



Care & Laying Instructions

General requirements:

The durability & wear resistance of any wooden floor is highly dependent on regular and correct care & maintenance. Which, if carried out correctly, will add years to the service life of your floor! Prior to installation the floor needs to be stored acclimatised. Only open the packs directly prior to commencing installation. When using a tapping block, take care not to damage the surface of the flooring. We recommend the use of felt pads/castor cups for underneath chair & table legs; suitable mats (polycarbonate etc) must be used beneath moving castor wheels / under tyres in car showrooms. Avoid metal (chair & table legs etc) coming into direct contact with the floor, since chemical reactions & staining may occur. We recommend using a quality doormat at entrances, as dirt and grit can have a sandpaper-like effect. Excessive moisture should be avoided (wet shoes, umbrellas left on floor etc) as it can cause swelling & discolouration. Always use a damp/well wrung out mop when carrying out care & cleaning procedures. Always use two buckets – one for the care product & the other for clean water (change when dirty) to rinse the mop. Do not pour out the soapy water on the floor! Do not use micro-fibre cloths/mops. Never clean the floor with only water. Remove any spillages (alcohol, juice etc) immediately. Do not lay down rugs on the floors for the first few weeks. Please note that care should also be taken with anti-slip mats as their contents can cause chemical reactions and, when placed above under-floor heating systems, can lead to "hot spots". Please note that the perfect room climate is one of 40%-60% relative humidity. Installation should only be done after all other interior works are finished (painting, tiles etc).

Natural colour changes:

Natural wood products have a tendency of showing slight changes in colour when exposed to intense sunlight. Especially during the first 3-6 months (and then gradually over time), lighter timber will turn darker, while darker timber will become lighter. By following the specific care and maintenance instructions for each wood type, colour changes and staining can be reduced. Nevertheless variations in colour and wood structure cannot be avoided completely. Remove stains with utmost caution and avoid the use of scourers.

Under-floor heating systems:

Admonter Natural Floors are ideally suited to under-floor heating systems (the only exception being beech wood). A surface temperature of 29° Celsius must not be exceeded by either hot water or electrical heating systems. The use of temperature indicators is absolutely necessary.

Attention: By placing items that require a lot of floor space (e.g. larger furniture, low Futon beds, heavy carpets) over a heated floor surface one risks trapping the heat. This will invariably result in overheating! Screeds need to be dried out according to their standards before the installation of the floor.

Stair nosing:

For additional protection on your stairs we recommend using anti-slip nosing. Your dealer will advise you.

LAYING INSTRUCTIONS

Preparation



In order to assure the proper installation of your floor, please consult document DIN18356 for information regarding the correct preparation of the screeds (e.g. completely level, dry, clean). Uneven areas in the floor should be levelled out using a levelling compound. Pay attention to the specific properties of each screed (e.g. moisture values). Existing features of the sub-floor, such as construction/building gaps or expansion gaps in the screed, should not be altered when laying your

new floor. Depending on the room size additional gaps may be required. Measure the width of the room first and then calculate the width of the last row. If the last row is less than 4cm one should commence by preparing the first row.



It is particularly important to sort the individual planks by colour **prior** to installation. In doing this, it is possible to deliberately influence the overall appearance of the room. An even, homogenous effect can be created by merging planks with similar tones. However, by placing planks with lighter and darker tones alongside each other, the contrast will create a rustic effect. Indeed, it is possible to create diverse effects depending on how the floor planks are installed. In order to avoid the installation of faulty planks, one should also check

the quality during the sorting process. For the stair nosing process, organise the planks according to colour.



Only for a Floating floor:

Admonter natural underlay should be installed with the ribbed side facing down, avoid creating obvious seams and do not overlap. Join the seams together with Admonter adhesive tape. In order to prevent moisture entering through the walls, we recommend you to pull a section of the underlay up the side of the wall. Admonter natural underlay repels moisture, prevents mould, reduces impact sounds (e.g. footsteps) and can be used in combination with any under-floor heating system. If required, an additional moisture barrier can be applied.

Floating floor

Tongue & groove installation



For the installation process we would recommend the use of the Admonter Installation Set. Firstly, take care to ensure the first row of planks is absolutely straight. The groove in the plank should face the wall. Use wedges to keep a distance of approximately 10mm from the wall so that the flooring is able to expand. Apply glue along the upper side of the groove on both the long and the short side of the plank. Knock the planks together with the aid of a tapping block, first on the end and then on the side. Do not risk damaging the wood by knocking directly on the surface. Remove any surplus glue immediately (using a clean cloth.) Remove all wedges after installation.

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Lock-it installation



One should commence the installation in a corner of the room with the "tongue-side" of the plank facing the wall and then continue to from left to right. Use wedges in order to keep a distance of approximately 10mm from the wall, thus allowing room for the floor to expand. When installing the first plank, take extra care that it lies straight. Continue the first row by connecting the left end of the next plank to the right end of that which has been already installed. Cut the last plank to size and use the left-over piece to start the second row. However, do ensure that the end joints are always staggered by at least 50cm. This will not only create a better effect but also strengthen the floor. In order to connect the second row to the first, slide the plank in at ca.30°, feed the tongue of the board into the matching groove and then fold flat. When interlocking the planks, take care not to break the tongues. Make sure that the planks are locked together correctly and pay particular attention to the positioning of the black tongues (approx. 0,5 cm oversize). Repeat this process for the entire room. The last row can also be locked by hand. This is achieved by putting glue along the edge of the short side and anchoring the board with weights until the glue has hardened.



unlocked



locked

Smart-lock



One should commence the installation in a corner of the room with the "tongue-side" of the plank facing the wall and then continue to from left to right. Use wedges in order to keep a distance of approximately 10mm from the wall, thus allowing room for the floor to expand. When installing the first plank, take extra care that it lies straight. Continue the first row by connecting the left end of the next plank to the right end of that which has been already installed. Cut the last plank to size and use the left-over piece to start the second row.

