



HOW TO FIT YOUR NEW FLOOR

HERRINGBONE SOLID WOOD



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
- Chalk line
- Workbench or sawhorse
- Combination square
- Planks of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Rubber mallet
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Handsaw or electric saw
- Chisel (for fitting around architrave)
- Drill (for covering pipework)
- Moisture meter – the correct type for your subfloor
- Beading or skirting boards (to finish the look)
- Adhesive and trowel (for gluing installation)
- Flooring nailer or Tongue-Tite screws and screwdriver bit (for nailing installation)
- Some plywood and screws (if needed)
- Safety precautions i.e. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders

Some of these tools are available through our website

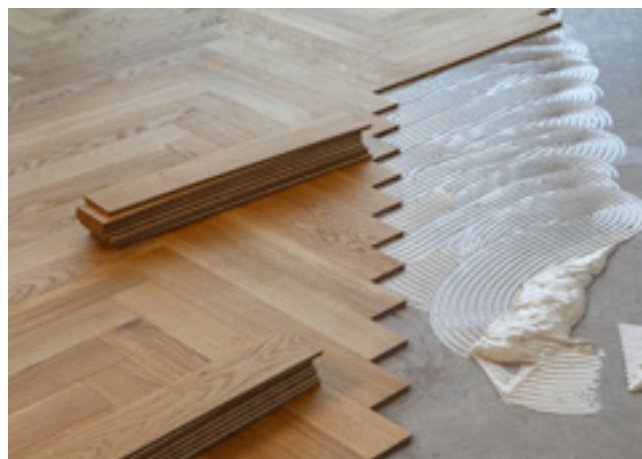
Your installation options

How you install herringbone solid wood depends on your subfloor and what sort of method you prefer. This guide shows two options for installing parquet.

FITTING PARQUET FLOORING CAN BE QUITE COMPLICATED AND RELIES ON PRECISE MEASUREMENTS, SO IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING CONFIDENT WE DO RECOMMEND YOU HIRE A PROFESSIONAL FITTER.

1. GLUING

With this method, adhesive is applied to the top of the subfloor with a trowel and then the individual planks are laid on top. This is our favoured method for tongue & groove parquet flooring.



2. NAILING



With this method, secret nails go through the tongue to secure the planks to a wooden subfloor. You'll need to fit a wood layer above any concrete because secret nailing cannot be done directly on top of a concrete subfloor.

Good to know

Tongue & groove

These boards come with a short protruding side (the tongue) and one short, indented side (the groove). These slot together like a jigsaw puzzle to form a tight fit.

A & B planks

These are 2 different planks that fit together: an 'A' plank and a 'B' plank, with joins on opposing sides. Most of our herringbone comes in this form.

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.



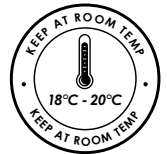
Due to the nature of wooden flooring, each plank is unique so there might be some natural variation between the planks and batches. When you get to laying the floor you can make the most of these colour contrasts by mixing and matching planks from different packs to get a lovely natural look.



2. LEAVE TO ACCLIMATISE

Your solid wood floor should be left for 5-7 days in the room it's going to be fitted in.

This time allows the floor to acclimatise and will reduce the risk of swelling or contracting once the floor is installed. To do this, lay the packs on the floor or in stacks, just as long as they stay horizontal and that there's equal weight distributed across them all. Leave the planks in their packaging. Try to make sure the room stays at the same temperature you'd usually have it at, so between 18 and 20°C and don't allow the floor to be exposed to the elements. Remember: solid wood floors **cannot** be fitted with underfloor heating.



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 results. 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 solid wood boards. You'll need to do this to prevent the wood floor from expanding and buckling.

Any screws or nails in your subfloor should be fixed below the surface. Remove any old adhesive from previous floors and vacuum the floor to pick up any excess dust or debris. It's very important to have a level subfloor with parquet flooring so take extra care to make sure.

