and the wall – never nail closer than 75mm (3") from the end of a strip
10. start the second row with the plank at least 150mm (6") shorter or longer than the first plank used in the first row – this will avoid alignment of joints
11. set the plank in place, drill a hole on the tongue edge at a 45° angle then nail at every 200cm (8"-10")
12. the subsequent rows must be installed in the same manner but using a hardwood floor nailer – try a few hammering tests on a piece of scrap wood to determine the pressure needed to properly drive the nail
13. for best appearance leave enough distance between the joints by alternating with planks of different lengths to avoid aligning joints
14. the last four or five rows must be installed in the same manner as the first two rows – the use of the hardwood floor nailer will be impossible because the last two rows are too close to the wall
15. conceal the nail holes using the special wax
16. finish trim should only be nailed to the wall and never to the planks.

### **Maintenance**

Although your prefinished hardwood floor offers high durability and easy maintenance it is not indestructible. To maintain and preserve the beauty of your floor the following tips should save you time and worry.

- regularly sweep or vacuum the floor to prevent sand or abrasive dust from accumulating and scratching the finish
- use manufacturers specified maintenance products for safe, quick, easy maintenance
- Place doormats and rugs inside at every entrance to prevent sand and abrasive dust accumulating
- place a rug in front of the dishwasher and the kitchen sink to protect the floor from waters, oily detergent spills and falling objects
- use protectors under all narrow casters or replace them with wider rubber casters – avoid plastic casters
- protect the floor when moving heavy pieces of furniture – carry them or place them on a rug, wrong side up, and slide the rug (refrigerators should never be moved without adequate floor protection)
- the relative humidity level in your house must be maintained at between 40% - 50% throughout the year
- problems related to humidity level variations can be minimised by proper ventilation, dehumidifying and heating

### **Things to avoid**

- do not pour floor cleaner directly on to the floor – always apply on a cloth then clean the floor
- never allow any liquid to remain on the floor
- avoid dripping mops which leave excess water on your floor
- some manufacturers recommend cleaning hardwood floors with a mop rinsed in a water and vinegar solution – this is acceptable as long as the mop is squeezed dry
- never use wax, oil based detergents or household cleaners – these may dull or damage the finish, leaving a greasy film that will make your floor slippery and more difficult to clean.

**THIS PRODUCT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR USE WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING OR FLOATING FLOORS**