



Site Survey: Preparing to install a solid wood floor

Solid wood flooring should be installed only after all the following conditions have been met:

1. All gutters and down pipes etc. are properly placed to drain away water from the structure.
2. All damp proof courses are in good condition and inspected. Solid wood flooring should not be installed below the soil line.
3. All 'wet' trades – plastering, tiling, painting, etc. - have completed their work.
4. Central heating, air conditioning and/or ventilation are in place and operating (at least 3-5 days prior to delivery).
5. A new concrete slab should be flat and set to specifications. A damp course treatment (dpm) must have been installed and the concrete dry to 3% moisture content.
6. Driveways and sidewalks should preferably be installed prior to installation.
7. The building is enclosed and weather tight (roof, doors, windows). 6mm black polythene should be installed over exposed soil in the crawl space underneath the floorboards and joists on the ground floor. Cross flow ventilation below suspended ground floor joists should allow vent openings to equal 1.5% of the crawl space area (e.g. a 100m² crawl space should allow 1.5m² of vent openings). Research has determined that a 100 m² crawl space will draw some 70 litres of water every 24 hours out of the soil inside and outside the foundation and send it up into the house.
8. Temperature and relative humidity within the building are at normal or expected living conditions (temperature should be between 15 - 25 degrees Celsius and relative humidity 35-50 per cent).
9. Moisture content of the wood subfloor should be no more than 2-3% above the moisture content of the solid wood floor to be installed.
10. It is recommended that solid hardwood flooring be installed only over an 18mm plywood subfloor; the flooring should be blind nailed using a flooring nailer and glued using a heavy duty construction adhesive such as PL400 or PLPremium.
11. It is the owner's responsibility to check all internal pipe work - washing machines, dishwashers etc. - for leaks. Ensure all outside doors and windows are properly installed, sealed and nearby areas dry.