



Fitting Instructions

Important things you must know before you start

- Leave an expansion gap **minimum 5mm** around all perimeter walls. This can be concealed under the skirting board or by using a matching scotia or similar trim.
- You can use Craftsman flooring in areas of high moisture, such as bathrooms and kitchens, but not in areas which are regularly wet, such as shower enclosures or outdoors.
- Lay the Craftsman flooring directly over the subfloor. It has a built in underlay so must not be laid over a separate underlay.
- These fitting instructions must be followed exactly. The installer must determine that the flooring is suitable for the situation and fit the flooring carefully and professionally. If unsure, please consult a professional flooring fitter.

Subfloor preparation:

- Subfloor must be solid and only flex a little bit under pressure.
- Subfloor must be clean, dry and free of dust, grease and other contamination.
- Unevenness must be no more than 5mm difference over a distance of 2m. Repair any cracks and large lumps.

Tools needed:

- Vacuum cleaner
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Set square and ruler
- Sharp utility knife
- Rubber mallet (optional)
- Safety gloves

Before installation:

- Switch off underfloor heating at least 5 hours before laying flooring.
- Check all planks/tiles carefully for defects or differences in batch, colour or surface shine.
- Check the click joints are clean and undamaged.

Installation:

- Choose a wall to start laying the floor. Don't assume it is straight – measure the room at both ends to work out best position to line up the floor.
- Lay first row, with tongue of the joint facing starting wall, working from left to right of the room. Leave an expansion gap **minimum 5mm** between floor and wall along all edges (including row ends). Do not glue the flooring to the subfloor below.
- To fit the planks/tiles together along the long joints, push the tongue of one piece into the groove of previous piece at 45° angle and drop it down flat to lock the joint. To fit the end joints together, drop the tongue of the next piece directly down into the groove of the previous piece and press down firmly, or tap gently with the rubber mallet, to lock together.
- To cut a piece of Craftsman, use a sharp knife to score top surface well. The piece will then snap along the score line. Use the knife to cut the underlay after snapping. Wear protective gloves when scoring to avoid cutting hands.
- Lay the next row of Craftsman, working again from left to right, locking pieces together at each end and locking into previous row. Start new row off with a different length piece to previous row (such as the off-cut from end of previous row) to ensure the end joints are well overlapped. Continue to lay rows until whole floor is laid.
- For detail cuts around door posts and objects like radiator pipes, carefully mark the shape of required cut-out onto the piece and use a fretsaw, or jigsaw with suitable plastic blade, to cut to shape.
- If last row needs to be cut narrower to fit the space, mark the required width onto the pieces of last row, as follows:
 1. Lay pieces for last row perfectly in line on top of second-to-last row (with groove towards wall), locking the ends together to form complete row.
 2. Place a spare piece on top of last row and butt this piece up to the wall (groove towards wall).
 3. Use opposite edge of this piece to draw a cutting line onto pieces for last row below.
 4. Mark cutting line all the way along the last row by sliding spare piece along wall. Make sure pieces for last row don't move while marking.
 5. Take away spare piece, unlock pieces of last row and cut each piece separately by scoring all along the marked line and carefully snapping.
- Conceal expansion gaps along perimeter walls as per directions above and finish doorways with suitable door plate.

After installation:

- Clean the floor thoroughly with vacuum cleaner and/or soft mop to remove any grit and debris before placing furniture back in the room.
- Don't fix any items permanently onto, or through, the floor.

Care and maintenance ongoing:

- Don't drag heavy or sharp items across the floor, as this can scratch the surface. Use felt pads under furniture feet, chair legs, etc.
- Use vacuum cleaner or soft mop regularly to remove dirt and grit (which can cause scratches). Do not use a steam cleaner.