



## The Dos and Don'ts of Fitting a Pre-Finished, Square-Edged Herringbone or Chevron Parquet.

This document is a general guide to the proper fitting procedures of parquet flooring. What we as manufacturers first emphasise when discussing parquet flooring is the critical importance of employing a specialist Parquet floor fitter. This is one of the most difficult types of floor to fit, especially square edged herringbone, and can therefore be a very complicated job for even the most experienced fitter or contractor. If the initial crown line is out of true by even the smallest margin, the floor will not fit properly leading to gaps or other issues. For your own reference, you can see how these boards should be fitted and the process necessary to achieve a perfect fit in 'The Wood Manufacturers Association' guide to the 'Installation of Herringbone and Chevron Parquet' in the same section of the technical library as this PDF.

Traditional parquet in both a Herringbone pattern and Chevron – regardless of the angle - was fitted unfinished as it would not have a bevel or micro bevel. Therefore, it was always supplied square edged, just like our overlay 10mm thick EazyFit parquet blocks. A square-edged board, however, can easily be damaged during fitting and if square-edged boards have been specified by architects or designers then a 'cutting and wastage' allowance of at least 10% to 12% should be made to allow for this. This also feeds into the finishing of the wood, as – generally speaking – an oiled finish provides greater leeway than applying a lacquer, as an oiled finish can be cleaned and reoiled after installation to enhance the fitted floor. Repairing damage to lacquer requires a professional inspection.

Because wood is a natural product that reacts to its local environment, we always insist that – whenever possible – all wet-trades and other site works are completed prior to the delivery and installation of the boards. For projects with underfloor heating, acclimatisation advice must be strictly followed to prepare the boards or parquet blocks for installation in an environment with underfloor heating. Boards will shrink or expand in reflection of the humidity of the room. If site conditions are not conducive to wood flooring then on no account should it be delivered or stored, as these conditions will fundamentally effect the composition and cell-structure of the wood and create an 'out of tolerance' parquet block. Any site that is at all open to the elements – such as tower block developments – should not be used to store wood flooring, as the wood would react adversely and would ultimately do irreparable damage to the boards.

We have a full Quality Control Procedure in place from the selection of raw material through each stage of the production process, and all of our flooring products are made to British Standards with the specified tolerances. Checks are performed on each batch of flooring we release to the market, and we have full traceability on every product we manufacture. Any damage to cartons or boards should be immediately reported to both the delivery company and ourselves for investigation. Please never fit a board that you're not happy with or consider to be damaged, and we would much prefer you to operate on a 'If you don't like it, don't fit it' basis. We're always happy to help with any issues you may have with our products, so always get in touch with us before continuing with installation.

For any questions on any of the above, please do get in touch with us on 01666 504015 or email [info@thesolidwoodflooringcompany.com](mailto:info@thesolidwoodflooringcompany.com)