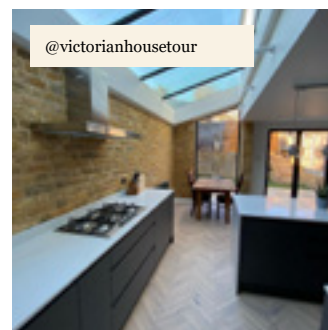
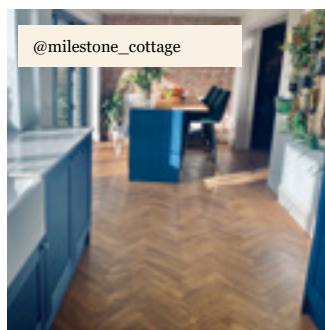
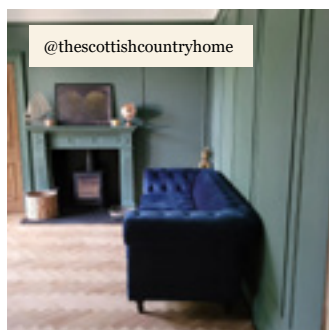
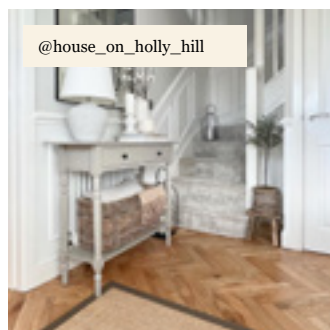
4. PLAN THE LOOK

Think about how you want your herringbone floor to look. Choose the direction and style of the pattern and how you want the eye to be drawn when you enter the room.

Take the planks from the pack and look at the natural grains and variations in the shade. Pick out your favourites and use these planks as a focal point. Mix and match shades and patterns around these so that you can get a look you're happy with. If there are a few planks you don't love as much you could set these aside to use for cuts, or in areas that will be covered by furniture or rugs.

Need inspiration?

Head to our social media channels to see how our customers have laid their floors and find your favourite look. 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...

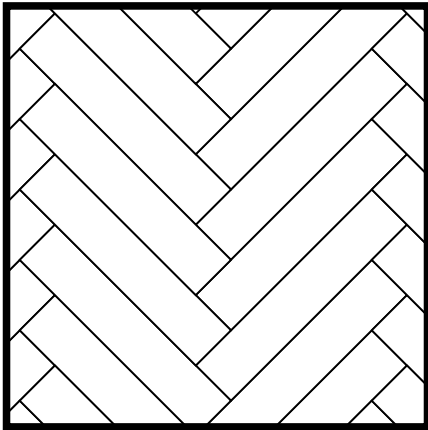
It's best to fit your floor as the last thing you do in a renovation project.

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. This counts for new kitchens and islands too, so always fit the floor after units have been installed rather than before. This way you'll make sure your new floor doesn't buckle under the weight.



Styles of parquet

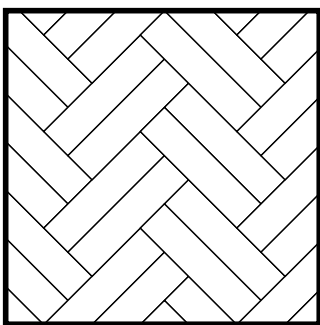
Parquet flooring is the term for flooring made from blocks arranged in a pattern. This guide talks mainly about these styles:



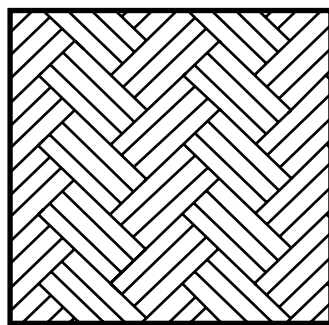
HERRINGBONE

The short planks are staggered to give a zig-zag effect.

