



## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO INSTALLERS

### Guide for Handling, Storage and Installation of MRH Hardwood Flooring

#### **GENERAL**

Every MRH hardwood floor has been carefully seasoned, precision milled and quality checked prior to dispatch from the mill. Like all kiln-dried products it requires careful handling, storage and installation to ensure the best possible appearance and performance in service. All MRH 19mm and 21mm Hardwood flooring is kiln dried to the Australian Standard 2796 of 9% to 14%.

The following guide provides some simple and practical tips that will help to ensure a quality, hassle-free installation and minimise the potential for costly call-backs.

Should you encounter a situation not covered by this guide or if you have any questions about a particular installation you should contact MRH or your supplier.

**If you have any doubts or concerns about the grade, moisture content or other quality aspect of this flooring DO NOT LAY IT!! Instead call your supplier IMMEDIATELY for advice.**

#### **FLOORING AND MOISTURE**

Excess moisture is the number one enemy of seasoned timber and if not properly controlled can result in swelling, twisting and cupping of the timber. In extreme cases it may be necessary to pull up the floor, rectify the moisture problem, and start again.

#### **SITE CONDITIONS**

Check the job site before delivery for potential problem areas. Make sure that the flooring will not be exposed to high humidity, moisture or radiant heat by checking for the following conditions.

- The building must be constructed to at least lock-up stage with the roof on and all doors and windows in place;
- Adequate drainage must be in place to direct surface water away from the building;
- All underfloor spaces must be dry with good cross ventilation from outside vents and no dead air spaces. There must be openings in all internal sub-floor walls that correspond with external vents to maximise air flow;
- All wet trades (rendering, plastering, concreting, tiling) must be finished prior to delivery of the flooring;
- If the building features full-length windows, large glass areas or skylights (particularly those with a northerly or westerly aspect) that will admit direct sunlight onto the floor, ensure that blinds, curtains or other protective system is used to block or filter the sunlight during periods of hot sunny weather;

If any of the site conditions do not correspond with the above checklist it is recommended that the flooring not be delivered or installed until the problem has been rectified.

If you need advice, call your supplier.

*See also overleaf*

## **DELIVERY AND STORAGE**

The flooring must be protected from the elements at all times during loading, transportation and unloading. It should never be delivered to site when it is raining.

Once on-site, if it cannot go directly into the room in which it is to be used, the flooring must be stored indoors where it is fully protected from moisture and direct sunlight.

**Make sure you retain the pack label(s).**

## **INSTALLATION**

Do not install during or immediately following extended periods of abnormally wet or dry weather conditions.

### **OVER BEARERS AND JOISTS**

Optimum results will be achieved if the flooring is fixed to a plywood (min 16mm) platform installed over the joists.

In all cases floorboards should be laid across (at right angles) to the joists.

### **OVER CONCRETE SLABS**

It is essential that the slab is properly dried prior to the installation of the floor. Floors should not be laid over slabs with a moisture content above 5.5%. Every slab, even one several years old, should be checked for excessive moisture and appropriately sealed before installation begins.

A properly calibrated concrete moisture meter is the most accurate method for testing slab moisture, but other tests are available that will provide a reasonable indication of excessive moisture. Whichever method you use, test the slab in several places to ensure that there are no wet spots.

19mm and 21mm flooring should be fixed to an exterior grade plywood (min 16mm) or kiln-dried hardwood battens (softwood battens are not recommended) fastened to the slab with dynabolts or concrete nails.

When installing the floor it is strongly recommended that the flooring be fully glued to the ply using a high quality flooring adhesive and nailed down as you go. It is not recommended that the flooring be cut in loosely prior to fixing down.

The floor must be sealed with an appropriate sealer immediately after laying if sanding and sealing are not to be completed straight after laying is finished.

To allow for normal movement of the floor after installation ensure you leave expansion gaps of at least 12mm between the edges of the floor and the walls. These gaps can then be covered by skirting boards or filled with cork strip.

## **WARNING**

**Macleay River Hardwoods has no control over installation and accepts no responsibility for any part of the installation process**

*Produced by MRH for the general advice and assistance of clients*