



**econfloor**  
P O L S K A

# *INSTALLATION:*

## Methods of installing the econfloor polska floorboard

It often turns out that what should be simple causes the greatest difficulty. Choosing one of the wood floors available on the market can be a real headache. Someone renovating or arranging a home has to decide about the aesthetics and properties of the wood, as well as consider the structure of the floor and the way it is to be installed. The cost of the investment is a major one for the household budget, and leaves no room for error, so it is worth knowing the basic principles of proper installation.





# *Requirements for installing layered floors:*

## **a) storage:**

Purchased cartons containing wood floorboards should be placed horizontally in the room in which they are to be fitted to acclimatise for a minimum of 48 hours. Do not open the cartons. Otherwise the wood will react to differences in temperature and humidity between the room where it was stored and the room where the floor is to be installed. In practice, if these temperatures are similar then there is no need to acclimatise the floor for 48 hours. Where possible, however, it is worth waiting this time.

## **b) necessary tools:**

- a 1 kg hammer
- a ruler or measuring tape
- a fine-toothed hand or electric saw
- spacing wedges
- in the case of solutions with a 5Gs lock - a spanner for the lock, a tapper and a metal lug
- econfloor has a full assembly kit in its offer

## **c) before laying the floor:**

It is worth remembering that with rectangular rooms **around 5% more floorboards should be bought** than the area of the floor surface. This is because the floorboards laid will be trimmed to fit the size of the room, so more of them will be needed.

The room should have **adequate ventilation**. Packs of floorboards should be opened on the day they are laid. Prior to laying carefully inspect the floorboards and **plan the laying patterns**.

It is also worth thinking about the arrangement of the floor, remembering that the **maximum floor span without any intermediate expansion gap is 8 m along the floorboard's width and 20 m along the floorboards length**. This results from the construction of the floorboard, as it has to work significantly less lengthwise. If the room measures less than 8 by 8 metres, however, it is worth considering the parameter which aesthetically influences the floor when laid, i.e. the direction the sunlight falls, and for this reason lay the floor towards the window. This will certainly have an influence on the joints between individual floorboards being less visible and the floor more pleasing to the eye. If any room side is longer than 8 m or the flooring is installed in a long and narrow room such as a corridor, the floorboard should be fitted down the length of the room.

d) surface preparation:

The econfloor floorboard can be installed on any **dry, clean, stable and even sub base**. In addition, the moisture content (humidity) of the floor should be checked, and this should be 2% CM for concrete, for anhydrite 0.5% (CM designates the dampness as measured by a concrete moisture meter), and for wooden floors 8%.

Subfloor evenness can be checked using a traversing rule or level minimum 3 mm long. Subfloors must be flat and level and any surface lumps or depressions should not be more than 2 mm over any 2 m span. If the irregularities are greater, the subfloor must be evened out using a commercially available self-levelling or aligning compound.



# FLOATING INSTALLATION:

If the floor is being laid by the floating method, i.e. without the use of adhesive, laying out areas of flooring like a carpet), it is worth remembering to first of all use a damp proof membrane to protect the floor against damp from the subfloor, forming anti-moisture insulation. The moisture content of the concrete subfloor should be up to 2% according to the CM method.



Floor installation should begin with the laying of the underlay with edges touching (but never overlapping). This does not apply to some floor planks which are laid with 2 mm expansion gaps between individual planks and a 10 mm expansion gap by the wall. Natural materials should be used as underlay, such as those offered by econfloor.  
cork mat,  
natural underfloor tiles.

When choosing an underlay, use its properties as a guide. For some customers, the thermal and acoustic properties of the underlay will be important, or its ability to level out unevenness of the concrete, for others it will be the thickness, as the underlay and floorboard are in contact with kitchen tiles.

- Once the direction of laying the floor is established, the room width needs to be measured.

Subtract the width of the expansion gaps (usually 2 x 10 mm) from the total, and divide by 207, 180 or 130 mm, i.e. by the width of a single floorboard in the collection chosen. In this way you can calculate how many rows of floorboards you have to lay, and where to cut off the last row of floorboards. If the last row is less than 70mm wide, you should also trim the first row laid.



