



# **Installation Guide**



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## Pre-Installation Instructions

### ● Professional Installation and Defects

We recommend all Compass Materials flooring be installed by a professional contractor. Subfloor preparation and the installation method should be discussed with your contractor in advance to ensure the best results.

Additionally, we suggest reading through the entire set of installation instructions for the chosen method, so whoever is installing the flooring fully understands each step and has all the required materials to hand before starting.

The manufacturer declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with inappropriate or improperly prepared subfloors or job site environment deficiencies. The installer must document all site tests, and the records must be available if a claim is filed.

We suggest ordering at least an extra 5%-10% of material to account for loss due to grading and cutting.

Because real engineered timber flooring is a product from nature, it contains distinctive natural variations in colour and grain, which are not considered flaws. Regardless of the installation method chosen, the flooring should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure proper colour, grain, and shade mix. Compass Materials engineered timber flooring is manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards. Grading defects of a natural or manufacturing type are accepted up to 5%.

You will likely notice a change in colour when the wood flooring is exposed to the UV light from sunlight over time. This is also normal.

It is up to the homeowner and/or your contractor to inspect all flooring for defects before installation. Carefully examine the flooring for colour, factory finish, grade, and quality. We cannot offer a warranty on materials with visible defects once the product is installed. Installation implies acceptance of the product. Therefore, do not install any flooring with glaring defects, whatever the cause. If the product is not acceptable, contact your retailer immediately before installation.

Using stain, filler, or putty stick for the touchup of the floorings during installation is normal and not a cause for concern.

Engineered timber flooring naturally contracts and expands slightly due to seasonal changes. Expansion gaps are included in the instructions for the different installation methods below. You will find you need a smaller expansion gap in drier areas, whilst a wider gap may be necessary in more humid locations, such as Coastal Northern Australia. For more information about how your engineered timber flooring may react to the environment, please contact your retailer.

### ● Acclimation

We recommend that with new construction or major renovations, engineered timber flooring should be one of the last elements installed. Complete all work involving water and debris, such as plumbing and drywall, prior to installing wood flooring. Make sure all cement work, plastering, and painting are totally dry before the flooring is delivered.

If tradespeople need to complete work once the flooring has been installed, we recommend covering it with an appropriate breathable floor protection, do not use non-breathable plastic.

Whatever heating or cooling systems are installed it is required that you maintain a consistent room temperature of 15-27 °C and humidity of 35%-55% and these should be fully operational at the time of installation. The environment where the flooring is to be installed should meet these standards for at least five days prior to installation.

Excessive moisture can damage natural engineered timber flooring. To avoid damage caused by moisture, check basements and crawl spaces to ensure they are dry and well ventilated. If not finished with cement, crawl spaces must have a minimum of 200 µ m of black polyurethane film as a vapour retarder on the ground surface.

The moisture content of both the subfloor and the flooring should be checked and recorded before any work begins.

Engineered timber flooring should be properly acclimated to local temperature and humidity conditions prior to installation. Keep engineered timber flooring in its cartons, stored at the job site for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Do not stand flooring on ends, directly on concrete, or next to outside walls. Try to maintain at least 10 cm of air space around the cartons. Elevate flooring 10 cm off any concrete subfloor.

**Note:** This flooring is designed for use below grade, on grade, or above grade but cannot be installed in bathrooms or other high-moisture areas. Check with your retailer about which models can be installed over radiant heat (instructions below).

## Subfloor and Levelling Requirements

### ● Preparation

To prepare subfloors for engineered timber flooring installation, they must be:

- Clean: Scraped or sanded, swept, and free of wax, grease, paint, oil, previous or existing glues or adhesives, and other debris. Do not use a solvent-based stripper on concrete subfloors, as this can impair the bonding of flooring adhesives.

- Smooth/flat: Within 3 mm on a 2-m radius or following ATFA industry guidelines and applicable standards such as Australian Standards AS 1884:2012. Sand and fill, making sure levelling compounds are dry before installation. Irregularities that cause hollow spots between the flooring and the subfloor may void the warranty.

- Structurally sound: Repair or eliminate squeaking and movement, especially excessive vertical movement.

- Dry: Moisture testing should be performed and documented after wood flooring has been acclimated for at least 48 hours.

For wood substrates, take readings from at least 20 different locations per 100m<sup>2</sup> of floor area and average the results. The wood subfloor should not exceed 12% in moisture content. The moisture content of the flooring should be within 4% of the average wood subfloor moisture content before beginning installation so there is not a large difference between the two.