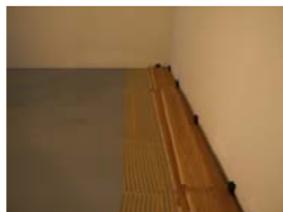
However, do ensure that the end joints are always staggered by at least 30 cm. This will not only create a better effect but also strengthen the floor. In order to connect the second row to the first, slide the plank in at ca.30°, feed the tongue of the board into the matching groove and then fold flat. When interlocking the planks, take care not to break the tongues. Make sure that the planks are locked together correctly. Repeat this process for the entire room. The planks for the last row should be installed by putting glue along the edge of the short side and anchoring the board with weights until the glue has hardened.

When installing the flooring over underfloor heating, a full surface stick down installation is required using a permanently flexible adhesive.

Stick down installation



The advantages of a full surface stick down installation are the reduction of impact sound and a better efficiency of underfloor heating systems. Make sure that the correct (flexible!) adhesive is used, we recommend the use of Admonter Elastic Bond. Evenly distribute the adhesive on the surface with the help of a notched trowel and install the first row. Keep a distance of 10 to 15 mm from the wall using wedges so that the floor is able to expand Especially with tongue & grooved planks it is suggested to draw a chalk line onto the screed / surface for the next row (with lock-it & smart-lock the next 2 rows). This will help to avoid a contact between the tapping block and the adhesive when knocking the planks together, initially at the short sides, then on the long sides. Do not knock on the top-layers (risk of damage). With a tongue & groove installation we recommend to apply adhesive on the short ends of the planks. Please note that occasional gaps may occur during prolonged periods of heating.



CLEAN & CARE

General requirements:

Sweep all dust and dirt off the floor before undertaking any care or maintenance procedures. If there is more dirt on the floor use Admonter Clean & Care (shake well before use!) and add approx. 100 ml to 5 litres warm water and wipe the floor in the direction of the grain, using a damp mop.

We recommend using two buckets – one for the care product and the other for clean water to rinse the mop.

Initial care



For a **natural oil finish** we recommend: Admonter maintenance oil (shake well before use!) should be used sparingly (1 litre is sufficient for approx. 70 – 100 m²). Distribute the oil evenly with the use of an oil-sponge, soft cloth or spray can. Admonter maintenance oil is available in white/natural/brown – make use of the correct maintenance oil according to the description in the latest product catalogue. The quantity of maintenance oil applied may vary due to the different absorption of the wood.



Polish the floor using a polishing machine and a white pad (different colour pads may be used depending on 3M products). Small areas can be treated by hand using a white polishing pad or a soft cloth. Polish thoroughly. Do not apply the oil thickly. Ensure an even distribution of the oil in order to avoid differences in the overall shine once the floor has dried. Allow the floor to dry for approx. 24 hours, taking extra care during this period to prevent any contact with moisture. Depending on the polishing, the room temperature and the moisture level the drying of the floor can take 2-7 days. During this period you can walk on with clean slippers, avoid any dirt! Cover high traffic areas with cardboard. Do not clean the floor for the first 8 – 10 days, thus allowing the surface to harden completely. After use, oil-saturated cloths must be soaked in warm water and then hung out to dry (caution: could be flammable).



For floors in high traffic areas (e.g. commercial areas), we recommend a treatment with Admonter high traffic oil, which should be applied by a flooring expert.



For a **UV-oiled finish** we recommend: For initial care, add approx. 100 ml of Admonter Clean & Care (shake well before use!) to approx. 5 litres warm water and wipe the floor in the direction of the grain, using a damp mop. For a shinier finish, allow the floor to dry for approx. 30 minutes and polish using a

white pad or a soft cloth. We recommend treating a brushed UV-oiled floor with Admonter Maintenance Oil, especially in high traffic area and commercial projects (see initial care & maintenance of natural oiled surfaces).

For a **Matt lacquer finish** we recommend: After installation add approx. 100 ml of Admonter Clean & Care to 5 litres warm water and wipe the floor in the direction of the grain, using a damp mop. Allow the floor to dry. After the floor has dried the floor can be polished by hand or using a polishing machine.

Regular care & maintenance



For all Admonter finish types: For regular care, add approx. 100 ml of Admonter Clean & Care to 5 litres warm water and wipe the floor in the direction of the grain, using a damp mop. For naturally oiled floors you can use the Clean & Care product generously (around 250ml when the colour has faded or the floor looks dull). For a shinier effect allow the floor to dry for approx. 30 minutes and polish using a white pad or soft cloth (different colour pads may be used depending on 3M products). If your matt lacquered floor is especially dirty,

we recommend the use of Admonter hydro cleaner (add 10 ml to 5 litres warm water). Cleaning interval guidelines: Residential areas: 2 – 4 weeks, Commercial areas: 1 – 2 weeks. Please note: Admonter Clean & Care contains both cleaning and care ingredients.

The reconditioning of natural oiled and UV-oiled surfaces should only be done by a flooring expert!