

INSTALLING URBAN OAK WITH UNDER FLOOR HEATING

URBAN OAK TYPICAL INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

A typical procedure, provided for guidance involves the following steps. Regarding the specifics of floor installation and product and slab assessment, refer to product manufacturer guidelines and ATFA publication Timber Flooring.

1. **Site conditions**

The site should be free from all wet trades, be in a state where the dwelling can be lived in and with the heating system fully commissioned. The sub-floor should also have been levelled if necessary to accept the timber floor.

2. **Pre-heat the sub-floor prior to laying to remove excess sub-floor moisture**

The heating system needs to be operated for a period of 2 weeks prior to floor installation to lower the moisture content of the sub-floor and particularly so if it is a slab to remove further moisture. The possibility of higher levels of humidity in the room during this process should be checked for and ventilation provided as required. When conditions are sufficiently dry the flooring should be stored in the installation location in a manner that does not interfere with the drying of the sub-floor.

During and particularly toward the end of this period the room conditions regarding temperature and humidity should be checked and the relative humidity should be in the range from 45% to 60% at a temperature of about 20°C. This equates to an EMC of 8.5% to 11%. The moisture content of the flooring to be laid should have already been thoroughly checked prior to supply to ensure that boards are generally 9% to 10% moisture content and this should again be checked prior to laying.

Similarly the sub-floor should also be checked to ensure it is suitable for accepting a timber floor. The sub-floor temperature should not exceed 27°C with in-slab heating (With hydronic heating water temperatures may be 45°C or so to attain an underfloor temperature up to 27°C).

3. **Turn off the heating and follow this by a non-heating period**

The period of time that the heating remains off is generally about two days.

4. **Lay and fix the floor**

Install the floor using Stauf 950 adhesive or similar elastomeric polyurethane adhesive. Following installation the heating is to remain off for a further two days.

5. **Gradually increase the Under Floor Heating (UFH) to normal expected temperature**

The heating should be increased in stages from a low level to the desired room temperature over a period of about 10 days, incrementing by no more than 2°C each day and then maintained for a further two weeks.

6. **Turn the heating system on**

The system with installed and finished floor can then be operated but again the temperature should be raised gradually to the desired operating temperature. With an UFH system in place the optimum relative humidity range is between 45% and 60% year round with room temperatures of about 18°C to 24°C.