

## Installation Guide-Herringbone & Chevron

### **MATERIAL DELIVERY & STORAGE**

At Fórté Flooring, we take great care in delivering and storing our premium luxury hardwood flooring. To ensure the highest quality installation, please adhere to the following guidelines:

All Fórté Flooring Premium Engineered Timber Flooring should be handled with care and remain unopened until the time of installation.

Store the hardwood flooring in a dry environment, elevated at least 100mm above ground floor concrete slabs. The conditions within the installation area should closely resemble the in-service conditions of the completed building.

If the building is regularly air-conditioned or heated during the installation season, these conditions should be replicated before and during installation to ensure consistent results. Ideal indoor conditions are around 20 degrees Celsius with a relative humidity of 40% to 60%.

The focus should be on maintaining comfortable indoor conditions to facilitate the best installation outcome.

### **SUBFLOOR PREPARATION - DIRECT STICK INSTALLATIONS**

For installations involving direct stick applications, our luxury hardwood flooring can be laid over various subfloors, provided the subfloor meets the following conditions:

The subfloor must adhere to relevant Irish construction standards, ensuring soundness and structural integrity.

Any existing subfloor or overlaid product issues that could affect the installed floor's performance or appearance must be resolved before installation.

Subfloors must be sufficiently flat to accept the flooring system, with no more than 3mm deviation beneath a 3m long straight edge in any direction.

Uneven concrete subfloors may require levelling compounds, grinding, or other suitable methods to achieve the necessary flatness. Timber subfloors may need joist packing or sheet sanding.

#### **Surface Preparation:**

The surface where the hardwood flooring will be adhered must be completely free from contaminants that could compromise adhesive effectiveness. Remove any waxes, grease, paint, sealers, or similar substances.

In some cases, concrete slabs may need sanding or grinding to provide a suitable surface for installation.

When using levelling compounds on concrete slabs, follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Ensure any sealers used with the product are fully covered by the levelling compound to prevent adhesion issues.

The levelling compound must have sufficient tensile strength to accommodate the expansion forces from the flooring. Low tensile strength compounds are unsuitable for adhesive-fixed floors.

### **MOISTURE CONTENT - CONCRETE SLABS**

Before installation, assess the moisture content of concrete slabs using a concrete moisture meter and an in-slab relative humidity test. Moisture content must not exceed 6% with a concrete moisture meter and 80% with an in-slab relative humidity test.

At Fórté Flooring, we highly recommend using the TFS AA8800 4in1 Acoustic Adhesive and a compatible trowel for fixing the luxury hardwood flooring to the substrate once moisture content readings fall within the specified parameters.

### **MOISTURE CONTENT - TIMBER AND SHEET SUBFLOORS**

To ensure successful installation, the drainage system around the dwelling site must direct runoff water away from the building perimeter and subfloor space. Keep the subfloor area free from debris and vegetation to ensure proper air-flow.

Conduct a minimum of three resistance moisture meter tests in each area where flooring will be installed. The expected average in-service moisture content should not exceed 11%-12%, although this may vary in certain climates. In tropical environments, please contact Fórté Flooring for specific installation guidance.



Figure 1. Engineered Herringbone Crown Row

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### **DIRECT STICK INSTALLATION PROCESS - OVER CONCRETE**

1. At Fórté Flooring, we take pride in providing a detailed installation process for our luxury hardwood flooring. Follow these steps for a successful direct stick installation over concrete:
2. **Layout Planning:** Determine the floor layout and pattern direction. Generally, the pattern follows the room's length.
3. **String Line Placement:** Stretch a string line along the room's centre. Begin installing the parquetry strips along the string line, starting from the nearest wall.
4. **Template Placement:** Use a perfectly square plywood template/backer board, larger than the length of the parquetry boards. Screw it down in a diamond shape with upper and lower points aligned with the centre line.
5. **Precise Installation:** Install the first row of parquetry boards with precision. Place them in front of the previous row, push, and rotate them into place along the sides and ends.
6. **T&G Engagement:** Engage the end T&G joint with the side T&G's of the boards, minimizing sliding movement to prevent adhesive displacement.
7. **Apex Alignment:** Ensure the apex of the parquetry pattern aligns with the string line.
8. **Use Installed Flooring as Template:** Once installed and adhesive is bonded, use the installed parquetry as a template for the rest of the floor.
9. **Check Adhesive Transfer:** Check adhesive transfer by removing smaller parquetry blocks and inspecting the back. Weight all timber floors to achieve even adhesive transfer.
10. **Adhesive Cleanup:** Clean adhesive off the board surface using the recommended cleaner for the adhesive. Change cleaning cloths frequently to prevent adhesive haze.
11. **Joint Check:** Continuously check joints to ensure tightness.
12. **Guide String Check:** Regularly check the guide string during installation.
13. **Expansion Gap:** Leave an expansion gap of 10mm when installing the last rows, as specified in the installation section.
14. **Expansion Joints:** Install appropriate expansion joints at doorways and mimicking subfloor expansion joints and construction joints.

For specific guidance in areas with high humidity or extreme temperature fluctuations, contact Fórté Flooring.

### **CLEANING & MAINTENANCE**

After installation, it's crucial to clean and maintain your luxury hardwood flooring to ensure its longevity and beauty. Follow these steps:

**Thorough Cleaning:** Clean the floor thoroughly using recommended cleaning products from Fórté Flooring's Maintenance Guide.

**Minor Repairs:** Address scuffs, scratches, or imperfections using appropriate wax repair kits or fillers.

**Skirting Boards:** Fit skirting boards with sufficient width to cover expansion allowances, ensuring they only rest on the hardwood flooring and not pressed down forcefully.

**Finishing Touches:** If using trims, choose those that permit floor expansion and contraction movement.

**Protection During Painting:** Do not use adhesive tape on the floor when painting. Ensure the protective layer on the floor is non-adhesive, like paper or fabric.

For any queries, further information, or assistance with maintenance products, please contact Fórté Flooring at <https://forteflooring.ie/contact-us/>.

**Fórté Flooring is committed to delivering exceptional quality and craftsmanship, and following these guidelines will help you enjoy your luxury hardwood flooring for years to come.**