

silkwood engineered flooring

An easy-to-follow installation guide for
Silkwood Engineered Flooring

installation guide

Product description

Silkwood is a hardwood engineered flooring system that is fast and easy to install. It is usually installed as a floating floor but may be glued directly to the sub-floor. Floating floors are glued together by a tongue and groove connection and laid onto a Silkwood foam underlay. An expansion gap is left around the perimeter of the floor and is covered by a skirting board or moulding.

Suitable sub-floors

Silkwood is designed for any subfloor that is structurally sound, level, clean and dry such as

- Concrete slab
- Sheet flooring such as plywood or particleboard
- Existing strip timber floors

Note: for installation over heated subfloors, please contact Boral Timber Flooring for additional installation instructions.

Concrete slab

- The concrete should be clean, dry and free of dust, wax, coatings, adhesives, curing compounds, oil or grease.
- The slab must be flat with no more than +/- 3mm deviation in a 3m radius. If deviations are greater than acceptable then the laying surface can be brought to level using a self-levelling compound available from Boral Timber.
- Silkwood must not be laid on any section of a concrete floor, which has a moisture content of more than 5.5%. The best way to test for moisture content is to use an appropriate moisture meter.

Plywood and particleboard

- Plywood or particleboard sub-floors should be free from wax and dirt.
- The sub-floor must be sanded level prior to installation. This will remove any other surface irregularities, such as edge swelling at joints.
- Plywood or particleboard should be a minimum of 5 ply or 12mm. For further information on installing a plywood sub-floor ask for the Boral Hancock Underply brochure at your reseller.

Existing timber floor

- Timber flooring must be rough-sanded to remove any cupping or rough material.
- Sand to eliminate any unevenness and to remove wax or other surface finishes.

- If this preparation is not practical then Boral Hancock Underply plywood underlay should be laid over the existing floorboards to act as a sub-floor.

Moisture barrier

All sub-floors require a moisture barrier. Silkwood underlay comes with a pre-attached moisture barrier.

Tools for the job

- A saw or jigsaw
 - Wedges*
 - Square rule
 - Tapping block*
 - Pull tool*
 - Hammer
 - Floor levelling compound (if required)
 - Silkwood PVA glue
 - Silkwood Foam Underlay and Moisture Barrier
- * included in Silkwood installation kit

Extra tools required for glue down installation

- Bostik Ultraset or Mapei P990 polyurethane adhesive
- Appropriate moisture seal (if required)
- Notched trowel as per glue manufacturer's instructions
- Moisture seal as per glue manufacturer's instructions (if required)

Installation - Floating Floor

- Unroll Silkwood underlay onto your subfloor with the pre-attached moisture barrier facing down.
- The foam underlay should butt together with the clear plastic moisture barrier providing a 150mm overlap. The seam should be sealed with double-sided tape. This is supplied with 50m rolls of foam.
- It is recommended that you lay boards parallel to the longest wall in the room.
- Leave a minimum expansion gap of 12mm along all walls. Place 12mm blocks/wedges along one end to maintain the gap while boards are being placed. See figure 1. Floors in excess of 10m wide and/or 20m in length require a 20mm expansion gap on all sides, including around obstructions.
- Start the first row of boards with the groove facing the starting wall. Take your second board and apply an unbroken bead of Silkwood PVA to the top side of the groove. See figure 2 insert. Tap the end joint onto the tongue of the first board using your

tapping block and hammer and continue this along the starting wall.

- Measure and cut the last board of the first row, remembering to allow a 12mm expansion gap. See figure 3. Use the pull tool to tightly fit the last board of the row. See figure 4.
- Start new rows with a board at least 450mm shorter or longer than the strip used in the previous row. This will prevent end joints from clustering throughout the floor.
- As you add the next row, apply an unbroken bead of Silkwood PVA on the top side of the groove, along the length of the board and continue this along the expanse of the floor. See figure 5. Tap the boards together using a tapping block for a tight fit.
- Measure and cut the last board to fit, allowing for the 12mm expansion joint along its whole length. You will need a pull tool to fit the last board, closest to the wall. See figure 6.
- Clean up excess adhesive with a slightly damp cloth as you work.

