



Installations Over Radiant Heat

Creative Flooring Guidelines

Creative Flooring (like most other engineered timber flooring suppliers) does not recommend installation of wooden flooring over electric radiant heat and therefore does not warrant such installations. The main reasons for this are:

Electric under floor heating is able to supply an almost instantaneous heat that warms up the flooring over a very short period of time. This can cause tension in the wood with the risk of splits appearing in the top layer.

The main problem is that the end user has the tendency to give full power to the system as the ambient temperature drops.

A hot water pipe system, by nature of its operation, tends to have a slower heating time frame but the following should be adhered to. Engineered flooring is the more stable option for such installations and a floating floor is the safest as it allows the flooring to expand and contract as a whole.

The guidelines below are offered as additional pointers to successful installation:

1. As with any direct stick floor you should be checking and recording your slab moisture levels (particularly new slabs). Obviously only installing over acceptable levels.
2. It should be ensured that the floor is flat – 3mm over 3m is the acceptable industry standard.
3. The radiant heat should be turned on for a lengthy period prior to the install to chase out any moisture from the slab. 21 days is recommended for new slabs.
4. The floor should be coated with a moisture barrier/retarder.
5. Moisture levels should be checked and recorded again once the barrier/retarder has been applied and cured as per the manufacturer's recommendations.
6. As far as is possible, acclimatisation of the timber floor within the environment it is going into, for as long as possible, would be ideal. The room temperature should not vary more than 9 degrees C between seasons and humidity should be maintained between 45% and 60% throughout the year.
7. The boards should be run at right angles to the heating pipes/elements below the substrate to give even heating across the boards (**consider your desired flooring direction, and advise your heating installer**).

8. Sufficient glue, as specified by the manufacturer, should be trowelled to ensure good adhesion for direct stick floors. Only glues recommended for use over underfloor heating should be used (Bostick Ultraset – Tub).
9. Before installation, reduce the temperature gradually by 5 degrees C per day. At the time of installation, the sub floor temperature should be between 16-18 degrees C. After installation the temperature of 16-18 degrees C should be maintained for a further 3-4 days before returning to the recommended subfloor temperature of 24-27 degrees C.
10. Thermostats should be in the floor and not wall mounted.
11. Any increase in temperature should be made slowly, only 2-3 degrees at a time and left for a period of at least 12 hours to stabilize before increasing further. Maximum temperature is 27 degrees Celsius.
12. Once a desired temperature is reached, it should be maintained for the duration of the winter months.
13. Avoid rapid changes in heating temperatures.
14. Decrease temperature in a similar way, avoiding rapid changes.

Process for installation of flooring over electric radiant heating: Uplift (if required), grind and check levels, application of moisture barrier, installation by heating supplier of heat pads and screed, floor levels rechecked by flooring installer (note that after the screeding process floor prep can only 'fill in' any hollows, not grind out any humps – attention to detail when screeding is imperative), flooring installation.

Signed as Accepted (Name & Signature)

Site Address

Dated