



HOW TO FIT YOUR NEW FLOOR

HERRINGBONE LAMINATE



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
- Underlay and underlay tape (if needed)
- Planks of flooring
- Spacers
- Tapping block
- Pull bar
- Handsaw or electric 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)
- Safety precautions i.e. knee pads, safety goggles, dust masks, ear defenders

[Some of these tools are available through our website](#)

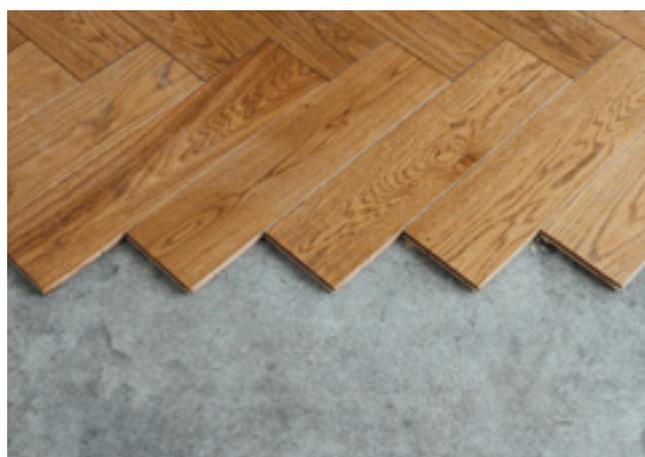
Your installation options

Our Herringbone Laminate Flooring is best installed with the following method:

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.

FLOATING FLOOR

In a floating floor, the boards click together and join to each other, instead of to the subfloor. This is ideal for a click-joining floor such as laminate as it's a lot easier to fit. For this method, we'd advise you to have underlay installed and prepped.



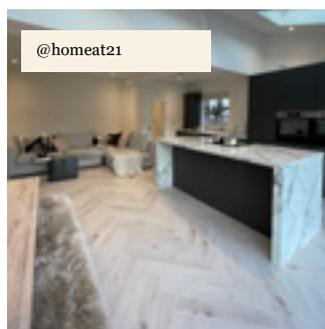
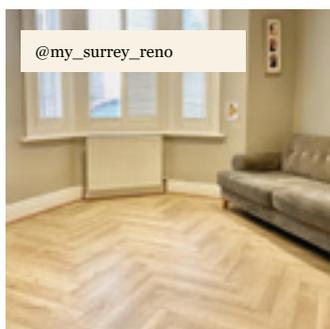
Good to know

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.

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.



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.



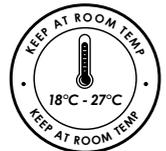
Some of our wood-effect laminate flooring is designed to look just like real wood which means there may be some colour variation between the planks and batches. When you get to laying the floor you can make the most of these colour contrasts by mixing and matching planks from different packs to get a lovely natural look.



2. LEAVE TO ACCLIMATISE

Your laminate floor should be left for 24 hours in the room it's going to be fitted in.

This time allows the floor to acclimatise. 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 27°C 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 to get the planks used to the heat. Refer to the advice given by your heating supplier on how to do 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 floor 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.

It's very important to have a level subfloor with parquet flooring so take extra care to make sure.

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 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.

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.





Floating method

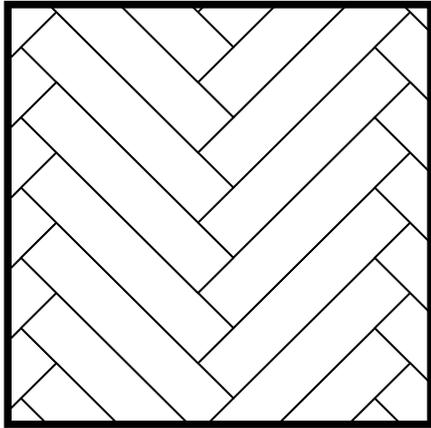
TIME TO LAY YOUR FLOOR...



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 multiple guide lines parallel to the centre line to mark out the outer edges of each strip. **Remember: exact measurements are key for fitting parquet.**
3. Place spacers around the walls to make an expansion gap of 2mm. If you're using underfloor heating, we recommend a minimum of 5mm.
4. Separate the 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. 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. To fully connect the planks, knock gently (don't use a mallet here as you may damage the click connection) on the outer end.
7. Continue to connect each plank by clicking each joint into the gap of the other plank, starting at a high angle and applying light pressure. After you hear a click, lower it flat on the floor. Repeat the previous step to make sure all planks are connected as closely as possible with no gaps.
8. After the first strip is complete, make sure to check all measurements and then continue to fill out the remaining strips.
9. 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 can use some glue to secure the smallest pieces, applying a small amount inside the groove.

Styles of parquet

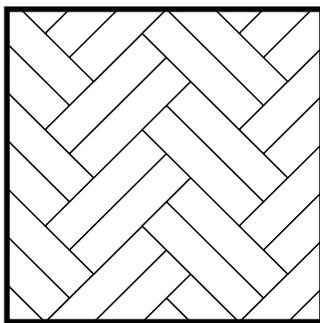
Parquet flooring is the term for flooring made from blocks arranged in a pattern. This guide talks about this style:



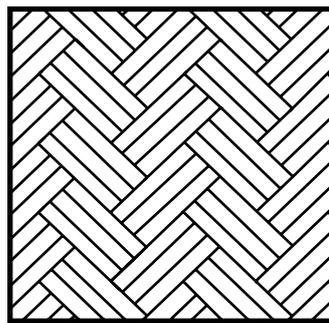
HERRINGBONE

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

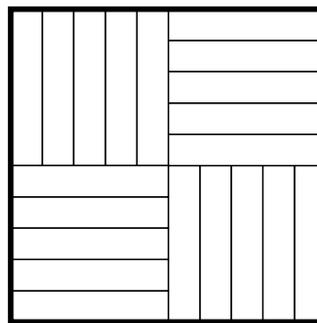
But you might want to customise your parquet blocks to get patterns like these:



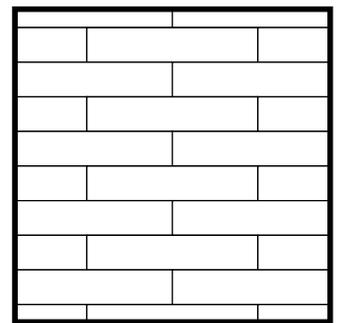
DOUBLE HERRINGBONE



TRIPLE HERRINGBONE



BASKET WEAVE



SUBWAY

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



RAMP & T PROFILES

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 Laminate 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**.