Concrete subfloors must be cured for a minimum of 60 days prior to moisture testing.

“The concrete shall be suitably dry to accept the installation of timber products please refer to the adhesive manufactures recommendations on slab moisture and relative humidity also further guidance should be sought in the ATFA publication on suitable slab moisture conditions for installing of engineered timber flooring before proceeding”

Remember to undercut door jambs prior to installation. Remove any existing skirting boards or perimeter beading.

### ● Installation on Wood Substrate — Subfloor Preparation

All subflooring materials must meet Australian product standards for quality and performance and follow the manufacturer’s instructions for fastening and spacing.

Joist spacing must meet Australian building codes for subflooring prior to engineered timber flooring installation. Never install flooring directly over floor joists without subflooring.

If installing flooring directly over an old wood or strip floor, sand any high spots, re-nail the old floor to eliminate squeaks or loose boards, and install new planks at right angles (perpendicular) to the old floor. Alternatively, overlay the old floor with plywood underlayment. Leave a 3-mm gap at the edges. Nail every 15 cm at the edges and every 30 cm in both directions and through the interior of each sheet of plywood. Edge swell should be flattened.

### ● Installation on Concrete Slabs — Subfloor Preparation

To ensure a lasting bond, make sure the perimeter of the foundation has adequate drainage and a vapour retarder. Apply a liquid-based moisture vapour retarder coating to the subfloor. Over concrete, use only concrete moisture sealer systems that are specifically designed for moisture suppression and adhesive bonding properties. Follow the manufacturer’s guidelines and recommendations.

The underlying floor must be permanently dry and protected against moisture. If this requirement is not met, the flooring planks can swell, shrink, and warp, and they will void the warranty.

**Note: Lightweight concrete has a different dry density than regular concrete and is only suitable for engineered wood floors when using the floating installation method described below.**

### ● Installation on Subfloors Other Than Wood or Concrete — Subfloor Preparation

Do not install over carpet. Perimeter-glued resilient vinyl and rubber tiles are also unacceptable underlayment and must be removed.

Terrazzo, marble, tile, and any other hard surfaces that are well bonded to the subfloor, dry, structurally sound, and level, as described above, are suitable as a subfloor for this engineered timber flooring installation. Clean and prepare as described above. Terrazzo, marble, and ceramic tile must be scuffed to assure adhesion (refer to adhesive manufacturer for further guidance.)

The flooring can be glued or floated directly over full-spread, permanently bonded acoustical cork. Density should be sufficient to support engineered timber flooring and installed according to the cork manufacturer’s recommendations. Do not use foam underlayment when using the floating method over cork.

**ASBESTOS WARNING!** Do not sand existing resilient tile, sheet flooring, backing, or felt linings. These products may contain asbestos fibres that are not readily identifiable. Inhalation of asbestos dust can cause asbestosis or other serious bodily harm. Check with local laws for handling hazardous material before attempting the removal of these floors.

## ● Installation on Heated Subfloors

**Use the floating floor installation only** (see below). Do not use the glue-down or staple installation method on radiant heat flooring.

**Only elm, maple or birch are approved for use on radiant heat applications.** Do not use oak, American cherry, hickory, acacia, or any exotic species. The warranty will be voided if anything other than approved species or installation method is used.

Radiant heating systems used must be designed by the system manufacturer for engineered timber flooring and must include an outside temperature probe and surface temperature controls.

Be aware that minor gapping between wood planks during the heating season is a normal occurrence with engineered timber flooring installed over radiant heated systems.

A pressure test must be performed and documented prior to installation. At the time of installation, the subfloor must be 17-20 °C. After installation, do not change the radiant heat setting for 48 hours. Gradually increase the heat in 1° increments daily to adjust the heating system temperature up or down to allow the flooring to adjust to the temperature changes. The maximum temperature of the subfloor under normal use should not exceed 29 °C.

For correct water temperature inside heating pipes, check with the manufacturer’s suggested guidelines. Heating pipes must be covered with 3 cm of concrete or be located at a minimum of 3 mm below the bottom side of a plywood subfloor. In addition, for a plywood subfloor, the heat transfer plates or insulation boards must be under the pipes.

Use an adhesive approved by the system manufacturer for edge and end joints.

Room temperature should be maintained between 15 and 27 °C and not vary more than 8 °C from season to season. Relative humidity must be maintained in the range of 35%-55% humidity in the home for radiant heated rooms.

Always refer to the manufacturer of the radiant heating system for detailed instructions.

