

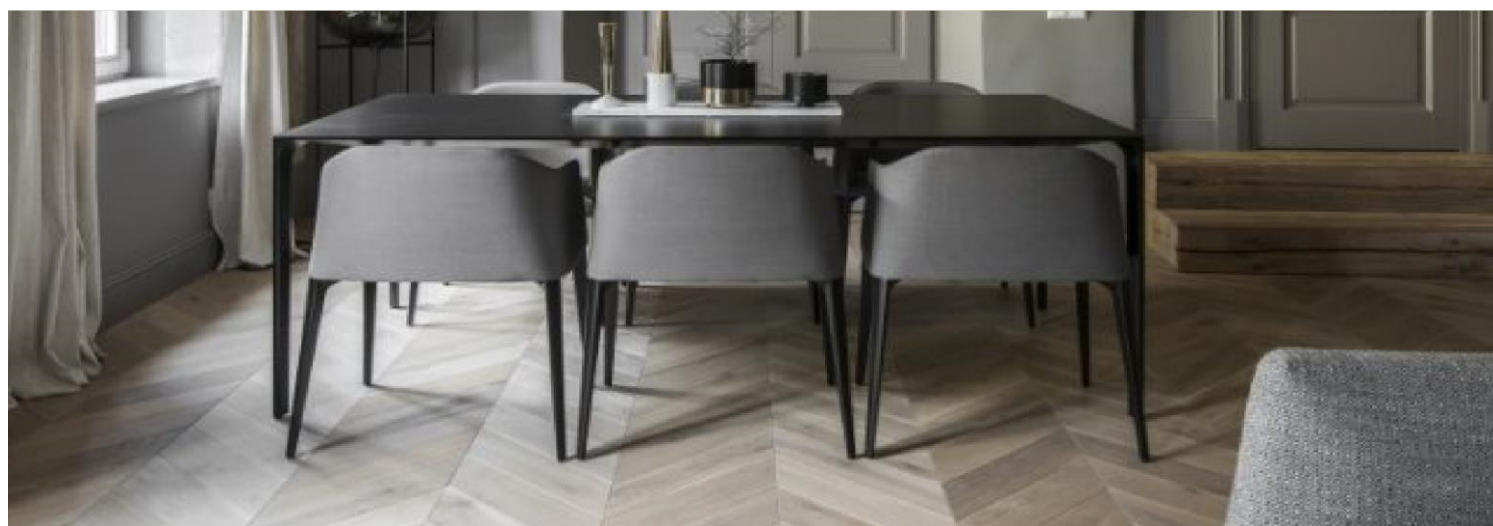


## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS** of Chevron and Herringbone Engineered Hardwood Flooring

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- 3 • USING THE PRODUCT
- 3 • YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES
- 4 • PRE-INSTALLATION INSPECTION
- 5 • BASIC TOOLS NEEDED FOR INSTALLATION
- 6 • HERRINGBONE PATTERN INSTALLATION
- 7 • CHEVRON (45°) PATTERN INSTALLATION
- 8 • MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES



---

## USING THE PRODUCT

Unique Bespoke Wood hardwood floors are designed to be used for a wide variety of projects, both commercial and residential. Our floors can be installed:

- on ground level
- below ground level
- above ground level
- over a variety of sub-flooring, such as concrete, plywood, OSB sub-floor, and others
- with floor and radiant heating systems
- in bathrooms, kitchens and laundry rooms

There are three different ways our products can be installed: glue-down, staple/nail-down, and floating installation. Though a self-installation is possible, it's not recommended. Making mistakes can be costly and difficult to fix. Never try to glue-down Unique Bespoke Wood hardwood floors on your own, as professional installation is an absolute necessity.

**NOTE:** Please take the time to read through this installation guide before beginning, improper installation is likely to void your warranties.

---

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

When you receive your Unique Bespoke Wood materials, immediately inspect it for defects before attempting installation. It is your responsibility to find these problems and contact a Unique Bespoke Wood representative right away. They can help you find replacement materials at no extra charge, but only if you report them before installation. Installed planks are considered to have been found acceptable by both the person installing the wood and the owner of the wood. This is true even if you weren't present during installation. In this instance, any extra costs of replacement or repairing installed defect planks are not the responsibility of Unique Bespoke Wood. Natural variations in wood grain and colour are to be expected, so we can't guarantee complete uniformity between planks.

Minor defects, such as small scratches, will likely need to be corrected with filler, putty sticks, or stains. These repair procedures are quick and easy to perform and will get the floor looking great.

A margin of on-site cutting waste of about 5-7% for regular and 12-13% for angle installation is recommended. This helps avoid cutting waste and grading variance errors. Please note that this cutting allowance must be added to your floor square-footage before purchase.

**NOTE:** When building a new home or renovating an existing one, try to install your hardwood floor last. This helps keep the floor safe from damage caused by foot traffic and construction.

## PRE-INSTALLATION INSPECTION

Inspect the job-site and its sub-floor before installation to ensure that it is environmentally and structurally acceptable. If your Unique Bespoke Wood wooden floors are damaged by installation without you checking for potentially damaging environments, no warranty will be provided.