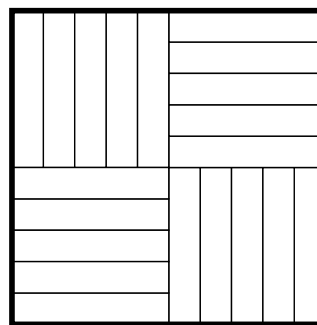
But you might want to customise your parquet blocks to get patterns like these:



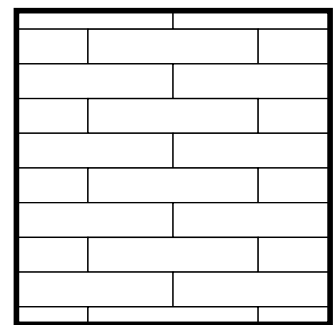
DOUBLE HERRINGBONE



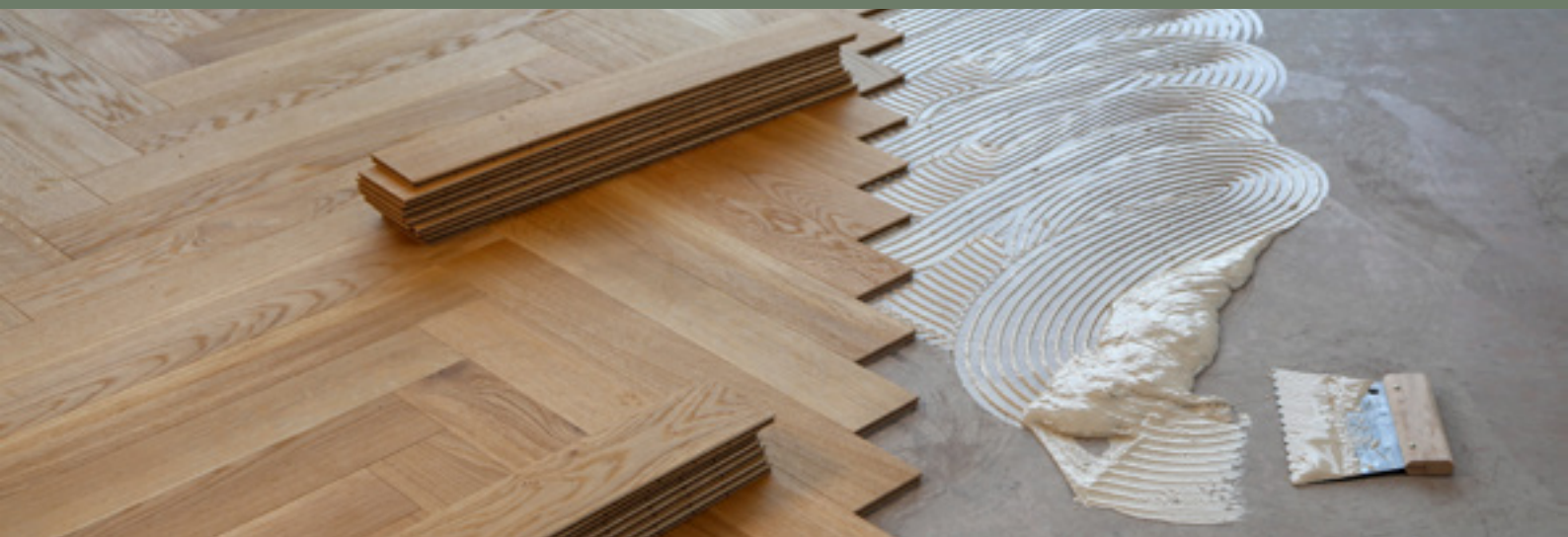
TRIPLE HERRINGBONE



BASKET WEAVE



SUBWAY



Gluing method

TIME TO LAY YOUR FLOOR...