## ● Instructions for Floating Floor Installation

REQUIRED TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES:

- Tape measure
- Moisture metre (wood/concrete)
- Underlayment and vapour retarder (if needed)
- Mallet (light coloured)
- Circular or hand saw
- Mitre or table saw
- Pry bar
- Drill with 1.5875 mm (1/16 in.) bit
- Tapping block
- Chalk line and chalk
- Hammer
- Safety equipment (goggles, gloves, and mask)
- Utility knife
- Spacers (9.525 mm or 12.7 mm)
- Engineered timber flooring cleaner
- Tongue and groove flooring adhesive (PVAC)
- Broom

### ● IMPORTANT: DO NOT INSTALL CABINETS OR WALLS ON TOP OF THE FLOORING WHEN USING THE FLOATING INSTALLATION METHOD.

**If installing below grade:** The concrete slab should be sealed with a good concrete sealer. Then, combination foam/plastic underlay with double sided tape with a plastic thickness of a minimum 150 µm or a 200 µm poly film should be installed with edges overlapped at least 200mm and taped with clear wide duct tape to prevent any moisture from coming up through the joints. The combination underlay or 200 µm poly poly film should be lapped up the wall 10 cm around the perimeter of the room. These can be trimmed off after mouldings are installed. If using a combination underlay, the installation can begin. If using a 200 µm poly film, roll out on top of the poly film a 3-mm thick closed-cell foam underlay, butting the edges but not overlapping.

### Step 1: POSITION THE FIRST ROW

•Before starting, measure the width of the room, and then divide the room’s width by the width of the plank. If this means that the last row of planks will be narrower than 50 mm, then you will need to cut the first row of planks to make it narrower. Cut in such a way that both rows of planks (the first and last to be installed in the room) will have the same approximate width for an overall continuous look. (See installing the last row, below.)

•Cut the boards with the saw teeth cutting down into the face or top of the board to protect the surface.

•Begin the installation of the planks in the left-hand corner of the room with the long direction parallel to the incoming sunlight source or to the longest wall of the room if possible. Be sure to install the first row of boards with the groove side facing the wall.

•Use expansion spacers (depending on the thickness of the flooring) to provide a gap for seasonal expansion along the walls of the entire room. To maintain a square, always place expansion spacers against the wall where the two boards meet.

•If the starting wall is out of square, it will be necessary to scribe the first row to match the wall, allowing the opposite side of the row to present a true square base for the rest of the floor. When the first row is complete, you must have a straight, even base established.

•Note: Larger rooms require additional expansion space. Add 1.5 mm to the width of the spacers for every 8 cm the room extends beyond 7.5 m. Dimensions exceeding 12 meters require the use of a T-moulding for expansion.

•When using the floating install method, every doorway less than 1.8 m wide must be transitioned using a T-moulding.

### Step 2: GLUING THE BOARDS TOGETHER

•The boards must be side- and end-glued using tongue and groove adhesive.

•Always apply the adhesive into the bottom of the groove on each board. **Do not fill the groove.** Apply a continuous bead, filling the bottom of the groove no more than halfway full.

•Start and stop the adhesive 50 mm from the ends on the long side of the board and 25 mm from the ends on the butt end.

Note: Any excess adhesive on the finished surface may be wiped off immediately using a water-dampened cloth or adhesive remover. Then, dry the surface and buff it with a dry cloth. If the adhesive has dried, use a soft white cloth moistened with adhesive remover, taking care not to abrade the wood surface.

### Step 3:INSTALLING THE REST OF THE FLOOR

•After installing the first row of boards, apply the adhesive to the first board on the second row using the above gluing instructions.

•Connect that board to the first row, making sure that there is at least a 15-cm stagger between the end joint of the board on the first row.

•Distribute lengths, avoiding “H” patterns and other discernible patterns in adjacent runs. Stagger end joints of boards row to row at a minimum of 15 cm for strip flooring, 20-25 cm for medium width planks, and 25 cm for planks wider than 12 cm.

•Tap the boards together with a hammer and a tapping block. Be sure that the tapping block is against the tongue only. Use a gentle tapping motion, and do not tap on the groove side of the boards to avoid damage. Once tapped into place, check the boards for a tight fit on the sides and ends.

•To install the rest of the flooring, continue placing the boards from left to right, plank by plank, and row by row.

Note: When installing around fixed objects, small areas, or even in general installation areas, the use of installation straps may be helpful for securing boards together as they can help ensure a tight fit.

