

Installation instructions for ParlaFix parquet

Storage and installation instructions

Store parquet boards on a level and dry base with the packages intact. **Parquet boards should be stored under conditions equivalent to those in which they are to be laid for at least 48 hours before installation.** In new buildings the rooms to be floored must be adequately heated and ventilated to reduce structural moisture. **The relative humidity of the air in the room during storage and installation must be 35 - 60 % and the temperature 18 - 24°C. When the floor is in use, too, it is desirable for the humidity and temperature to correspond to the installation conditions.** When the relative air humidity is below 30%, there might appear cracking in the parquet between the boards and the surface layer, as well as dislodging, should the humidity decrease even further. Avoid subjecting the parquet boards to excessive bending as this may cause cracking of the varnish.

Requirements for the subfloor

It is recommended for board parquet to be always installed on a supporting substructure as a "floating floor". The subfloor can be concrete, an existing wood floor or some other supporting foundation. The subfloor must be absolutely straight and level, as well as sufficiently dry and protected from moisture. If the parquet is installed on a new concrete subfloor, the relative humidity of the latter should be either according to the national regulations, or 80 % at maximum. Deviation in the flatness of the floor base can be up to 2-3 mm within a 2000 mm-length, depending on national requirements. Even out larger irregularities with a filler and sand the subfloor so that it is flawless and smooth. Then clean the subfloor carefully. Where necessary, a dampproofing and soundproofing material should be laid on the subfloor. A felt-based plastic floor covering or a felt floor covering are also suitable materials to lay under the parquet. Fitted carpets are too soft and should be completely removed. When choosing a material for the subfloor, attention should be paid to the regulations applying to soundproofing and dampproofing. Parla underlayment features both dampproofing and sound-proofing in the same product.

Vintage Collection: Chalet and Maison parquets

The parquets in the Vintage Collection display the knot features characteristic to natural materials as well as a deep variation of grain structure and colour. The surface of these industrially manufactured products is intentionally uneven, and their surface layer contains open knots and cracks. It is recommended to install the parquet flooring in such a way that the surface of the parquet has a uniform overall appearance. It is recommended to install any boards that differ in their pattern or hue separately to each other.

Complaints

Complaints about the quality of the goods should be sent within 7 days of receipt of the goods, however before installation of the parquet. When making a complaint, the code numbers on the packaging and the bottom of the board should be stated. **The factory is not liable for mistakes caused by defective installation nor for faulty boards that have already been installed.** The factory will not take back unused parquet boards.

Laying the parquet

To install board parquet you will need: a fine-toothed saw, hammer, drill, chisel, crowbar, knife, square, pencil, measure, string line, knocking block and wedges. **Check each board before laying to ensure it is perfect and that there is no loose dirt or other material in the grooves.** Clearly faulty boards must not be installed. Faulty boards will be changed for faultless boards without charge. With mechanical lock tongue and groove system the installation is fast and simple and no glue is needed. However, the profiles of ParlaFix system are designed in a way, that also the use of glue is possible. We recommend gluing of end joints in places where heavy duty wear is anticipated. Ask more about gluing from your parquet dealer.

Underfloor heating

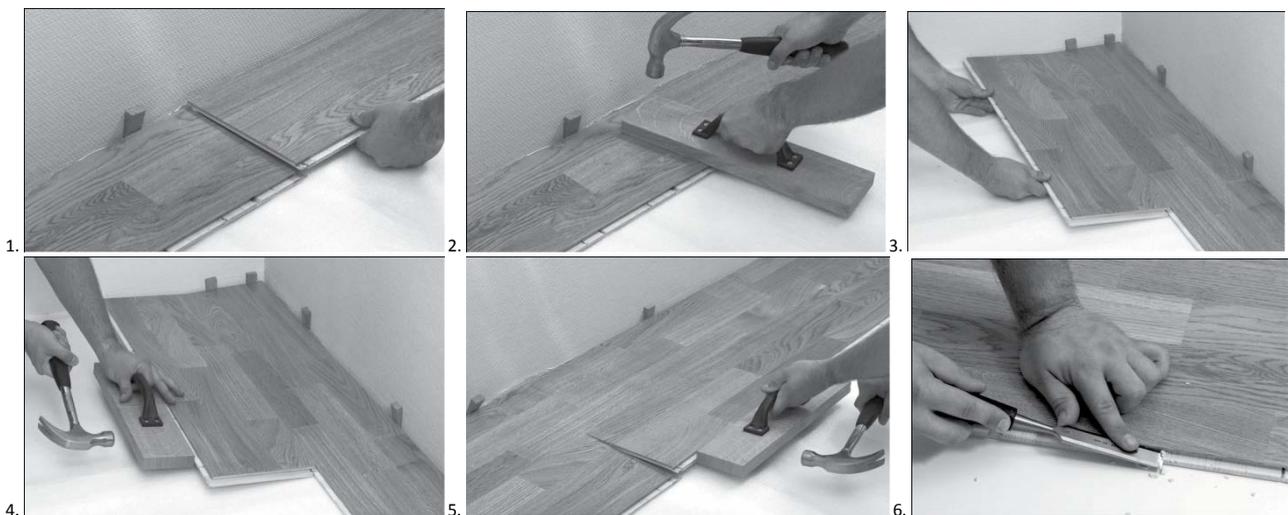
Board parquet can be installed on a subfloor with underfloor heating. Ask your dealer for separate installation instructions when laying board parquet on a subfloor with underfloor heating. Beech and maple are not suitable for installing on subfloors equipped with underfloor heating owing to its considerable shrinking and swelling with changing moisture levels. The surface temperature of the floor must not exceed 27°C. The maximum permissible relative humidity of the subfloor is 80%.

