



## Installation requirements and preparation for Unnatural Wood

### Professional Fitting

- The Unnatural Flooring Company recommends the Unnatural Wood range to be fitted by a professional and trained installer.
- The installation of Unnatural Wood is straight forward and follows the same guidelines that apply to all quality resilient floors. Site conditions must always comply with the relevant national regulations and installation standards.

### Storage

- Unnatural Wood rolls should be stored in either a flat horizontal or vertical position. In order to minimise the risk of pressure marks when storing in a horizontal position, the rolls should not be stacked on top of each other. Do not store the rolls in very cold (less than 2°C), very warm (more than 40°C) or humid places.

### Preparation

- Please be careful when unpacking the floor covering as sharp tools can damage the flooring.
- Please inspect the product prior to installation. Check that the colours correspond to those ordered, that quantities are correct and that there is no visible damage to the sheet. Do not install any vinyl that displays any imperfections.
- Unnatural Wood can be laid on concrete, cementitious screed, anhydrite (calcium sulphate), timber and ceramic tiles which have been suitably prepared beforehand.
- Any irregularities in the sub-floor will show through the finished floor. The sub-floor must be hard, smooth, clean, dry, and free from defects and fit for purpose. Where needed, scrape off and remove old adhesives and loose-laying levelling compounds. Make sure the sub-floor is flat and free from chemical substances.
- A suitable levelling compound should be used to ensure that no irregularities show through to the surface of the finished floor. However, the selection of suitable materials, including smoothing and levelling compounds and any ancillary products is dependant upon the end use of the completed flooring, and must be agreed by the supplier of the preparative materials and the flooring contractor. Any proprietary materials used for floor preparation must be used in accordance with the manufacturers' recommended instructions. In all cases the sub floor must be sufficiently dry.
- Unnatural Wood can be used with traditional water-based under-floor heating and cooling systems, providing there is a lower constant room temperature of 18°C for the acclimatisation period, installation and 72 hours after installation. Electric wire underfloor heating systems are not recommended.
- The Underfloor heating must be gradually increased by increments of 5°C until it reaches the standard operating temperature conditions with a maximum temperature of 27°C. For suitability of the system please refer to the manufacturers' instructions.
- Unnatural Wood can be installed over floor cooling systems; however, the supply temperature of the cooling water must not be reduced below the dew point temperature. Temperatures below this will produce condensation and can therefore damage the floor covering. Thermostats in the room must never be set at a temperature which is more than 5°C lower than the room temperature.

### Temperature and moisture conditions of the sub floor

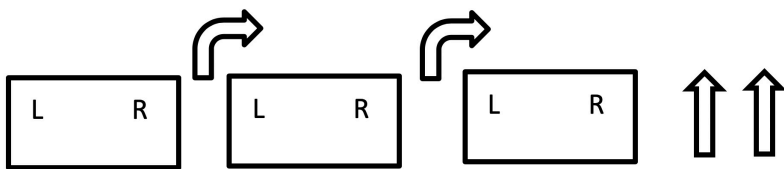
- Unheated cementitious screeds less than 2.0CM%
- Underfloor heated cementitious screeds less than 1.8CM%
- Unheated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds less than 0.5CM%

# Unnatural Flooring

- Under-floor heated anhydrite (calcium sulphate) screeds less than 0.3CM%
- Direct-to-earth concrete and stone sub-floors must have an effective damp proof membrane (DPM). Follow the manufacturer's detailed instructions for the installation of a surface DPM and the use of levelling compound.
- Unnatural Wood is best installed with a room temperature of between 18°C and 28°C and a floor temperature of above 15°C.
- Installations in areas colder than recommended will make the sheets harder to handle and less flexible, whilst cutting will become more difficult.
- A constant temperature, fluctuating no more than 5°C per day and not below the required 18°C room temperature and 15°C floor temperature, should be maintained 24 hours before, during and 72 hours after installation.

## Acclimatisation

- Unnatural Wood should acclimatise in the room where the installation is taking place or an equivalent area for at least 24 hours prior to installation, or until the product has achieved an ambient temperature. Again, this is a minimum temperature of 18°C and a maximum of 27°C.
- We recommend cutting the flooring to take place 24 hours before installation. Unpack the flooring and check all cuts and rolls in daylight for possible defects or discrepancies in colour.
- When cutting to size please consider the nature of the design and pattern and run the flooring cuts in the same direction using the arrows on the reverse as a guide. Do not reverse lay consecutive strips.



## Installation

### Colour batches

- We always recommend that you always use materials from a single colour batch in one room, or adjoining rooms, as we cannot guarantee a 100% match between different colour batches. The rolls selected within one colour batch, should be installed in the sequence of increasing roll number and allowing for directional installation.
- Almost all flooring will vary in colour over time when exposed to UV light. Avoid this by using curtains or sunscreens when the sun is very bright.

### Fully Bonded or Lose lay installation

- If a room or an area is smaller than 12m<sup>2</sup> without any sliding furniture (dining or office chairs) and the vinyl can be installed in one part/ sheet, then a loose-lay or fully bonded installation can be selected as desired.
- If a room or area is larger than 12m<sup>2</sup> or there is sliding furniture (dining or office chairs), or if the vinyl cannot be installed in one part/ sheet, then only a fully bonded installation is recommended.
- When cutting to size please consider the nature of the design and pattern and run the flooring cuts in the same direction using the arrows on the reverse as a guide. Do not reverse lay consecutive strips. See diagram above.

### Step by step fitting instructions, using adhesives

1. Place the sheets in position, cut the seams with the double-cut method and trim to size.
2. Fold back half of the sheet to reveal the sub-floor ready for the application of the adhesive. Prior to using the adhesive, read the suppliers instructions. Spread the right amount of adhesive, with a notched trowel equally over the sub-floor. After applying the adhesive and in accordance with the instructions, allow the adhesive to partially dry (open time) until it reaches initial bonding strength, before returning the floor covering into place.
3. Install the floor covering sheet avoiding bubbles, compressions or tensions. Check that the seam junctions are closed tightly together. Do not try to compress the seam this may cause curling. This curling is an indication that the sheets are not placed together correctly.
4. To remove any bubbles, rubbing from the inside out should even out the floor. Use a rolling motion to level out the adhesive; this should be done before the adhesive has fully dried.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 with the second half of the sheet.
6. Check all seam junctions and repeat the rolling motion as described above.

7. Welding the seam together is recommended.

## Welding

- Cold welding is the only option for ensuring closed and tight seams. Unnatural Flooring recommends cold welding tapes from Werner Müller Kaltschweißtechnik. Please read the manufacturer's instructions before applying.

## Following Installation

- Refrain from walking on the recently fitted area for 24 hours after installation and for heavy traffic areas, for 72 hours after installation, in order to allow the adhesive to stabilise at consistent temperatures between 18-27°C.
- Prevent the floor from coming in to contact with water for the first 72 hours after installation, or until such times as all seams are welded. Hereafter the adhesive is sufficiently resistant to water so that the bonding strength will not be affected.
- For cleaning and maintenance advice, please refer to the Cleaning and Care guide for Unnatural Wood flooring.

## Recommended Adhesives

Permanent	F44, F46, F48+, F49
Vertical	F49, F66
Heavy Duty / Wet Areas	F74, F84

F Ball and Co

[www.f-ball.co.uk](http://www.f-ball.co.uk)

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See F Ball recommended Adhesive Guide for full information under The Unnatural Flooring Co.