

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS of FREVINI Engineered Flooring (Planks)

### Important information before you start:

It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that you read and understand this information completely prior to starting, since improper installation can void the warranties.

### Installer/Owner responsibility

- Goods should be brought inside the building and Inspected before installation for completeness of order.
- Warranties do not cover materials damaged during transport and or with visible defects once they are installed, whereby natural characteristics of wood cause variations in wood grain, figure, character marks, texture or color and are not covered under warranties.
- Transport damages should be reported on the delivery document directly during signing for delivery when possible and when not accepted as it, returned to the transporter.
- Provisions must be made to prevent the product from sliding or falling.
- The installer and owner assumes all responsibility for the final inspection of product quality.
- Carefully examine flooring for color, grain, design, finish and quality before installing it. Our strict quality control procedures cannot completely eliminate possible defects. If material is not acceptable, do not install it.
- This inspection of all flooring should be done prior to installation.
- Depending on availability, deliveries may contain non-standard lengths and non-standard packaging size.
- The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause.
- If material is doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use the piece. So do not install it and contact your supplier immediately.
- Imperfect and already installed boards cannot be claimed.
- The use of stain, filler or putty stick for the correction of minor defects during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.
- Even though our products are inspected many times, some grading OR defect deficiencies may occur (in up to 5% of the floor area).
- When flooring is ordered, at least 5-7% for regular and 12-13% for angle installation must be added to the actual quantity needed for cutting and grading allowance.
- FREVINI flooring installation shall be the last step of any construction or renovation project. This helps keep the floor safe from damage caused by foot traffic and construction.

## Tools & accessories needed

- For all installations: Dust mask, eye protection, moisture meter (wood, concrete or both), broom or vacuum, chalk line & chalk, (electric power) saw or hand saw, hammer, knocking block, square, tape measure, pencil, utility knife, pry bar, Hardwood repair kit (filler, putty stick or stain), distance spacers 8-15 mm.
- Glue-down installation also requires: ratchet floor clamps, blue tape, and a notched towel, as well as a glue cleaner.

## Pre-installation & Jobsite Conditions

- The installer/owner is responsible for determining if the job site subfloor and job site conditions are structurally and environmentally acceptable for installation. The manufacturer declines any responsibility for floor failure resulting from or connected with subfloor, subsurface, job site damage, jobsite environmental deficiencies or deficiencies after hardwood flooring has been installed. All substrates must be dry, clean, structurally sound and flat. If your FREVINI floors are damaged by installation without you checking for potentially damaging environments, no warranty will be provided.
- The building should be closed with all outside doors and windows must be in place. All concrete, masonry, plastering, paint and other “wet” work must be thoroughly dry. The wall coverings should be in place and the painting completed except for the final coat on the base molding. When possible, delay installation of base molding until flooring installation is complete. Exterior grading should be complete with surface drainage directing water away from the building. Basements and crawl spaces must be dry and well ventilated.
- FREVINI flooring products may be installed below, on or above grade level.
- The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of 18-25°C and humidity of 40-60% 14 days prior installation to allow for proper acclimation and there after, to allow for proper acclimation. Dehumidifiers and humidifiers are suggested for this task. Even after installation room humidity should never exceed 40-60%. Keep in mind that if the relative humidity drops below 30% for extended periods, the flooring could shrink and expand causing surface crack, split, bow, crook or delaminating.
- The subfloor must be checked for moisture content by an appropriate testing method. Test results must be recorded. Concrete sub-floors must have a moisture level no higher than 2%, for anhydrous screed sub-floor no higher than 0,5 %, when the wood should not exceed 12%.
- Any deviations in sub-floor level cannot be higher than 2 mm for each 2 meters on the sub-floor. Test the sub-floors level and use of appropriate tools, products and methods for correcting subfloor voids should be accepted as a normal industry practice.
- Test the strength of your concrete sub-floor by scratching it with a hard thing or nail. If it crumbles into powder, it is not strong enough for your wooden floor and you CANNOT install it. This is because the compression strength of the concrete is too low.

- Perimeter glued resilient vinyl and rubber tiles are unacceptable underlayments and must be removed. Tiles and any other hard surfaces that are dry, structurally sound and flat, as described above, are suitable as a subfloor for installation of FREVINI products. As above, the surface must be sound, tight and free of paint, oil, existing adhesives, wax, grease and dirt. Tile must be sanded or treated with special primers to assure adhesion.

