



HOW TO FIT YOUR NEW FLOOR

3D HERRINGBONE LVT FLOORING



Tools you'll need

To install these floors yourself you'll need some tools to help with the job.



HAVE THESE TO HAND:

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Pencil
- Workbench or sawhorse
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Planks or tiles of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Rubber mallet
- Stanley knife
- Handsaw or chop saw
- Chisel (for fitting around architrave)
- Drill (for covering pipework)
- Moisture meter – the correct type for your subfloor
- Combination square
- Beading or skirting boards (to finish the look)
- Adhesive and trowel (for gluing installation)
- Safety precautions i.e. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders.

Some of these tools are available through our website

Before you jump in

1. CHECK THE PACKS

Once the flooring arrives you should check one box to make sure you're happy with the product.

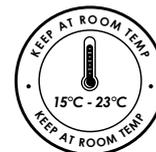
Our 3D vinyl flooring is designed to look just like real wood which means there may be some colour variation between the planks and batches. When you get to laying the floor you can make the most of these colour contrasts by mixing and matching planks with different shades to get a lovely natural look.



2. LEAVE TO ACCLIMATISE

We know it's tempting to get stuck into installing your new flooring as soon as it arrives but it's important to leave it for at least 24 - 48 hours in the room it's going to be fitted in.

This allows the floor to acclimatise and makes the vinyl less brittle. To do this, lay the packs on the floor or in stacks, ensuring they stay horizontal and equal weight is distributed across them all. Leave the planks in their packaging but open each end to let some air in. Try to keep the room at the same temperature you'd usually have it (around 15 - 23°C should be alright) and don't allow the flooring to be exposed to the elements. If you're using underfloor heating, you'll need to gradually increase the temperature so that the planks acclimatise to the heat. Your heating supplier will be able to advise you on this.



3. PREPARE THE SUBFLOOR

Before you lay your new floor, you'll need to remove the existing flooring, prepare the subfloor and ensure it is clean, dry and level.

We recommend a concrete or wooden subfloor for the best result. Use a moisture meter to check the subfloor is dry enough before you start.

If you do have a concrete subfloor, make sure it's completely dry before installation. A damp-proof membrane should be installed on top of the subfloor to reduce the risk of moisture reaching the boards. You'll need to do this to prevent the floors from expanding and buckling (many underlays now come with built-in damp-proof membranes).

Any screws or nails in your subfloor should be fixed below the surface. This is so you can be sure they won't puncture through the underlay (if you're using it). Remove any old adhesive from previous floors and vacuum the floor to pick up any excess dust or debris.

Now's the time to get your underlay down if you're using it. Roll it out in the same direction as you're fitting the floor and secure the rows together with tape.

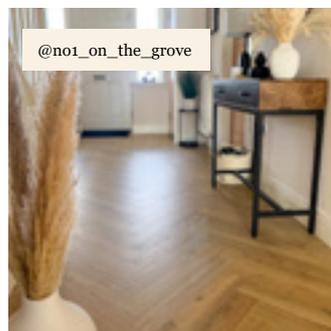
4. PLAN THE LOOK

Think about the direction you'd like your planks to lie.

As a general rule of thumb, lay the boards against the longest wall for the best effect. It might also be helpful to consider the shape of the room you're going to refloor. For example, if it's a square-shaped room, following the room's light flow could create a beautiful effect.

Need inspiration?

Head to our social media channels to see how our customers have laid their floors to see if it gives you any ideas. Or you could try out our [Room Visualiser tool](#) to test out how your floor would look laid in different directions.



5. AND ONE LAST THING...

It's best to fit your floor as the last thing you do in a renovation project.

Work your way from the top of the room to the bottom so that once you're ready for the floor to go in, there's much less chance of damaging it. If you want to install a large piece of furniture such as a kitchen island, you can do this after your flooring has been fitted, as long as the subfloor is level. However, it's important to note that screwing furniture directly into the floor could affect the integrity of the floor. We recommend gluing your floor down with adhesive before installing any extremely heavy furniture to ensure everything remains stable.





Floating method

TIME TO LAY YOUR FLOOR...



1. Firstly, make sure the subfloor is even.



2. Take a tapping block, a rubber mallet and a square ruler. Ensure the mallet is firm rather than soft.



3. Separate the herringbone planks into 'A' and 'B' pieces (left and right). A planks will have a black underside and B planks will have a grey underside.



4. Make sure the 'groove' faces you and the 'tongue' faces the wall.
5. Ensure any right angles are straight and vertical. If these are not straight, there will be a visible gap after you lay more pieces.



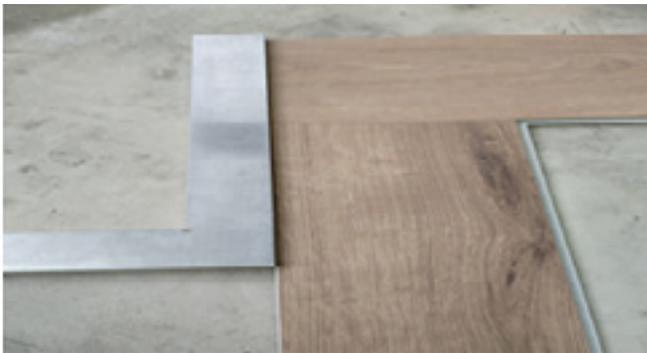
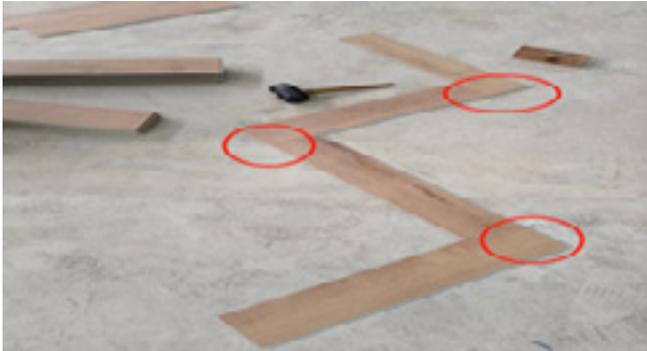
Below is an example of the gap that will occur if the planks are not properly aligned:



