

Installation techniques

Marquetry and parquet tiles

- Marquetry tiles are plywood based and can easily be glued to any base that has fulfilled the preceding conditions during site preparation.
- Do a dry layout of the tiles making sure that a reference is taken depending on the design to be achieved. The center of the room is usually taken in most cases as the starting point. This can be found by measuring the length and width of the room and then draw center lines that intersect at the center of the room. These lines will give you a starting point not only for that room but also for the entire job. Extending the starting lines and snapping lines through the installation will give you a visual guide.
- Once the starting area is determined and the dry layout made, the installation may proceed.
- All patterns or decorative floors should be laid from the inside of the room out using the junction of the working line and the perpendicular line. Lay the flooring in a random pattern; avoid stair step patterns and H joints.
- Clean the sub floor and apply the right type of glue to the areas that the first tiles will be fixed to.
- Parquet patterns should be laid out leaving any cut in areas around the room as even as possible. Start in the center of the room working in a pyramid pattern and finishing with the cut pieces the same size on parallel walls.
- Herringbone patterns should be installed by breaking the room down into quadrants (quarters). Lay out the pattern and discuss with the customer or decide which direction the “arrows” should face. What looks like a herringbone to some, looks like a zigzag to others.
- Strip and plank should be laid out to avoid leaving very small cut in pieces at wall lines, or ending up with boards that are three inches one end and one inch at the other.
- Consider using a diagonal layout in smaller rooms or in installation where the walls are obviously out of square. Remember to add a higher waste factor for diagonal layouts.

- Trammel points are a good way to find a perpendicular line to your working line. Just remember that the first line must be true, because the perpendicular line will be square to your line, not necessarily to the walls.
- Always use extra care not to scratch or dent the face when installing pre-finished wood flooring parquet or marquetry tiles. Keep tools off the finished areas, if nailing the floor, cover your nailer with blue tape in areas that make contact with wood surfaces and keep the work area clean and free of debris. Use the proper mallet heads, such as wood or rubber, as not to damage the finish as you are tapping the floor together; consider using a vinyl tapping block made for either nail down or glue down installation. Keep a piece of cardboard or clean carpet to keep tools on and off of the wood. Undercut doorjamb as part of the preparation process.

Installing over heated floors

Engineered or multilayer floors with high spec glue is ideal for heated floor systems as they are more dimensionally stable in these conditions

Al Baraa marquetry tiles are multilayer and can be used over heated floors. Procedures must be followed as below:

- Newly installed water type radiant heated flooring systems should be in operational mode with the temperature set between 18° -22°C, for a minimum of 4 weeks to insure that all sub floor moisture has properly dried.
- Older water type radiant floor heat systems should be fully pressure tested, properly maintained, and set to a minimum of 18°C, for at least 4 days before flooring delivery; acclimation, or installation processes may begin.
- All radiant heating systems must be set to room temp. (A minimum of 18°C), for at least 4 days before flooring delivery; acclimation, or installation processes may begin.
- Always check wood sub floors to insure that the moisture content is less than 14% using an accurate wood moisture meter.
- Concrete sub floors must register “dry”, using a reliable concrete moisture meter.
- The pH level of concrete sub floors should register between 6 and 9, on a fourteen point pH scale.

- Sub floors must fully comply with these “dry” requirements before proceeding with the delivery, acclimation, or installation of the wood flooring at the job site.
- Regulate the job site conditions to insure that the relative humidity is between 35% and 65%, and that temperature is between 16° and 27°C, throughout the flooring delivery, acclimation, installation and any required curing processes.
- Deliver and acclimate the engineered hardwood flooring, for at least 48 hours before installation begins.
- Install the hardwood flooring according to the instructions that pertain to the product.
- After completing the installation, do not change the radiant heat setting for 48 hrs.
- Throughout the life of the installation, 3 to 5 degree daily increments must be used when adjusting system temperature for either upward or lower adjustments; so that the wood flooring can adjust to the temperature changes in a gradual manner.
- Never raise the flooring surface temperature setting above 30 degrees Centigrade.