

Installation instructions for Parla floor boards

Before starting, read the installation manual carefully. Wood is a living natural material, and every floor board is unique. Parla floor boards have been dried to have a moisture content of 8-10%, which reduces the amount of cracks in the floor. However, due to the moisture expansion of wood, small cracks may appear in the flooring, varying from season to season according to changes in the relative humidity of air. For those floors which have not been surface-treated, we recommend puttying any possible branch spots before the floor is polished and surface-treated. Any possible height differences between the floorboard ends can be removed by sanding.

Please note! In case of faulty floorboard, do not install it. Please report defects and reclamations by using a form in web address: www.parla-parquet.com/support The manufacturer is not liable for any faults caused by installation not in accordance with the installation manual, or faulty floorboards which have already been installed.

Storing Parla wooden floors are stored on a straight and dry base in unopened packs. In new buildings, rooms must be heated and aired sufficiently in order to reduce any construction moisture. When stored and installed, the relative humidity (RH) of the room must be 40-60 %, with a temperature between 18–24 °C. Further relative humidity and temperature levels must also be in accordance with the installation conditions.

Requirements for the base The smoothness requirements of the base must adhere to national regulations, or a 3 mm difference within a length of 2 mm is acceptable. [(According to the SisäRyl2000 requirement). Larger differences are fixed with fillers, as well as sanding so that the base would not have any fissures or lumps. Afterwards, the base is cleaned thoroughly.

Floor heating Wood is a naturally warm and pleasant material. Floor heating must aim for a steady floor temperature; and the surface temperature of the floor must never exceed 24°C. The quotidian change in temperature can be 5 °C at most. So that the floor would change as little as possible during the heating season, the room's relative humidity must be between 40–60 %, with a temperature between 18–24 °C. The floorboards and brackets must be sufficiently dry before installation. In floor heating areas, the floorboards will change more than usual, which must be taken into account when positioning them. Professional experience is a prerequisite for installation. Further instructions on how to install floor heating under wooden floors must be requested from the manufacturer or retailer of the specific floor heating system.

Tools and equipment Tools and equipment necessary for the installation: a fine-teeth saw, hammer, drill or cordless drill, 3.5 mm drill bit, screwdriver, chisel, installation plate, installation wedges, knife, try-square, pen, tape measure, closed cell plastic foam or felt, a sheet of rough sandpaper, a line of wire, driving block, sunk-head screws (e.g. 3.5x50 mm) and PVA glue.

Room for dimensional instability Wooden floor shrinks and expands according to changes in the relative humidity level, which is why it is necessary to have at least a 5 mm gap between the floor and the walls, and the doorways; for the dimensional instability of wood. It is also necessary to leave a similar gap around, for example, pipes, thresholds, frames, pillars, fixtures and stairs. When the floor is connected to another floor, there has to be a 5 mm gap between the floors. When installed floating, there has to be at least 10 mm between the floor and any fixtures such as walls, thresholds and staircases; using wedges if necessary. In spaces with a width exceeding 6 m, floorboards must be fitted with expansion joints. After the floor has been installed, the wedges are removed, and the gaps are hidden by baseboards or skirting boards.

Gluing onto the base It is recommended that Parla floor boards are glued onto the base by a professional.

Installation on a floor base (Pine 3X)

The Pine 3X floor boards can be installed for example directly onto 21 mm thick plywood that is tongued and grooved on all sides. In this case, floorboards are attached to the sheets of plywood with e.g. 3.5x40 mm sunk-head screws from the corners of tongues at about a 45-degree angle. Every floorboard should be attached to the plywood with four screws equally spaced so that there are screws also at each end, about 10 cm from the end of the boards. Otherwise, installation instructions are the same as for installation on supports.

Floating installation (Pine 3X)

Requirements for the base in case of floating installation It is possible to use floating installation with Pine 3X floor boards, installing them onto concrete, an old wooden floor or other supporting base. The base must definitely be straight and smooth, as well as sufficiently dry and protected from moisture. If the floor is installed on concrete, the relative humidity of concrete must adhere to national regulations or be 80 % at most.

Room for dimensional instability In case of floating installation, there must be at least a 10 mm gap between the floor and fixtures such as walls, thresholds and stairs. In spaces with a width exceeding 6 m, floorboards must be fitted with expansion joints. After the floor has been installed, the wedges are removed, and the gaps are hidden by baseboards or skirting boards.

An underlay material is spread onto the base, which will act as a moisture barrier and acoustic insulation barrier, if necessary. A felt-based plastic carpet or a woven blanket are also suitable underlay materials. Wall-to-wall carpets are too soft and they should be fully removed. When choosing the underlay material, acoustic insulation and moisture barrier requirements should be taken into account. The Parla underlayment is a combination of a moisture barrier and acoustic insulation within the same product. This product is available from Parla retailers.

Glue is spread on the groove of the board, as well as the end and side grooves of the board. Otherwise, installation instructions are the same as for installation on supports.

Lead-in For pipes, a hole at least 10 mm larger than the pipe diameter (approx. 20 mm larger when installed floating) is drilled into the floorboard. The part reaching the hole is sawed from the edge of the board. When the board has been attached, the sawn piece is glued in place, and the crack around the pipe is hidden with a cover board (image 12). The distance between heaters and the floor must be at least 60 mm.

Doorframes Check that the new floor fits under an open door. When necessary, the door frame is cut in such a way, that the floor will fit well underneath it. If possible, install the floor to such a length that the threshold would hide the joint. The floor must be able to move in relation to floors in adjacent rooms. In case the floors are not on the same level (e.g. areas of renovation), the threshold is increased with a baseboard, from the side of the lower floor surface. In openings without thresholds, skirting boards are used (metal or wood).

Protecting the floor before use The floor must be protected with a non-moisture proof material, such as paper, in case finishing and similar works are done in the room after the installation. Great care must be given to the choice of protective material, so that it would not discolour, scratch or otherwise damage the installed floor. All protective covers must be attached to each other. In order to avoid damages, it is forbidden to tape protective covers onto wood floorings.

Care of the lacquered floor

Sand and dust on the floor is cleaned with a vacuum or swept. If necessary, the floor can be wiped with a near-dry cloth or mop. Lukewarm water is used for cleaning; washing detergent intended for floor cleaning can be added to the water, adhering to dosage and use instructions. The use of strong chemicals must be avoided. The use of wax or wax-based polishes should be avoided.

Stain removal Any spills on the floor are removed immediately by wiping. Difficult stains need special cleaning products.

synthetic cleaning product: fruit, berries, juices, milk, cream, soft drinks, beer, wine, coffee, tea

white spirit: chocolate, grease, oil, shoeshine, heel marks, tar, pitch

household alcohol: tape, wax, varnish, ballpoint pen, ink, lipstick

cold water: blood

source: Finnish Flooring Association

Floor protection On either side of the front door, floor mats should be placed to reduce the amount of sand getting inside. Pieces of felt attached to furniture legs protect the floor from scratches. If outdoor footwear is used on the floor, much-used floor surfaces should be covered with a carpet. Avoid walking on the floor in stiletto heels. Heaters and other devices containing water must be in good working condition in order to avoid water damage. Water and stains on the floor are to be removed as soon as possible. Keeping the level of relative humidity of air at the recommended 40-60 % helps the solid wood floorings stay in good condition.

Floor repairs In case the floor surface is worn or scratched after use, it can be treated again.