

Expansion & Contraction:

Please note that any wooden floor is subject to expansion and contraction, according to the amount of moisture in the environment. Hence your hardwood boards may contract slightly during winter months (as central heating produces a drier atmosphere) and expand slightly during the summer when windows are open and the atmosphere within the house has more moisture. This seasonal movement is a normal characteristic of wooden floors and it never stops, regardless of the age of the wooden floor.

This expansion and contraction can also be magnified when dealing with underfloor heating as the wood may be subject to a higher than usual degree of moisture loss.

Important Maintenance Points:

Please note that it is important to try to keep relative humidity in any rooms containing wooden flooring within the range of 40%- 60% RH. If you have UFH installed it is a good idea to use a room relative humidity meter (available from Chaunceys) to make sure your room does not become too dry. Excessively low humidity levels may not only damage the wooden flooring and furniture, but are also bad for the people and animals who live in that environment.

Please also make sure that you are aware of the following:

- Tectonic™ engineered flooring should be stacked and acclimatized before installing according to our instructions.

- Always increase the UFH temperature gradually, particularly when the floor has first been installed or after long periods of not using the UFH. Any wooden flooring will need to acclimatize and if the temperature is suddenly increased and run at very high levels then there is a risk of the flooring shrinking and the top hardwood layer developing surface splits.

- Any testing of the UFH system (especially running the system at very high temperatures) should be done before the wooden flooring is laid.

- The use of thick rugs over wooden flooring and UFH may result in the floor 'cooking' as the heat is trapped in by the rugs. This may result in surface splits in the hardwood top layer.

Fixing the Boards

We would always recommend using a professional floor fitting company, such as Chaunceys Floor Fitting Services, to install your floor. They will recommend either secret nailing, gluing or floating the boards depending on the method of underfloor heating. If a concrete screed has been used then gluing boards using a flexible adhesive is usually the best method to ensure a rapid heat transfer.

If battens have been laid, then the flooring can be secret nailed and/or glued to this, however great care must be taken around any areas close to the pipes. Your fitter may advise using SIKABOND T2 glue (supplied in cartridges) to glue boards to any battens that are close to pipes to ensure that there is no damage to the pipes from nails.

Tectonic™ Oak Flooring can be laid as a 'floating floor' (i.e. where the T&G joints are glued together to form a floating layer over the solid subfloor). This may not be the best choice for installing over UFH as any air gaps left when installing 'floating' boards will act as barrier to the heat transfer. If your subfloor is absolutely flat then floating may be a viable option using a specialist underlay which will aid the transfer of heat.

Recommendations, Facts & Figures for Chaunceys Tectonic ® Flooring:

Maximum Floor Top Surface Temperature in use:	27°
Maximum Floor Underside Temperature in use :	40°
Maximum Heat Output in use :	75W/m ²
Subfloor / Room temperature at time of installation:	15-24°
Subfloor ERH (equilibrium relative humidity) at time of installation:	40-65%RH
ARH (ambient relative humidity) at time of installation:	40-60%RH
Maximum un-evenness of subfloor recommended:	3mm over 3m
Maximum M/C of floor joists & ply substrate (if applicable):	12%
Minimum distance of hot water pipes below boards (in screed):	30mm
Minimum distance of hot water pipes below boards:	3mm
Maximum joist spacing (if applicable)	400mm
Minimum Edge Expansion joint:	12mm
Thermal conductivity of Tectonic 20mm boards:	λ = 0.17 W/mK
Thermal conductivity of Tectonic 15mm boards:	λ = 0.17 W/mK

Disclaimer

Our fitting and maintenance advice is tested and assembled to the best of our knowledge however, is still considered as a non-binding recommendation. Responsibility of the outcome of our recommendations rests solely with the you, the user. When an updated version of this fitting/maintenance sheet is released this one will no longer be valid.