### Step4:INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

Most often, the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space. If this occurs, use the following procedure:

•Lay a row of boards, unglued, with the tongue toward the wall, directly on top of the last row installed.

•Take a full-width scrap piece of the product that is being installed with the face down and the tongue side against the wall. Use expansion spacers against the wall to ensure the proper expansion space.

•Draw a line along the row moving down the wall. The resulting line gives the proper width for the last row, which when cut can then be wedged into place using a pull bar.

Note: The floor should remain free of foot traffic for a minimum of 12 hours while the adhesive sets.

### Step5:FINISHING THE FLOOR

•Allow the floor to dry for 24 hours before cleaning it or replacing heavy objects, like furniture.

•Fill any small cracks or nail holes with putty or a non-silicone based filler. Test filler on spare pieces first to ensure it blends with the floor.

- Remove expansion spacers and ensure the expansion space is adequately covered by mouldings or skirting boards. Always nail mouldings to the wall, never to the floor.

- Vacuum the floor thoroughly using the soft brush attachment or dust mop to remove any dirt and debris.

- Use a quality engineered timber flooring cleaner to finish the floor. We recommend products like Bona Swedish Formula Engineered timber Cleaner.

## ● Instructions for Staple-Down Installation

### REQUIRED TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

- Manual or pneumatic fastening machines with 15-18 gauge 4.7625 mm (3/16 in.) crown staples, 3.175-3.81 cm (1 1/4-1 ½ in.) length
- Moisture metre (wood and concrete)
- Circular or hand saw
- Mitre or table saw
- Drill with 1.5875 mm (1/16 in.) bit
- Broom
- Tape measure
- Mallet (light coloured)
- Pry bar
- Chalk line and chalk
- Hammer
- Safety equipment (goggles, gloves, and mask)
- Utility knife
- Nail punch
- Engineered timber flooring cleaner

NOTE: Improper adapter plates and/ or staples/cleats can cause severe damage. Contact your fastener manufacturer for the proper adapter, as well as recommended staples, cleats, and air pressure.

NOTE: Use the glue-down method for products wider than 12 cm.

Do not use staples or nails intended for 19mm solid flooring.

Avoid striking the edge of the prefinished flooring with the fasteners mallet. Edge crushing can occur, causing cracks and splinters. Use a block to hammer if necessary. Use only a flooring nailer that engages the top profile over the tongue at the appropriate angle. Make sure that the flooring nailer is flat against the board to prevent top edge damage. The plate in contact with the floor must be smooth and free from nicks or scratches. Faceplates should be covered with protective materials to prevent damage to the surface of the flooring.

For manual fasteners, improper plate selection can cause severe edge damage. Check with the fastener manufacturer to ensure that the proper adapter has been used for this nominal flooring.

For pneumatic fasteners, improper air pressure settings, and failure to use the proper adapters can cause damage to the flooring. The correct adapter and air pressure setting will properly set the fasteners in the nail pocket. Set air compressor to the fastener manufacturer's recommended pressure setting. Use a compressor with an in-line regulator with an air hose for proper adjustments. Adjust the air pressure to ensure proper setting of the staples. If tongue damage occurs, lower the air pressure. If the staples do not set properly, increase the air pressure.

If you need to remove a side-nailed staple, do not pull straight up from the tongue. This will damage the surface of the board. Instead, pull out the staple from the tongue at the front of the board with all pressure from the hammerhead directed into the subfloor.

Compass Materials is not responsible for any damage caused by the use of improper fasteners, improper adapters, staples, cleats, or tools, or for minor squeaking on a mechanically fastened floor.

### Step1: ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT

- Before beginning the actual installation, test the proper layout for your flooring by laying out several rows of flooring end to end in a staggered pattern. Allow for a minimum of 15-cm stagger of the end joints of the adjoining row, distributing short and long lengths equally over the areas where the flooring is to be installed.

- Flooring is to be installed at right angles to the floor joists and, if possible, in the longest dimension of the room.

- To ensure that you have a good straight line, place a mark 2.5 cm plus the width of the flooring on the end wall near a corner of the starting wall. Repeat on the opposite corner wall and insert nails into each mark. Snap a chalk line to provide a straight line to help align the planks.

- Leave at least 10-14 mm for expansion at all vertical surfaces to be covered by the skirting boards or beading. Normally, the expansion space around the rooms should be approximately the same distance as the thickness of the engineered timber flooring.

### Step2: INSTALLING THE FLOOR

- Fasten a test board to the floor and check for surface damage, air pressure settings, and tongue damage before proceeding. Make all proper adjustments before installation. Then remove the test board.