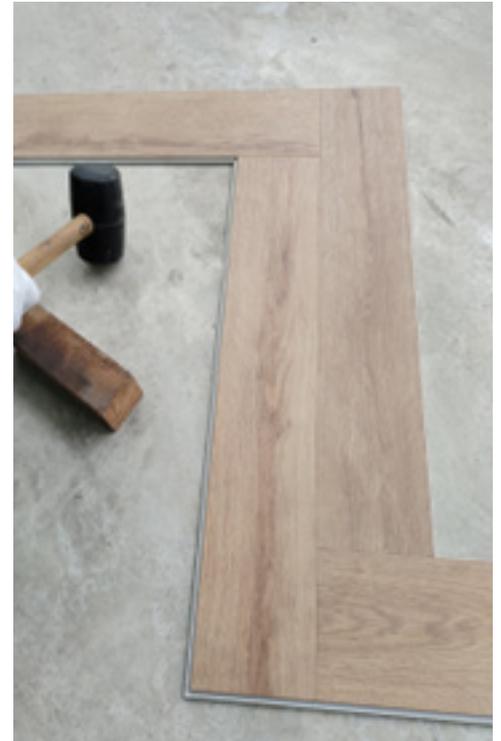
6. Lay A and B then A and B to make a 'W' shape first:



Again, make sure the angle is 90° straight:



7. Using the mallet and tapping block, tap the long edge of the floor to make the shorter side fall naturally onto the long side of the other plank.



8. Use the rubber mallet to knock the click system into place on the short side. Place your hand over the plank to make sure the tongue just touches the groove, then install the next piece.



Knocking the short side



Checking the tongue touches the groove



Long side before tapping



Long side after tapping

Important

Make sure the long side has dropped down completely before using the mallet to tap the short end. If you tap the short end while the long side is still slightly lifting, you may damage the edge of the plank. See example below:



Here, the board is still lifting



Here, the board has been broken as the mallet was used when the board was still lifting

Finishing touches

- To fit your 3D herringbone floor around any pipes, first mark the position of the pipe in the board you're using. Drill a hole in this position and make two angled cuts with a saw. These cuts should form a wedge from the edge of the board to the hole which can then be removed. Fit the board around the hole and then reattach this wedge with glue behind the pipe so the plank appears intact.
- For fitting around door frames, start by removing the door from the frame. Line up an offcut of flooring along with a threshold bar stacked on top to make sure it will fit underneath the architrave. If needed, use a handsaw and chisel to trim the bottom of the architrave to the correct height. You may also need to trim the bottom of the door before refitting.
- You can then use matching beading and thresholds to cover expansion gaps and blend the new floors in with your existing walls, making it look professional and seamless. Make sure not to attach any trims to the flooring itself or it may affect the expansion gaps.
- Any spare planks or cuttings can be kept in case any repairs need to be made.
- If the expansion gap has been left too large and the skirting or moulding doesn't cover it, you can use spare floorboards to cut strips using a hand saw and glue these strips into place.

Your flooring is fitted!

- After putting in the finishing touches (like our range of beautiful radiator pipe covers, skirting boards, stair nosing, and door profiles), you can introduce your furniture, stand back and take it all in. You just fitted your very own Luxury Floor!
- We'd love to see your accomplishments! So make sure you take plenty of pictures and post them online **@luxuryflooringfurnishings** on Instagram. Tag us **#MyLuxuryFloor**

We hope you're happy with your new luxury vinyl tile flooring but if you have any questions or issues, don't hesitate to check out our advice centre or get in touch with our Luxury Flooring customer service team at **0333 577 0025**

We've put together some helpful hints and tips on how to care for your new Luxury Floor, so you can enjoy that new floor feeling for as long as possible.

Some general tips

- Luxury vinyl tiles are water-resistant but it's still best to clean up any spillages straight away.
- If you have any furry friends, keep their nails nice and trimmed so the floor doesn't get scratched. Luxury vinyl tiles are scratch-resistant but prevention is always better than the cure.
- Be careful not to drag furniture across the floor and always use felt pads.
- Keep the floor's exposure to direct sunlight to a minimum.
- You might want to swap shoes for slippers to avoid any dents, especially with high heels.

Keep it clean

- Sweep up at least once a week to get rid of any dust and dirt that could scratch the floor. Choose a broom with soft bristles that will be nice and gentle.
- If you're using a vacuum cleaner, make sure to use a suitable attachment that won't scratch the floor.
- Microfibre mops are great as they use static electricity to pick up dirt rather than just pushing it around the floor.
- Mop the floor every couple of weeks with a slightly damp mop that's been well wrung out so that no water soaks into the floor.
- Only use cleaning products that are suitable for luxury vinyl tiles. If you're ever unsure, test the product out on a small hidden area before you apply it to the whole floor.
- Try to avoid vinegar and soap-based cleaning products as these can be too harsh on the surface of the floor.
- Stay away from steam cleaners as the floor won't do well with the water and heat.

If you have any questions...

Get in touch with our Luxury Flooring customer service team on **0333 577 0025**.