This simple checklist will help you gauge whether or not your sub-floor and job-site are safe. These checks must be performed by the installer and the owner before installation.

**Please meet the following pre-installation requirements before installing our wood floors:**

- A sub-floor must be properly installed, structurally sound, flat, dry, and clean.
- The temperature at the job-site must be maintained at room temperature (**18-25 degrees Celsius or 64-77 degrees Fahrenheit**), with a relative humidity of **40-60%**. This temperature must be maintained at least five days for radiator-heated homes and two weeks for floor-heated homes. Dehumidifiers and humidifiers are suggested for this task. **REMEMBER:** These recommendations should also be maintained after installation.
- All basement and crawl spaces underneath the sub-floors must be well ventilated, either through windows or vents. Concrete sub-floors must have a moisture level no higher than 2% when the wood should not exceed 12%. Use a moisture meter to take readings in three locations every 100 m<sup>2</sup> (1075 square feet).
- Any deviations in sub-floor level cannot be higher than 2 mm (0.08") for each 2 meters (78.74") on the subfloor. Test the sub-floors level and use a grinder or edger to lower higher areas or self-levelling materials to build up the dips in the floor.
- Don't open your product boxes when you receive them, but store them in the area where they will be installed for a minimum of 24 hours. This helps the materials settle after shipping. Only open them when it's time to install the floor.
- Ensure that all foundations and concrete slabs for below-grade installation are leak-proof. Even a small amount of leakage can result in severely damaged flooring.
- Test the strength of your concrete sub-floor by scratching it with a nail. If it crumbles into powder, it is not strong enough for your wooden floor and you **CANNOT** install it. This is because the compression strength of the concrete is too low.

### **CAUTION: Wood dust is a serious danger**

Whenever cutting or installing hardwood floors, please wear dust masks and safety goggles. Wood dust can cause severe respiratory problems, as well as eye and skin rashes. In fact, the wood dust has been classified as a carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. Flushing irritated areas with water for 15

minutes should help reduce minor irritation, but medical attention may be necessary in cases of severe irritation.

## BASIC TOOLS NEEDED FOR INSTALLATION

- 8-15 mm (1/3"-1/2") spacers
- Chalk line
- Dust mask
- Hammer
- Hand or electric saw
- Hardwood repair kit (filler, putty stick or stain)
- Knocking block
- Measuring tape
- Mitre saw
- Pry bar
- Soft rags
- Square
- Wood moisture meter

Staple/nail-down installation also requires the following: power drill, nail punch, hardwood nailer or stapler, and finishing staples or nails (for example, 35 mm or 1 1/2"). Glue-down and floating installation also requires: ratchet floor clamps, blue tape, and a notched towel, as well as a glue cleaner (for glue-down installation).

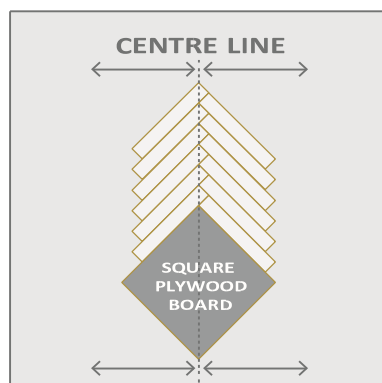
## HERRINGBONE PATTERN INSTALLATION

Precision is the key when installing hardwood flooring in herringbone pattern. On plywood, OSB sub-floors we recommend to use staple/nail-down installation method, on concrete subfloors - glue-down installation. However, we highly recommend to hire professionals for this type of installation.

**NOTE:** Do not use floating floor installation method for installing hardwood floors in this pattern.

### Step 1 – Priming (only on concrete subfloor)

- Apply your primer to the sub-floor with brushes you feel comfortable using. Wait about 4-5 hours for the primer to dry before proceeding. In a case of confusion, read the manufacturer's instructions before priming.

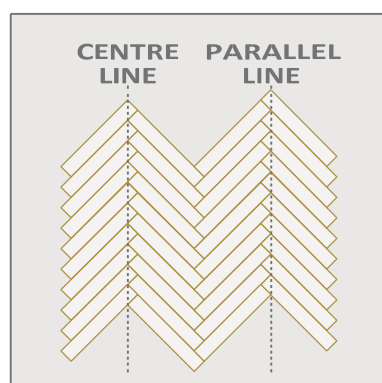


### Step 2 – Getting started

- Determine the layout for the floor and the direction the pattern will run. Typically, the pattern will follow the length of the room.
- Stretch a guide string along the room's centre line. Starting at the nearest wall and following the central guide string, begin installing the strips according to the chosen pattern – single, double or triple herringbone.
- Use a perfectly square plywood template/backer board, that is even or larger in size than the length of flooring boards being installed so that it can be used as a template and support for the first boards / rows

installed. The template should be screwed down in a diamond shape fashion with its upper and lower points aligned with the centre line.

- It is advisable to use a template during installation in larger rooms.