- For the first row, use the longest straightest boards.

- Align the first piece on the chalk line with the tongue out. The groove side and end should face the starting wall. Pre-drill holes to avoid splitting. Drive finish nails or screw-type flooring nails into

the face of the board every 15 cm, approximately 8.5-19 mm from the edge closest to the starting wall and within 5-7 cm from the ends. Drive the nails or drill into the darker grain of the wood to make them less noticeable. Keep the starter strip aligned with the chalk line.

- Edge nail the plank by driving the same type nails at a 45° angle through the tongue of the first piece, spacing the nails every 15-20 cm and within 5-7 cm from the ends. Repeat this process for the entire first row. Upon completion of the first row, go back and sink the face nails with a nail punch. If it appears that the holes will not be covered by the quarter round or wall base, fill with putty that blends with the floor colour.

- Repeat the edge nailing for the second row, but do not face nail like the first row. Typically, the first few rows must be edge-nailed by hand due to their close proximity to the wall. When clearance allows, use the stapler/fastener.

- Most people find it's easier to work left to right. Left is determined by having your back to the wall where the starting course is laid. When it is necessary, cut a strip to fit the right wall.

- Distribute lengths, avoiding “H” patterns and other discernible patterns in adjacent runs. Stagger end joints of boards row to row at a minimum of 15 cm for strip flooring, 20-25 cm for medium width planks, and 25 cm for planks wider than 12 cm.

- Install each succeeding row of planks by stapling/fastening the tongue side every 10-15 cm to within 5 cm from board ends.

- Upon reaching the last row to be installed, the planks should be ripped to allow a 9.5-13 mm expansion space. Depending upon the board thickness, the last rows must be fastened by nailing approximately 13-19 mm from the back edge of the board every 15 cm. The same process of countersinking the face nails and applying putty should be repeated (as above on the starting wall).

### Step3: INSTALLING THE FLOOR

- Use putty or a non-silicone-based filler to cover small cracks or face nail holes. Test filler on spare pieces first to ensure it blends with the floor.

- When the installation is complete, make sure that the expansion spacers are removed and the expansion space is covered with the appropriate moulding, such as skirting board or beading. Nail beading into the wall, never into the floor.

- Vacuum the floor thoroughly using the soft brush attachment or dust mop to remove any dirt and debris.

- Use a quality engineered timber flooring cleaner to finish the floor. We recommend a product like Bona Swedish Formula Hardwood Cleaner.

## ● Instructions for Glue-Down Installation Method

### REQUIRED TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

- 5 mm x 4 mm (3/16 in. x 5/32 in.) deep V-notch trowel or 6 mm x 6 mm x 5 mm (¼ in. x ¼ in. x 3/16 in.) square notch trowel, depending on the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines
- Quality flooring adhesive. (follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations)
- Broom
- Tape measure
- Moisture metre (wood and concrete)
- Mallet (light coloured)
- Circular or hand saw
- Mitre or table saw
- Pry bar
- Drill with 1.5 mm (1/16 in.) bit
- 6-8D screw shank nails
- Chalk line and chalk
- Hammer
- Safety equipment (goggles, gloves, and mask)
- Utility knife
- Nail punch
- Engineered timber flooring cleaner

### Step1: GETTING STARTED

- Install the flooring parallel to the longest outside (exterior) wall in the room. Measure out from the wall on the door side of the room in two places 77 cm (30.3 in.) for 7.62 cm (3 in.) and 12.7 cm (5 in.) wide products. Mark and snap a chalk line across the two marks. The area between the chalk line and the wall is the working area and will be the last to be installed.

### Step2: SPREADING THE ADHESIVE

- Hold the trowel at a 45°-60° angle, and spread the adhesive onto an area no larger than 3-4 m2 at one time.

- After spreading, allow the adhesive to flash off for 30-45 minutes before installing the wood flooring. The maximum available working time is 45-50 minutes. (Colder temperatures or high humidity will extend times, and warmer temperatures or low humidity will shorten times.)

- Do not install wood flooring material after the adhesive has dried. Test by touching the adhesive. If it doesn't readily transfer to your finger, the adhesive is already dry. If the adhesive has dried, remove it and apply new material. Periodically check the flooring to confirm 100% adhesive transfer. Within one hour of setting the flooring, roll the installation with a 45-70 kg roller to promote good contact with the adhesive.