1. Start by measuring the longest wall (or whichever direction you planned) and divide by two to find the centre line of the room. Use a chalk line to mark it out. You'll be aligning the first strip of planks to this line.
2. You may also want to add additional guide lines: a horizontal line to make sure you're working at an exact 90 degree angle, and two guide lines parallel to the centre line to mark out the outer edges of your strip.
Remember: exact measurements are key for fitting parquet.
3. Separate your A and B planks into two piles. One strip of planks refers to an A and a B plank connected together and then the connected planks underneath.
4. Place spacers around the walls to make an expansion gap of 10-12mm. Expansion gaps are important for seasonal changes where the wood may expand or contract.
5. Align the planks so that the highest point of the entire strip is on the centre line. The herringbone pattern may look as though it is slightly to the right of the centre line (due to the nature of the pattern itself). This will look more professional once you've added further strips.
6. Begin by dry-laying the planks in your chosen pattern. Lay the planks by inserting the tongue of one plank into the groove of the next.
7. We recommend dry-laying a row of planks horizontally as well, to make sure the walls are a good enough guide point. This is because not all walls are straight and this can cause the floor pattern to appear tilted. Following this you should adjust as necessary, maintaining a central vertical line.
8. Once you're happy with the placement of your first central strip, apply the adhesive with a trowel (following the adhesive instructions) and fix the planks in place, working vertically down the room in small working areas.
9. Once the first strip has set, you can use this as a guide for the remaining strips.
10. Once you have laid all of the full planks, you'll need to measure and cut the planks to fill in the pattern around the edges. This is the tricky part and takes quite a bit of time to cut down all of the correct sizes and to slot them into place.
11. Leave the floor for 24 hours before moving furniture back to the room or walking on it.





Nailing method

TIME TO LAY YOUR FLOOR...



1. Start by measuring the longest wall (or whichever direction you planned) and divide by two to find the centre line of the room. Use a chalk line to mark it out.
2. You may also want to add additional guide lines: a horizontal line to make sure you're working at an exact 90 degree angle, and two guide lines parallel to the centre line to mark out the outer edges of your strip.
Remember: exact measurements are key for fitting parquet.
3. You may wish to create a template to ensure you are working to an exact 45 degree angle. Cut out a square piece of plywood with sides that measure the exact lengths of your planks. Then cut this in half to leave you with a triangular guide.
4. Separate your A and B planks into two piles. One strip of planks refers to an A and a B plank connected together and then the connected planks underneath.
5. Place spacers around the walls to make an expansion gap of 10-12mm. Expansion gaps are important for seasonal changes where the wood may expand or contract.
6. Align the planks so that the highest point of the entire strip is on the centre line. The herringbone pattern may look as though it is slightly to the right of the centre line (due to the nature of the pattern itself). This will look more professional once you've added further strips.
7. Line up the three corners of your plywood guide with the horizontal and centre lines, and then screw this plywood guide into place temporarily.
8. Now you can begin to secret nail the planks. You can either use a powered flooring nailer or Tongue-Tite screws which you can simply position into an angle and screw in by hand with a screwdriver bit. Both nails and screws will go through the tongue and into the subfloor and will be hidden when the tongue fits into the groove.
9. Align the planks to your central plywood guide or centre lines. Make sure the tongue sides of the planks face outwards with the groove side flush against the plywood guide.
10. Continue to lay the planks in your chosen pattern, tapping with a rubber mallet to insert the tongue of one plank into the groove of the next and then using your flooring nailer or screws to secure into place.
11. Work vertically up the room and then fill in the remaining strips, moving your plywood guide if necessary.
12. Once you have laid all of the full planks, you'll need to measure and cut the planks to fill in the pattern around the edges. This is the tricky part and takes quite a bit of time to cut down all of the correct sizes and to slot them into place. You probably won't have much room on these last rows so you may need to surface nail.

Finishing touches

- To fit flooring 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 utilise spare floorboards to cut strips using a hand saw and glue these strips into place.

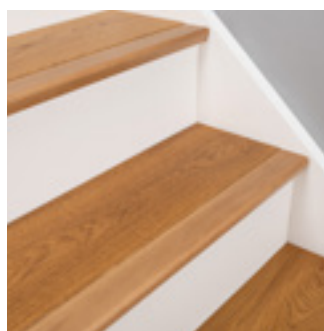
Forgotten something? It's not too late to order these...



PIPE COVERS



SKIRTING BOARD



STAIR NOSING



BEADING

Your flooring is finished!

- 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 and Facebook. Tag us **#MyLuxuryFloor**

We hope you're happy with your new Herringbone Solid Wood 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 and Furnishings customer support team on **0333 577 0025**.