Cut the tongue off the first row of floorboards and place that side to the wall. Connect the individual floorboards on their shorter sides (ends) using the hammer and tapping block. Trim the last floorboard, remembering to keep an expansion gap from the wall.





- Laying the next row of floorboards starts with the fragment of floorboard left over from the first row — providing that its length is greater than 30 cm (for floorboards of a total length of 1.1 m) or 50 cm (for floorboards of a total length of 2.2 m). Please also remember to stagger the end joins of the floorboards in adjoining rows by at least 30 or 50 cm. Tilted fragment of the floorboard is inserted tongue into a groove of another floorboard and then pressed by hand towards the floor. Next, a tapping

block should be used to tap the new floorboard towards the previously laid floorboard. The next floorboard is installed in a similar manner making sure there is a 5-8 mm gap between the heads of the floorboards. Using the mallet and the assembly tool the floorboards are tapped at the shorter edge and are joined at heads.

- Every subsequent row of floorboards attached is knocked home from the front using the tapping block. Expansion gaps by the walls are secured using wooden spacer wedges.  
NOTE: When installing the floor do not use the flooring straps. When the flooring needs to be laid around an obstacle, mark the shape on the floorboard that needs to be cut to size, perform the cutting and install the floorboard. Make sure that a 10 mm expansion gap is provided around the obstacle (for example central heating pipe). The expansion gap between the pipe and the flooring can be concealed using a skirting rosette.
- The last row of floorboards must be precisely measured prior to laying. In the full floorboards are too wide, individual floorboards must be cut to size. The part of the floorboard with the groove should be trimmed, in other words the opposite to the first row from which assembly began. Once it is fitted in, the final row of floorboards is knocked home using the metal lug in such a way that an expansion gap is retained along the wall 10 mm wide.
- When the flooring is complete, wooden spacer wedges should be removed and the remaining gap concealed using the skirting boards. Attach the skirting boards to the wall (they must not be attached to the floor) with the aid of clips or glue them to the wall. Attaching the skirting boards is of fundamental importance in the case of floating floors, as they have both a decorative and practical function. In other words, they stop the floor from rising, especially in the corner of a room.
- The new floor can be used as soon as the skirting boards are fitted!



# Adhesive Assembly:

In the event that the floor is being glued to the concrete, the dampness of the floor must not under any circumstances be disregarded, as there is no longer any possibility to spread out a damp proof membrane. The correct measurement must be made. This may be done using a concrete moisture meter or other reliable method.

The basic purpose of gluing the econfloor floorboard to the subfloor is to fix it sufficiently stiffly, permanently and reliably that in future, throughout its many years of use and the various strains on the floor, no defects will occur. A glued floor is much easier to renovate/sand. Gluing also makes the floor quieter.

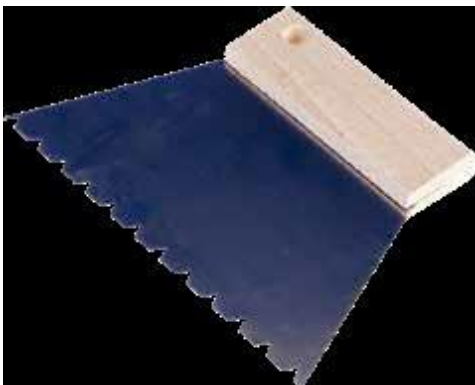
No underlay is laid when a floor is being installed with glue. The only element between the subfloor and the floorboard is the glue.

- As in the case of floating installation, it begins with the subfloor being prepared. Take care to ensure that it is even, measure if it has the appropriate moisture content and check its strength so that the glue has something to cling to.

The subfloor for layered floorboards should meet the following strength condition:

- shear tension of 1.2 N/mm<sup>2</sup> (e.g. for the most common type of subfloor - mixologist).

Laying a floor using glue requires tools, with the difference that a notched trowel is also needed (a B11 trowel is recommended, with 11mm spacing between the teeth). The glue yield when using a trowel with this toothing is approx. 1 to 1.2 kg m<sup>2</sup>.



