

## GENERAL PREPARATION GUIDE

### **Important Information:**

To ensure that your hardwood floor is installed properly we recommend that you follow the installation instructions, whether you install it yourself or hire an authorised professional installer.

We cannot be held responsible for the poor quality of installation.

If you decide to hire a professional who will install your hardwood floor without your supervision, it is your responsibility to ensure the common sense of the installer. The installer must use reasonable selectivity in assessing the quality of the wood and grading, and in arranging floorboards according to the natural colour variations of the species selected. We cannot be held responsible for any unpleasant surprise resulting from the installer's lack of judgement.

The installer and/or the owner should select boards reasonably and either discard, relocate in hidden places or cut out pieces with glaring defects as necessary

We cannot accept claims on material already installed

### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN:**

- 1** Make sure that plastering and concrete work is completely dry. The heating system should be fully operational and the building heated for at least five days at 22o C prior to delivery of flooring.
- 2** It is strongly recommended that flooring be left to acclimatise at house temperature for at least 48 hours before installation and at the recommended relative humidity level.
- 3** Using an approved moisture meter, measure the moisture content in the sub floor (plywood); it should be between 6% and 12%.
- 4** 18mm solid strip is for nail-down installation/glue down installation only. DO NOT lay as floating floor. We would recommend at least a 15mm plywood sub floor over joists to compensate for any unevenness in the level of joists.
- 5** Remove skirting boards, quarter rounds and doorsills.
- 6** Using a handsaw, cut the bottom of the doorframes 18/19mm in order to slide a hardwood strip beneath the doorframe.
- 7** For maximum support, it is highly recommended that your hardwood floor be installed at a 90-degree angle to your joists or diagonally.

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**8** It is recommended that you install hardwood flooring under natural light conditions, as it enables you to see the nuances present in the grain and in the colour of the hardwood floor. As a result, you can arrange boards to create a harmonious effect.

**9** Determine your starting location. In most cases, you will start your installation from an outside wall. This is generally the longest wall within the room. Remember it is often more elegant to rip a floorboard along a wall than in a doorway.

**10** When installing pre finished hardwood floors, be careful not to let any heavy object fall on your floor (tools, boards etc) as this could damage its finish.

For specific instructions about installing nail down, glue down and floating floors, please download the other guides in this section.