Installation - Glue Down

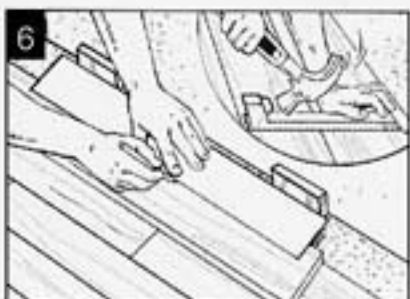
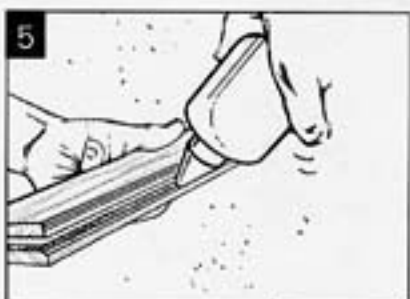
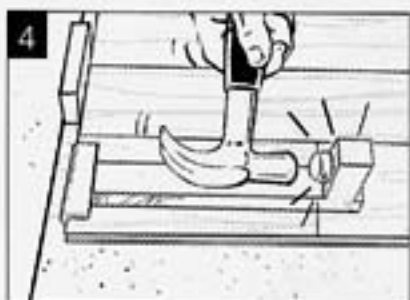
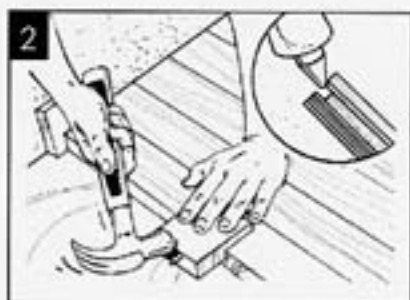
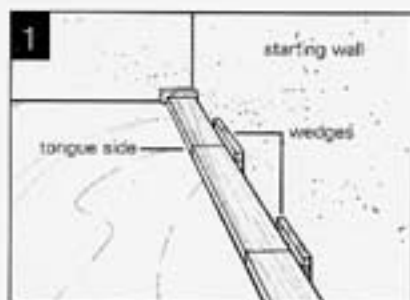
- Foam underlay is not required for glue down installation. If the moisture content of the concrete is $> 5.5\%$ then a moisture barrier may be required.
- Silkwood must be fixed with one of the adhesives mentioned above, using an appropriate notched trowel, as per manufacturer's instructions. Spread only enough adhesive for 2 or 3 boards at a time.
- Proceed to install the floor according to the floating floor installation guide detailed above.
- Once laid the boards should be in constant, firm contact with the adhesive until cured. Application of appropriate weights will hasten this process. Do not remove weights until adhesive is completely dry.

The finishing touches

You will need to cover the 12mm expansion gap that you left between the wall and the Silkwood floorboards. This can be covered with an appropriate skirting which should be nailed to the wall and not fixed to the floor. If you install your Silkwood floor with existing skirtings in place use a fillet mould or scotia to cover the gap, fixed to the skirting and not the floor.

Accessories

- Silkwood Standard underlay
- Silkwood Ultra underlay (reduces reflective sound)
- Silkwood (Cross Linked D3) PVA Glue
- Hardwood scotia available in range of colours
- Aluminium trims available in silver, bronze and champagne
- Silkwood Installation Kit



**Refer to the Boral Timber Flooring
Care and Maintenance brochure
for details on how to care for your floor.**

Important points to remember

- Read all instructions before you start.
- Take your time to plan the job properly.
- When installing over a concrete slab, Silkwood must not be laid over concrete that has a moisture content greater than 5.5%.
- Ensure that the sub-floor is flat (within 3mm over a 3m radius), clean and dry.
- Do not install any board with a visible fault.
- If possible, lay boards before fixing skirting.
- Silkwood is not recommended for wet areas such as laundries or bathrooms.
- Leave an expansion gap of at least 12mm between the flooring and skirting walls, this also applies to all obstructions, for example, plumbing coming through the floor.
- Lay the flooring at a corner of the longest wall with the tongue pointing out from the wall.
- In all floating installations use Silkwood foam underlay and pre-attached moisture barrier.
- If there are any problems before or during the laying of Silkwood floor, stop and do not continue laying. Contact Boral Timber immediately for further advice on 1800 818 317.
- Do not open more than three to four packs at one time.

Safe work practices

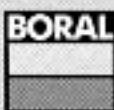
Wood dust may cause irritation and repeated inhalation may damage health and increase the risk of nasal cancer. Machinery or power tools may generate sufficient noise to damage hearing. The following work practices should be employed when working with timber:

- Work areas must be clean. Sawing, sanding and routing equipment should be fitted with dust extractors. Dust levels should be below standards set by Work Safety Australia for wood dust.
- When machining timber respiratory protection, gloves, clothing, hearing and eye protection should be worn.
- After handling timber, wash skin thoroughly with mild soap.
- Regularly launder clothing.

Disclaimer: Boral Timber retains the right to change specification without notice in accordance with its policy of continued product development. Every care has been taken in preparing the information contained in this publication, however the company cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies that may have arisen and cannot accept liability for loss or damage either direct or consequential arising out of or in relation to use of application of the said information.

Boral Timber Flooring

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July 2005

NBT 010