FLOORS4EVERUK

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TECHNICAL GUIDE TG03

Herringbone and Parquet Installation Guide

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> Figures marked **(BS 8201)** follow BS 8201:2011 *Code of practice for installation of flooring of wood and wood-based panels* as published by leading UK suppliers and the Wood Flooring Association. Other figures are Floors4Ever recommendations. Where the adhesive, underlay or heating manufacturer gives stricter instructions, follow theirs.

Herringbone and chevron floors need accurate setting out. We recommend installation by an experienced professional. Read this guide together with **TG01** and **TG02**.

1. Method

- Herringbone and chevron blocks must be **fully bonded (glue-down)** to the subfloor. They must not be floated.
- Use a flexible, solvent-free and water-free wood flooring adhesive and the trowel the adhesive manufacturer specifies.
- Check whether the product has left (A) and right (B) blocks. Keep them separate before you start.

2. Subfloor

- Subfloor moisture and flatness as TG01: **below 65% RH** for concrete and screed **(BS 8201)**, below 14% for timber subfloors, and flat to **SR1 (3 mm under a 2 m straight edge)**.
- Over timber subfloors, overboard with flooring-grade plywood screwed down at close centres, as the adhesive manufacturer recommends.

3. Ordering

Allow **10–15% extra** for cutting and waste, depending on the room shape.

4. Setting out

1. Decide the direction of the pattern, usually parallel to the longest wall or the main line of sight.
2. Snap a centre line down the room. Mark two guide lines either side of it to suit the block width (measure from a dry-laid pair of blocks).
3. Dry-lay a few rows first to check the pattern and the cuts at the walls. Aim for equal cuts on both sides of the room.
4. Fix a square plywood template or straight batten at the starting point to give a true right angle.

5. Laying

- Lay the first rows against the template and check they are straight and square. Small errors at the start cannot be corrected later.
- On concrete, let the first rows set before building off them. On a timber subfloor, the first row can be pinned and work can continue.
- Work in small areas so the adhesive does not skin over.
- Where blocks have grooves on all sides, use loose tongues as the manufacturer supplies them.
- Leave the expansion gap shown in TG02 (minimum 10 mm) around the perimeter. A border row of blocks or planks can be used to finish the edges.

- Press or roll each area while the adhesive is still wet, then weight any blocks that lift.

6. Underfloor heating

Herringbone is suitable over water-based underfloor heating when fully bonded and when TG04 is followed. The floor surface must never exceed **27°C (BS 8201)**.
