

tuscan

solid wood floors

**Installation Instructions**

**For**

**Tuscan Solid Wood Flooring**

# **Installation Instructions for your new Tuscan Solid Wood Floor**

The key to long term performance of any floor is the quality of the installation and the immediate and ongoing care and maintenance procedures used on the floor.

To help ensure correct installation, care and maintenance for this floor please ensure this guide is fully read and adhered to by your floor installer.

## **Section 1 – Preparation**

Important points for the correct installation of your Tuscan Solid Wood Floor

- Installer / owner responsibilities
- Pre installation procedures and job site inspection
- Storage and handling procedures
- Product acceptance checks
- Acclimatisation conformity process
- Tools needed for installation
- Sub floor requirements and types
- Important points owner / installer checklist.
- "Select a floor" table – to help choose the most appropriate sub floors and installation method

## **Section 2 – Installation process**

- General installation tips
- Installing the floor, steps 1 – 6
- Completing the job
- Tuscan accessories

## **Section 3 – Care and Maintenance**

- Maintenance immediately following installation
- Ongoing care and maintenance
- Important Do's and Dont's!

## **Section 4 – Warranty Information**

- Limited 10 year warranty
- What to do if you have any problems

## Section 1 - Preparation

For the following products:

**120mm – 180mm width boards.  
Secret nail down or full bond stick down  
installation methods only.**

**This solid wood flooring MUST NOT be installed in any way as a “floating” floor. It must be fixed to the sub floor by using the recommended Sika adhesive or secret nail fixings using an appropriate nailer.**

**Note: Any short length specification product, i.e 300 - 1200mm or 400 - 1200mm, must not be installed directly onto floor joists. Short length spec products must be installed onto a solid sub floor only. If in doubt as to the length specification of your product contact your flooring supplier to clarify the specification before the installation method is decided upon.**

### INSTALLER/OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Solid wood floors are a product of nature and therefore not perfect. Tuscan solid wood floors are manufactured in accordance with accepted industry standards, which permit grading deficiencies not to exceed 5%. These grading deficiencies may be of a manufacturing or natural type.

This product is **intended for use in residential property rooms only (excluding wet rooms, bathrooms, areas of high humidity, below ground basements and conservatories)**, and must be installed above wall DPC and ground level. The product is intended for residential use only and is not suitable for use in any type of commercial environment.

**It is the installers responsibility to carry out the final inspection of the floor to ensure the colour, grade, quality, manufacture and factory finish of the product is acceptable.**

**Additionally, the inspection of all flooring must be done before installation.** Carefully examine the flooring for colour, finish and quality before installing it. The installer must use reasonable selectivity and hold out or cut off pieces with deficiencies, whatever the cause. **If the product is deemed not acceptable for any reason, do not install it and contact your supplier immediately.**

Prior to installation of any hardwood flooring product, the installer must determine that the job site environment and the sub surfaces involved meet or exceed all applicable industry and British standards. Recommendations regarding the construction of the materials used as well as local codes must be followed. These instructions recommend that the construction and sub floor be suitably dry, stiff, of suitable load bearing strength and flat. The manufacturer and distributor (being IDS), declines any responsibility for job failure resulting from or associated with sub-surface, sub flooring or job-site environmental deficiencies or lack of or incorrect sub floor preparations.

The use of stain, filler or putty stick for touching up and minor gap filling during installation should be accepted as a normal finishing procedure with real wood floors. **A minimum 18mm expansion gap must be left around all perimeter edges of the flooring and any fixed objects within the floor area.**

When the flooring is ordered, 5% must be added to the actual square footage needed for cutting and grading allowance. Should any individual piece be doubtful as to grade, manufacture or factory finish, the installer should not use this piece. Use of appropriate products for correcting sub floor depressions or unevenness must be accepted as a normal industry practice.

## PRE-INSTALLATION PROCEDURES AND JOB SITE INSPECTION

The building should be closed in with all outside doors and windows in place. All concrete, masonry, framing members, drywall, paint and other "wet" work should be thoroughly dry. The wall coverings should be in place and the painting completed. Basements and crawl/void spaces must be appropriately dry and well ventilated. Exterior ground works should be complete with surface drainage offering a minimum drop of 75mm over 3.0 lin mt to direct the flow of water away from the structure. All gutters and downspouts should be in place.

Solid wood flooring must be installed on or above wall DPC and ground level. Do not install in bathrooms or any form of "wet" room, conservatory or high humidity environment room or below ground basements.

Crawl spaces / sub floor voids must be a minimum of 600 mm from the ground to the underside of joists.