#### **Storage and handling**

- Handle and unload products with care.
- Store products in a dry and warm place as described above.
- The flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors creating a controlled interior environment and until cement work, plastering and all other “wet” work is completed and dry.
- Concrete should be at least 60 days old and have a required moisture as described above.
- FREVINI flooring products must be stored, in its packaging, in the environment in which it is expected to be installed for at least 48 hours prior to installation. Only open them when it's time to install the floor.
- Provisions must be made to prevent the product from sliding or falling.

#### **Installation with underfloor heating**

- The maximum allowable heat output is 55 W/m<sup>2</sup> and must be evenly distributed over the entire surface of the floor.
- Surface temperatures must not exceed 27°C in all places. At the start of each heating season the temperature shall be gradually increased evenly over 7 days until normal heating levels are achieved. The adhesive shall be water and solvent free and elastic.
- More instructions for underfloor heating can be found in “FREVINI – underfloor heating” instructions document.

#### **Glue – down installation for planks**

Gluing the hardwood flooring to the sub floor is a more demanding installation method and it is recommended that it should be done by a professional.

Glue-down installation is best used on concrete, plywood, or OSB sub-floors. It is also recommended as the only installation method for any sub-floor that uses radiant heating.

##### Step 1 – Priming (only on concrete subfloor)

- Apply your primer to the sub-floor with brush or roller you feel comfortable using.
- Wait for the primer to dry before proceeding as long as primer producer advises.
- In a case of confusion, read the primer manufacturer's instructions before priming.

#### Step 2 – Layout the job

- Select a starter wall. It is recommended to start on the longer wall in the room also direction can be chosen in the walking direction or towards the incoming light, but check for squareness and make adjustments as necessary.
- Leave an 8-15 mm gap between the board edges and the wall and elements of the wall all the way around the perimeter. This gap is necessary for expansion and will be covered later by skirtings.
- To make the start of the installation easier, secure the start row with spacers or when necessary, shape it according to the wall line.
- The overlap of adjacent board ends must be a minimum of 50 cm.

#### Step 3 – Spreading the adhesive

- Using the recommended notched trowel at a 45° angle to get the correct adhesive spread rate to insure a proper and permanent bond. Improper bonding can cause loose or hollow spots.
- Spread adhesive from the straight edge and apply only enough adhesive for 2-3 rows/ lines at a time.
- Install the planks and repeat the process.
- Try to stay clean of glue all the time.

#### Step 4 – Install your starter row

- Apply adhesive on the floor where your first row will be installed. Spread it to the width of two planks and press your first board down on the adhesive. Adjust it so that it is even with the wall.
- Install the first row of starter planks from left to right, with the groove side of the board facing the wall.
- Once the starter row is secure, place the second row.
- After installing first two rows stand back and check your board alignment. Correct any alignment issues by adjusting board position and the width of the expansion gap.
- If alignment good let the glue dry for approximately 30 min and then continue with the installation.
- Never spread more adhesive than can be covered using the open time recommendation of the adhesive manufacturer.
- Never lay planks further than you can comfortably reach.
- Place tongue into groove hit them on the side with a knocking block to tighten the flooring joints and then press firmly into adhesive.

- Clean any adhesive off the flooring surface before it cures (for example with white spirit).

#### Step 5 – Job completion, Final touches

- When installing the last row, cut the boards in the way that allows an expansion gap of 8-15mm against the wall. Once the last row is installed, allow the adhesive to dry per adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- A pre-finished FREVINI flooring does not need any surface treatment, as the boards are finished at the factory.
- Clean your floor using a vacuum cleaner or a dust mop fitted with a dry cloth and maintain the finished floor referring to "FREVINI Care and Maintenance Instructions".
- If further work is to be carried out in the room, the flooring should be covered with clean hardboard, porous cardboard, paper or similar, in order to avoid damage. It must be a material that "breaths".
- Do not stick any adhesive, materials with glue, such as scotch tape, duck tape, etc., directly on installed flooring. This can cause damages to finishing for which seller does not hold responsibility.
- Protect the floor from damage by placing felt pads under all furniture legs.
- Keep the remaining planks in storage in case of repairs.