

Click-Lock Engineered Wood Flooring Installation Guide

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1. Introduction

There's something quite satisfying about a flooring project that comes together smoothly, and that's exactly where click-lock flooring shines.

Designed with simplicity in mind, click-lock engineered wood flooring allows boards to fit neatly together without the need for glue or nails. It's a lovely option if you're after a clean, straightforward installation with a professional finish.

Whether you're refreshing a single room or transforming a whole space, this guide will walk you through each step in a calm and manageable way.

2. Before You Begin

A little preparation at the start makes all the difference.

Measure your room carefully and allow an extra 5–10% for cuts and adjustments. It's always reassuring to have a few spare boards to hand.

Make sure the room is fully ready before you begin. Any decorating or damp work should be completed and dry.

Take a moment to check your flooring packs as well. A quick look over before installation helps avoid surprises later on.

3. Tools & Materials You'll Need

Click-lock flooring is refreshingly simple when it comes to tools.

You'll need:

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Saw (hand or electric)
- Spacers
- Rubber mallet
- Pull bar
- Spirit level
- Underlay

No adhesive is required, which is one of the reasons this method is so popular.

4. Preparing Your Subfloor

A smooth, stable base is essential for a great finish.

Your subfloor should be:

- Clean
- Dry
- Level
- Secure

Concrete floors must be fully dry and may require a moisture barrier. Timber subfloors should feel firm, with no movement underfoot.

Taking the time to prepare properly will make installation much easier.

5. Acclimatising Your Flooring

Before laying your floor, allow it to adjust to the room.

Leave the unopened packs in the space for **48–72 hours**. This helps the boards settle into the room's temperature and humidity.

It's a simple step, but it helps prevent movement once the floor is installed.

6. Understanding Click-Lock Flooring

Click-lock flooring is designed to fit together without glue.

Each board has a specially shaped edge that allows it to “click” into the next. Once connected, the boards stay securely in place.

This system creates a floating floor, meaning it sits above the subfloor rather than being fixed directly to it.

It's one of the reasons this type of flooring is so popular for DIY projects.

7. Underlay & Moisture Protection

Underlay is an important part of any click-lock installation.

It helps to:

- Reduce noise
- Add comfort underfoot
- Smooth out minor imperfections

If you're installing over concrete, make sure there's a moisture barrier in place. Many underlays include this already.

8. Installing Your Floor (Step-by-Step)

This is where it all comes together.

Start along the longest wall, ideally in the direction of natural light. It helps create a more seamless look.

Lay your underlay first, ensuring it's flat and neatly joined.

Place spacers along the wall to create your expansion gap.

Begin with your first row, positioning the boards carefully. This first line sets the direction for the rest of the floor.

To connect boards, angle the next plank into place and press down until it clicks securely. You'll feel when it locks properly.

Continue across the room, working row by row. Stagger the joints to create a more natural, balanced appearance.

Take your time with cuts, especially at the edges and final row.

9. Expansion Gaps & Finishing Touches

Even though click-lock flooring isn't fixed down, it still needs room to move.

Leave a **10–15mm expansion gap** around the edges of the room. This allows for natural expansion and contraction.

These gaps are covered with skirting boards or beading, so they won't be visible once finished.

Door bars can be used to create a neat transition between rooms.

10. Cutting Around Obstacles

Every room has its little challenges, from door frames to radiator pipes.

Measure carefully and cut boards to fit neatly around these areas.

For pipes, drill slightly larger holes and use pipe covers for a tidy finish.

Taking your time here will really elevate the final look.

11. Underfloor Heating Guidance

Click-lock engineered wood flooring is suitable for underfloor heating when installed correctly.

Keep the heating system off during installation and increase the temperature gradually afterwards.

Try not to exceed **27°C**, as excessive heat can affect the wood over time.

12. Common Mistakes to Avoid

A few things to keep in mind:

- Forcing boards instead of aligning them properly
- Skipping acclimatisation
- Not leaving expansion gaps
- Installing on an uneven subfloor

Let the system do the work — it should click together smoothly without force.

13. After Installation

Once your floor is laid, give it a little time before heavy use.

Avoid moving furniture back immediately and consider using felt pads to protect the surface.

A gentle clean will remove any dust from installation.

14. Troubleshooting

Boards not clicking properly

Check alignment and make sure there's no debris in the joint.

Gaps between boards

Often caused by incorrect installation angle.

Movement in the floor

Usually due to uneven subfloor or missing expansion gaps.

15. Final Thoughts

Click-lock flooring is a brilliant option if you're after a clean, straightforward installation without the need for adhesives.

It's one of those projects that feels very manageable once you get started, and the end result can completely transform your space.

With a bit of care and patience, you'll have a floor that looks beautiful and performs well for years to come.

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