### Step 3 – Installation

- To obtain a good final result it is very important to be precise in the installation of the first rows of strips. The strips are always placed in the adhesive in front of the previous row and pushed and rotated into place along the side and end of each strip.
- The apex of the herringbone pattern must be exactly in line with the guide string. Once this area of hardwood flooring has adhered sufficiently to the sub-floor (refer to the adhesive manufacturers' instructions), it can be used as a template for the remainder of the floor.
- Check the guide string regularly during installation.

- When installing last rows, cut the boards in the way that allows an expansion gap of 8-15mm (1/3"-1/2") against the wall. These gaps are later covered by skirting boards and mouldings.

**NOTE:** No heavy furniture or activity should be allowed on the finished parquet floor for at least 24 hours if glue-down installation were used.

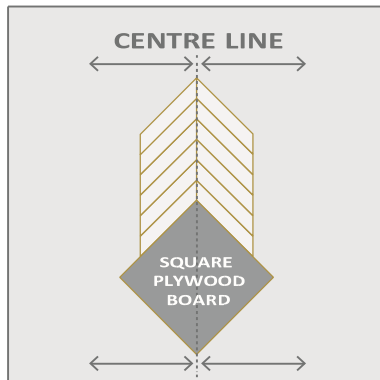
## CHEVRON (45°) PATTERN INSTALLATION

Precision is the key when installing hardwood flooring in chevron pattern. On plywood, OSB sub-floors we recommend to use staple/nail-down installation method, on concrete subfloors - glue-down installation. However, we highly recommend to hire professionals for this type of installation.

**NOTE:** Do not use floating floor installation method for installing hardwood floors in this pattern.

### Step 1 – Priming (only on concrete subfloor)

- Apply your primer to the sub-floor with brushes you feel comfortable using. Wait about 4-5 hours for the primer to dry before proceeding. In a case of confusion, read the manufacturer's instructions before priming.

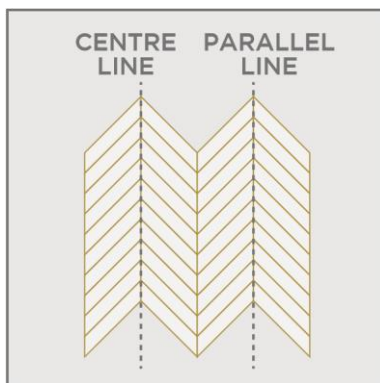


### Step 2 – Getting started

- Determine the layout for the floor and the direction the pattern will run. Typically, the pattern will follow the length of the room.
- Stretch a guide string along the room centre line. Starting at the nearest wall and following the central guide string, begin installing the strips.
- Use a perfectly square plywood template/backer board, that is even or larger in size than the length of flooring boards being installed so that it can be used as a template and support for the first boards / rows installed. The template should be screwed down in a diamond shape

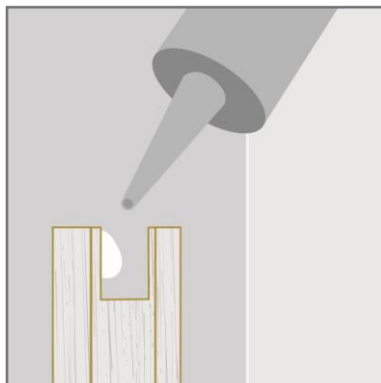
in fashion with its upper and lower points aligned with the centre line.

- After installing the very first boards measure the width of a row and mark the room with assisting parallel lines.



### Step 3 – Installation

- To obtain a good final result it is very important to be precise in the installation of the first rows of strips. The strips are always placed in the adhesive in front of the previous row and pushed and rotated into place along the side and end of each strip.
- The top side of chevron boards must be exactly in line with the guide string. Once this area of hardwood flooring has adhered sufficiently to the sub-floor (refer to the adhesive manufacturers' instructions), it can be used as a template for the remainder of the floor.
- Our chevron boards, don't have tongues, only grooves. After placing each board apply glue directly into the grooves and insert the tongue strips.
- Check the guide string regularly during installation.
- When installing last rows, cut the boards in the way that allows an expansion gap of 8-15mm (1/3"-1/2") against the wall. These gaps are later covered by skirting boards and mouldings.



**NOTE:** No heavy furniture or activity should be allowed on the finished parquet floor for at least 24 hours if glue-down installation were used.

---

## AFTER INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

Complete these simple steps after each installation process to finish your floor.

- After you finish laying your floor, you can remove the spacers and install transition pieces.
- Nail baseboard and shoe mouldings to the wall around the edge of your floor.
- Vacuum and wipe with special hardwood floor cleaners to give it a beautiful shine. Stay off the floor for at least 10-12 hours and don't add any furniture to its surface for a full 24 hours.
- Protect the floor from damage by placing felt pads under all furniture legs.
- Keep the remaining planks in storage in case of repairs.

---

## MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

Maintenance procedures for hardwood floors require a few simple processes that are fully outlined in our “Unique Bespoke Wood Maintenance and Repair Instructions” guide. Please, read through this completely after you install your floor to get cleaning, maintenance, and repair suggestions that can add years to your floor's life.