Fixed gluing to the subfloor

It is recommended that fixed gluing of boardparquet to the subfloor be done by a professional fitter.

Allowances for shrinking and swelling

A board parquet floor shrinks and swells according to the amount of moisture in the air, which means that, using wedges, a space of at least 10 mm must be left between the floor and fixed structures such as walls, door sills, door frames and stairs. Heavy fixtures (bookcases, cupboards) must also be separated from the parquet to allow for expansion. If the width of the floor exceeds 6 m in the direction of the breadth of the board, add a space of 2 mm for every additional metre. In rooms exceeding 8 m in width, an expansion joint must be made in the parquet. After the parquet has been laid remove the wedges and cover the expansion joint with skirting or beading.



The first rows of boards

Parquet is generally laid in line with the light from a window. Lay the first board with the side and end tongues towards the wall (**picture 1**). Proceed to lay the boards from left to right. If a board is too long, saw it to the right length. Cut the board so that an approx. 10 mm gap will be left between the end of the board and the wall. Tighten the end joints, as shown in the (**picture 2**), by lightly tapping the top of the board at the end joint. Use installation block on top of the board to prevent damage. The end joints of all the boards should be tightened in the same way. Start the next row of boards with the piece left over from the first row, thereby ensuring that the extension joints of adjacent rows are not in line. Check when laying that the board joints in adjacent rows are at least 50 cm from each other. Position the sawn end of the board towards the wall. Lightly fit the tongue on the long edge of the board into the groove in the previous board so that the board hangs slightly upwards under its own weight (**picture 3**). Do not twist the board into place. Lightly tap the board along the top of the side joint with the installation block until the board drops into place (**pictures 4 and 5**). Lay the next board from above, with the end joint fitted firmly against the end of the previous board and fit the joint along the long edge into the previous board's joint, letting the board hang slightly upwards under its own weight. Tap the board right along the side joint until it drops into place on the subfloor. Finally, tighten the end joint by lightly tapping over this joint. Once the second row has been laid, check that the rows are straight. Use diagonal measurements to position a cord representing the side of a rectangle, then make sure the first rows of boards are in line with this cord. If the room wall is not quite at ninety degrees to the adjacent wall, saw a board to the appropriate width and, using this as a guide, mark out a saw line along the first row of boards. Sawing along this line will ensure that the row of boards follows the line of the wall. Place wedges between the boards and the wall to allow for expansion. After this, you can systematically lay the remaining parquet boards without interruption.

The final row of boards

If the final row of boards is too wide, saw it to the right width. To obtain the right width, measure the distance between the previous row of boards and the wall and subtract 10 mm for the width of the expansion joints. Tighten the final row of boards with a crowbar. If there are obstacles (e.g. a radiator) along the wall preventing a board from bending, the nodule on the lower rim of the groove on the second from last board must be removed and glue applied to the joint (**picture 6**). To ensure that this glued joint holds, wedge the last board firmly against the previous one.

Other considerations

Doorways

Always leave a 10 mm expansion joint in doorways. Cover the joint with a door sill or beading. Fix the beading over the expansion joint so that movement of the parquet is not hindered. Cut or saw door frames so that there is sufficient room for the parquet to expand and so that the parquet goes under the frame. If a board will not fit normally into the groove, follow the instructions for laying the final row of boards.

Pipes

For heating pipes, drill a hole through the board that is approx. 20 mm larger than the diameter of the pipe. From the edge of the board saw off the piece that reaches the hole. Glue the sawn piece in place when the parquet board has been fixed. The gap between the pipe and the parquet can be covered with, e.g. a plastic fitting. The distance between radiators and the floor must be at least 60 mm. Narrow spaces If the parquet is installed crosswise, e.g. in an entrance hall, a joint must be put in at least every other row of boards.

Finishing

Board parquet is finished in the factory and needs no further surface treatment. After laying, remove the wedges between the floor and wall before fixing skirting or beading. Fix skirting or beading to the wall but not so tightly that the floor is prevented from moving freely. For possible small gaps and holes, use a filler of a suitable colour.

Re-installation

If already installed Parla parquet flooring has been taken up, the end grooves need to be re-glued during re-installation.

Protecting the floor before use

The floor must be protected with a permeable material, such as paper, in case finishing works etc. will be carried out in the room after the floor has been installed. Special attention must be given to the choice of protective material, so that it would not stain, scratch or do other damage to the finished floor. Protections must be attached to one another. Under no circumstances should the protection be taped to the parquet in order to avoid damage.

