
Fitting & Finishing Guide

A beautifully finished Russwood floor is a valuable addition to any home or commercial project, providing an elegant and timeless look which is easy to maintain and will last a lifetime.

To ensure that you get the best out of your floor, it is important that it is correctly fitted, finished and maintained. Using our extensive timber knowledge and experience we have put together this guide to help you every step of the way and, if you have any further questions, our technical team will be more than happy to advise you.

STEP 1 – PREPARE THE SITE

Careful site preparation is key in order to avoid post-installation problems. Prior to the floor being installed there are a number of steps which must be taken, as detailed below.

Complete wet trades

It is vitally important that the property is wind and watertight, the heating is switched on and all wet trades (plastering and painting) are completed prior to introducing the floor to the room. To avoid surface damage, we recommend that your floor be installed after the majority of works are complete.

Ensure that the concrete is dry

All Russwood floors are tested before they leave our sawmill to ensure that they have a moisture content of 8-10% (plus or minus 2%). If a concrete sub-floor exists it must have a moisture content which is lower than that of the floor prior to installation (as a rule concrete will dry out at approximately one inch per month).

Acclimatise flooring

The heating should be switched on at least two days before the floor arrives. In all cases it is necessary upon arrival to first take the boards into the room where they will be laid, then unwrap and lattice (crisscross) stack them so that the air can circulate. The floor should then be acclimatised in this room – at least one week for engineered wood flooring and two to three weeks for solid wood flooring – with a room temperature of 18°C and a relative humidity level of 40-60%, which should be measured using a humidity metre. The longer the floor acclimatises, the more stable it will be when laid.

RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Osmo polyx® Hardwax oil

Enables wood surfaces to retain their natural character and beauty for a lifetime.



Sika® Primer MB

A one coat, 2 part, solvent free adhesion promoter and damp proof membrane for wood floor bonding.



Sikabond® MS Wooden Flooring Adhesive

High specification adhesive which is designed for fixing a wood floor to a sub floor, such as concrete, chipboard or ply.



X-Pro™ Tack Plus

Russwood recommend this light and flexible adhesive underlay for use with any of our solid or engineered flooring options.



Alu-Foam Underlay

Alu-Foam provides a barrier between the flooring and the sub floor, allowing the floor to float.



YOUR RUSSWOOD FLOOR & UNDERFLOOR HEATING

Both our engineered and solid (up to 150mm wide) oak floors are suitable for use with underfloor heating (UFH) but it is important that additional care is taken to ensure that the installation is successful. We recommend that you take advice from your underfloor heating suppliers and/or installers. For more information about fitting your floor with underfloor heating please refer to the flooring support section of our website.

STEP 2 – INSTALL THE FLOOR

Russwood's solid and engineered floors are both suitable for use with any sub-floor. The boards can be fixed in one of three ways; using flexible adhesive, nailing, or X-Pro™ Tack Plus. All methods are detailed below and the method selected will be largely dependent on the type of sub-floor being used.

Flexible adhesive

Flexible adhesives are most commonly used to affix the floor directly to concrete, giving a secure bond to the sub-floor whilst enabling natural seasonal movement. Russwood recommends the use of Sikabond® MS Flexible wood flooring adhesive, as it provides a highly durable bond, adheres to a broad variety of materials, provides shrink-free hardening and is solvent free.

Prime concrete with Sika® Primer MB. Sikabond® MS Flexible adhesive should be applied using a trowel. A 14kg tub should cover 18-20m² with a smooth sub-floor. Working time is approximately 60 minutes depending on site conditions.

Nailing

Nailing is a cost-effective option and can be used with an alufoam underlay to level any variations in height and reduce contact sound. Nailing is the traditional form of laying a wooden floor, and is most cost-effective. For laying solid boards up to 180mm in width we would recommend secret nailing at 400mm centres through the tongue of the board, using a flooring gun and 50mm serrated flooring nails. For solid flooring greater than 180mm in width we would recommend face fixing (i.e. nail through the face of the board onto the joists) with screws which can then either be plugged or filled. For information on nailing engineered boards please contact our flooring team.

X-Pro™ Tack Plus

X-Pro™ Tack Plus is an adhesive mat underlay which represents a versatile solution designed for use on any smooth sub-floor. The floor is adhered to the underlay, rather than the sub-floor, creating a "floating" floor and rendering the use of screws, nails, glue or clips as unnecessary.

Regardless of the fixing method selected, it is recommended that an expansion gap of at least 10-15mm is left around the perimeter of the floor, as it requires some space to expand when humidity levels are high. The skirting can then be laid on top or a beading strip fitted if the existing skirting is left in place. If the boards are to be laid across the width/shortest stretch of a room and the room is greater than 10 metres in length, please contact us for more details on internal expansion gaps.

STEP 3 – FINISH THE FLOOR

If you have selected an unfinished floor it is recommended that it is finished with Osmo hardwax oil, in order to provide a natural and long lasting protection. The finish should be applied in line with the manufacturer's instructions, bearing in mind the following general guidelines;

- ☞ The floor must be clean, dry and dust-free before applying the finish.
- ☞ When using coloured oil, the desired shade should be tested on a flooring off-cut prior to coating the floor.
- ☞ Two coats of Osmo Polyx-Oil® will ensure optimal protection.
- ☞ A variety of bespoke finishes can be achieved by hand-oiling your floor. Please contact us for further advice.

STEP 4 – ENJOY YOUR FLOOR

We are confident that you will be happy with your investment in a Russwood real wood floor, and that you will enjoy its beauty for a lifetime. If you have questions about any aspects of fitting, finishing or maintenance, please do not hesitate to call our technical team using the details listed below.

GENERAL ADVICE

- ☞ Once the floor is received and checked on-site it is deemed as acceptable by the client. Russwood is unable to take any responsibility for the floor after this stage.
- ☞ In our experience, clients sometimes try to shorten the acclimatisation period, due to tight deadlines. If the floor is not fully acclimatised then it is more likely to expand or contract once laid, leading to an unsatisfactory result.

Finally, we would like to thank you for choosing Russwood. We really appreciate feedback from our customers, and use this to continually improve our products and services. If you have any comments please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email, phone or mail.