**Step3: INSTALLING THE FLOOR**

•After the adhesive has been spread as above, start with the first piece of flooring. Install the flooring with the groove towards you and the tongue facing the opposite wall. Line up the groove of the flooring with the chalk line, and then press the flooring into the adhesive.

•Working from left to right, lay the next board and continue working towards the right until you need to cut a piece to complete the first row. Measure the size you need to complete the first row and cut to length.

•Distribute lengths, avoiding “H” patterns and other discernible patterns in adjacent runs. Stagger end joints of boards row to row at a minimum of 15 cm for strip flooring, 20-25 cm for medium width planks, and 25 cm for planks wider than 12 cm.

•If the leftover piece is less than 15 cm long, cut another piece at a random spot, and start the second row with it.

•A soft rubber mallet can be used to tap the boards on the face until they are in the proper position.

•Always saw boards with the saw teeth cutting down into the face or top of the board to protect the surface.

•For wood subfloors: use small finishing nails to hold the first row in place. Fill nail holes with filler designed to blend with your flooring.

•For concrete subfloors: take a piece of pine board, and using concrete nails, nail the board onto the dry side of your chalk line. This will hold your first row of starter boards in place.

•Complete the rest of the installation in your working area by following the same installation procedures that are stated earlier in this section.

•Lift a plank periodically to make sure that there is 100% contact between the board and the flooring adhesive.

**Step4: INSTALLING THE LAST ROW**

Most often the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space. If this is the case, use the following procedure:

•Lay a row of boards, unglued, with the tongue toward the wall, directly on top of the last row installed.

•Take a short piece of the engineered timber flooring that is being installed with the face down and the tongue side against the wall.

•Draw a line with a pencil along the row moving down the wall. The resulting line gives the proper width for the last row, which when cut can then be wedged into place using a pull bar.

•You will need to use a pull bar extensively to make the last row properly flush.

**Step5: FINISHING THE FLOOR**

•Allow the floor to dry for 24 hours before any cleaning or replacing heavy objects, like furniture.

•Use putty or a non-silicone-based filler to cover small cracks or face nail holes. Test filler on spare pieces first to ensure it blends with the floor.

•When the installation is complete, make sure that the expansion spacers are removed and the expansion space is covered with the appropriate moulding such as baseboard, quarter round, or shoe moulding. Nail mouldings into the wall, never into the floor.

•Vacuum the floor thoroughly using the soft brush attachment or dust mop to remove any dirt and debris.

•Use a quality engineered timber flooring cleaner to finish the floor. We recommend product like Bona Swedish Formula Hardwood Cleaner.

**Installation Tips**

•Mouldings must be pre-drilled to avoid splitting whenever they are to be secured with nails or fasteners. Use a mitre saw with preset adjustments for the basic mitre cuts at 22.5°, 45°, and 90° angles. A carbide-tipped blade makes the best cuts.

•Skirting board or beading should always be nailed into the wall. Do not nail into the floor.

•Always use mitre cuts rather than butt cuts when splicing. Decide the direction of the mitre by cutting the moulding with the long point oriented in the same direction as your natural line of vision when you enter the room.

**Moulding Types and Definitions**

**| Skirting Board**

borders the wood floor at the base of the wall to give the room a finished look. This moulding conceals the required expansion space between the wall and the engineered timber flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks.

**| Beading**

conceals the required expansion space between the wall and the engineered timber flooring. It is also sometimes used under cabinets and toe kicks where a wall base won’t fit or at the base of the stairs to provide a subtle blend between the floor and the wall or vertical surface.

**| Threshold**

typically used at exterior doorways as a transition between flooring and the doorway threshold. It is also used to transition a wood floor to different floors to make them fit together perfectly, such as where wood flooring meets carpeting or tile. Another common use for a threshold is to conceal the expansion space between the flooring and a vertical surface, such as fireplace hearths and sliding glass doors.

**| T-Moulding**

frequently used in interior doorways to join two wood floors in adjoining rooms. It is also recommended when making transitions from a wood floor to another floor that is approximately the same height, such as ceramic tile or laminate flooring (not carpet). T-mouldings are also used to provide expansion joints when a floor dimension exceeds the length of 12 m or width of 9 m.

**| Reducer**

used to join engineered timber floors that have been glued down or nailed down with floors of different heights, such as vinyl, ceramic tile, or low pile carpeting

**| Stair nose**

provides the proper transition for stairways or steps where engineered timber floors have been installed by either the nail-down or glue-down installation method. A stair nose also provides the proper overhang for a transition from one floor level to the next, such as the step into a sunken living room.