The recycling and disposal of waste

Plastic, cardboard and wood waste can be recycled or disposed of, e.g. by burning, depending on local regulations. Dispose of metal waste with other metal waste or recycle it.

Care of the parquet

Care of the lacquered parquet

Remove sand and dust from the parquet with a vacuum cleaner or brush. If necessary, wipe the floor with a well-wrung cloth or mop. Use lukewarm water, to which can be added a detergent intended for floor cleaning, and follow the directions for use of the detergent. The use of strong detergents is to be avoided. Wax or polishes containing wax must not be used.

Removal of stains: Wipe up all spills immediately. Stains which cannot be removed by wiping require different cleaning agents.

Type of stain -> **Cleaning agent**

fruit, juice, milk, cream, soft drinks, beer, wine, coffee, tea -> **synthetic detergent**

chocolate, grease, oil, shoe polish, heel marks, tar, pitch-> **mineral turpentine**

typewriter ribbon, duplicating wax, correction fluid, ball-point pen, ink, lipstick -> **denatured alcohol**

blood -> **cold water** Source: Finnish Floor Covering Association

Care of the oiled parquet

Natural oiled parquet should be oiled 1-2 times per year, depending on the load. We recommend oiling the natural oiled parquet by natural oil immediately after installation, before use of the floor.

1. Cleaning: Wash the floor twice using a detergent suitable for cleaning of wooden surfaces (avoiding excessive use of water) and leave to dry for 4-8 hours. The surface must be absolutely dry prior to oil treatment.

2. Oiling: Shake the oil thoroughly before use. Spray the oil or wipe it onto the floor by cloth in a thin layer. Polish to glossy shine by scrub sponge or floor polishing machine.

3. Finishing: Wipe the floor by clean, dry cotton cloth. Excessive oil is not allowed on the surface and the surface may not appear wet. Walking on the floor is allowed in approx. four hours after polishing. Actual hardening lasts for 24 hours – until that time, the floor must be protected as thoroughly as possible, especially against water.

Note! Always follow the instructions of the oil product used. Rags used for oiling may ignite spontaneously - submerge the rags in water and dispose of in a tightly closed container or alternatively, by burning. As regards daily care of natural oiled parquet, vacuuming is sufficient. The floor may be washed by liquid soap intended for cleaning of oil treated surfaces.

Removal of stains: Stains such as vinegar, red wine and gin may penetrate the oil surface. A stain removal product intended for care of natural oil parquet is required for coping with such stains. Stain removal products also remove the oil, which means that the floor must be re-oiled after the treatment.

Protection of the floor

Doormats should be put on both sides of an exterior door to prevent dust from getting inside. To prevent scratching of the floor, it is advisable to put pieces of felt under the legs of furniture. Radiators and other apparatus containing water must be in good order to avoid water damage. Wipe up water that gets onto the floor and remove stains as quickly as possible. Regular ventilation and keeping the relative humidity of the air right and as constant as possible (RH 35 – 60 %), particularly during the period when the heating is on, e.g. by means of a humidifier, help to maintain the condition of a parquet floor. If necessary, board parquet can be resanded and refinished.

The darkening and lightening of wood species

Wood is a natural living material and the shades of all timber species change over time. In particular, cherry, rosewood and merbau become darker, while heat-treated wood becomes lighter with exposure to sunlight.

Terms of guarantee

The guarantee for the Parla parquet covers the structure and surface treatment of the parquet for ten years when the parquet is installed in a normal residential building for private use. The validity of the guarantee requires that the parquet has been installed and cared for according to Parla parquet installation and care instructions. The installation and care instructions and the terms of this guarantee are provided in Parla website. The Parla parquet guarantee does not cover the Outlet quality parquet and any other batches that have been separately defined as invalid for the guarantee.

The Parla parquet guarantee only covers materials and manufacturing flaws and the durability of the surface treatment for ten years when the parquet has been installed for private use and the installation and care instructions adhered to. Dents, scratches and other blemishes as a result of use are not included in the guarantee. Faults that result from installation inaccuracies are not included in the guarantee of Parla Floor Oy. Clearly faulty boards must not be installed. Faulty boards will be changed for faultless boards without charge. Parla Floor Oy reserves the right to fix, to have fixed by a third party or to change a faulty floor. The guarantee will compensate for the value of the flooring materials and repair costs agreed separately in writing before the beginning of the reparation work. The guarantee does not cover any indirect costs. If the flooring material is changed, the previously-installed floorings will be returned to the manufacturer in the manner stipulated by the manufacturer. Any demands for indirect damages are not included in the guarantee.

The Parla parquet structure guarantee is valid for ten years starting from the date of purchase. By filling in the Warranty Form on Parla's website, the customer confirms their acceptance of the terms of warranty; and in case of damage at any time during the warranty period, starting from the day of the purchase, the customer is entitled to compensation. The guarantee given by Parla Floor Oy does not affect the consumer's lawful rights.