When the subfloor has been prepared in this way, start priming it. The primer should be prepared in accordance with the producer's instructions. Use a paint roller to apply it evenly on the subfloor, ensuring you do not leave puddles. When using econfloor primer, you can start gluing after 120 to 150 minutes have passed.



Apply the glue to the floor prepared in this way (e.g. glue from the econfloor range - single component polyurethane 1KSTP with an appropriately elastic bond) using a B11 notched trowel, carefully rubbing it into the subfloor. Finally form a blob of glue in such a way as not to flatten it excessively. The glue should be applied to the floor, preparing no more than two rows worth at a time. After gluing down the floorboards, press them down onto the subfloor, which in practice means laying the remaining packs around the room in several areas of the floor to press it down, ensuring that it will stick evenly in every place, and the glue will stick to the entire bottom layer of the floor. This satisfies the instruction that the degree of contact between the bottom layer and the glue should be no less than 60%.







Single component polyurethane-silane adhesive, combining the benefits of polyurethane and silane glues. It is designed for gluing: multilayer floorboards, solid wood floorboards, mosaic, traditional, layered, 16-22 mm industrial and exotic parquet connected by tongue and groove. It can be used on cement and anhydrite screeds, concrete, V100 chipboard, and oriented strand floorboards. Suitable for underfloor heating. It is solvent-free, flexible after bonding, but above all safe for the ready lacquered or oiled floor, because stains of this glue can be removed without damaging the floor even after several days. The glue is for indoor use only.



## *Advantage s of adhesive assembly:*

- **a silent floor** – it most effectively absorbs sounds of impact,
- it can be laid over **large surfaces** without the necessity to use expansion gaps ,
- gluing is also recommended when laying a floor over **underfloor heating**, according to the principle that the less is under the floorboard, the easier the heat gets through, ,
- a glued floorboard is more **easily renovated/sanded**.

## *Laying the Econfloor floorboard on underfloor heating:*

With its stable construction and strength, the econfloor floorboard has passed tests not only on water systems, but also on electrical ones, which distinguishes us from our competitors.

The econfloor floorboard can be installed:

- on water underfloor heating systems,
- on electrical underfloor heating systems fitted with electronic temperature regulators,
- remember not to raise the sub base surface temperature above 29°C.



Before laying a floor on a water system, remember to warm up the concrete over 30 days. The maximum recommended temperature on the surface of the floorboard should not **exceed 29°C**.



With an electrical system, pay special attention that the heating mat is spread evenly under the entire floor's surface. This will prevent local variation in heating action and will guarantee greater comfort – no cold spots on the floor.

The most commonly used floor mats have a power of around 80-100 W/m<sup>2</sup>.

Remember that 29°C is a safe temperature on the floor surface.



#### a) Floor installation

The moment you start to lay the econfloor floorboard on underfloor heating, you should:

1. set the heating on the floor surface to 21°C for around a fortnight before installation,
2. install at the same temperature.

NOTE: Laying the floor on underfloor heating is conditional on a prepared and signed report confirming the 30 day warming up process. If the floor is not installed immediately, re-set the heating at 21°C about two weeks before the installation and lay the floorboards at the same temperature. In the case of floating systems, the underlay used should be of a material which easily conducts heat (low heat resistance), e.g. corrugated cardboard.



#### b) procedure after laying the floor

- Leave the floor to the slow action of the heating system with the temperature set to 21°C, for at least 48h. Then gradually increase the temperature by 1 to 2°C per day until the optimum temperature is reached.
- Do not raise sub base surface temperature above 29°C.
- Regardless of the heating system used, the relative humidity of the room **MUST** be maintained at 45-60% all year round.



- econfloor's warranty does not cover floors which have been dried out or overheated by using temperatures higher than admissible.



## *Fitting skirting boards:*

- **fast, independent and lasting assembly** – with the convenient assembly clip system  
**ATTENTION!**







**ATTENTION! Remember to fix the skirting boards to the wall** - never to the floor!

- a shape allowing cables (e.g. aerial or phone leads) to be **concealed under the skirting board**.