**Install a bitumen building paper moisture barrier that complies with BS1521, when installing a solid wood floor over suspended wooden floors at ground floor level (or floor joists), prior to installation of the flooring.** This is to avoid the risk of moisture transfer or increased humidity affecting the sub floor or flooring from the air void beneath the floor. Ideally the joints of the barrier paper should be overlapped 150mm and taped. The void space should have perimeter venting equal to a minimum of 1.5% of the void space square of footage. These vents should be properly located to foster cross ventilation. Where necessary local regulations prevail. Also allow for conformity to part L of building regulations relating to the insulation of new and replacement floors.

The sub floor must be checked for moisture content using the appropriate testing method and moisture meter and the appropriate moisture levels must be achieved before installation of the flooring (see sub floor requirements paragraph ). **If any doubts exist in relation to the sub floor moisture levels and ongoing dryness of the sub floor then a suitable damp proof membrane should be installed prior to installing the flooring.** Permanent air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operational before installation.

Check for **central heating pipes** within the sub floor and insulate any that are likely to heat the underside of the installed flooring to avoid individual board movement when pipes get hot.

## STORAGE AND HANDLING PROCEDURES

The flooring should not be delivered until the building has been closed in with windows and doors in place and until sub floor bases, cement work, plastering and all other "wet" work is completed and dry. Solid wood flooring should be stored in the end use environment in which it is expected to perform and this should be an environmentally controlled room.

**Handle and unload with care as claims for damages can not be accepted unless the distributor is notified within 72 hours of delivery of the goods.**

Stack the packs in such a manner to provide at least a 100mm air space under the cartons. The packs should also be stacked on dry battens rather than directly onto the sub floor.

## PRODUCT CHECKING AND ACCLIMATISATION PROCESS

### **Flooring acceptance checks**

**Within 72 hours of receiving the product, it must be checked to ensure it is correct and as ordered.** Open one box fully and check to ensure it is the correct product, acceptable colour shade, and correct length specification. **If there are any product queries or concerns at this stage DO NOT open any further boxes and contact your supplier within the specified time period above.**

If you are satisfied that the product is correct and suitable for the intended end use environment then **remove the protective plastic wrapping only** from the boxes and open the edges and ends of the boxes to aid the acclimatisation of the product in situ.

## **Note: Very Important**

## ACCLIMATISATION CONFORMITY PROCESS

The flooring should be situated within the end use room / area it is to be installed in (subject to the room having normal atmospheric conditions i.e no "wet" trades in operation or drying substrates of any kind) and should have been unpacked correctly as per above details since receipt / delivery of the product.

Permanent air conditioning and heating systems should be in place and operational. The installation site should have a consistent room temperature of between 16 - 24 degrees celsius and a relative humidity environment of 35-55% R/H for 14 days prior, during and until occupied, to allow for proper acclimatisation.

If installing over a wooden sub floor **the moisture content of the sub floor must be checked prior to installation with an appropriate moisture meter and the moisture content of the wooden sub floor must not exceed 12% moisture content.** If it does then a further period of acclimatisation must take place until the sub floor moisture content has reduced to below this figure.

**The flooring itself must also be moisture content checked from a various selection of boxes and should have a moisture content reading of between 8 - 12%.** If this is not the case then a further period of acclimatisation must take place until an appropriate moisture content level has been achieved.

**The flooring and wooden sub floor are only suitably acclimatised when the moisture readings of both are within their own parameters stated above and when their moisture content levels are within 4% of each other.** If this is not the case then a further acclimatisation period is required and the same tests must be carried out after the extra time period to check that conformity of the levels has been achieved. **Only when this is the case should the flooring be installed.**

## RECOMMENDED TOOLS & PPE NEEDED FOR INSTALLATION

**Note:** It is extremely important to use the correct nail gun adapters as well as the correct length barbed cleat nails. Improper fasteners, machines and air pressure can cause severe damage to the floor. The manufacturer of Tuscan Solid Wood Floor is not responsible for damage caused by use of improper tools or misuse.

- Broom
- Drill with 1/16" drill bit
- Tape measure
- Hammer
- Earplugs and safety glasses
- Chalk line and chalk
- Recommended solid wood floor cleaner (see maintenance instruction sheet)
- Hand saw / power saw
- Nail set
- 50mm Barbed cleat nails (to suit manual / pneumatic nailer being used)
- Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both)
- Appropriate manual or pneumatic nailer
- Undercut or jamb saw
- Gloves, boots & any other appropriate safety wear.

**For stick down installation refer to the Sika recommended instructions and associated tools.**

### Guidelines for fastening machines

**Note:** Minor occasional noises in mechanically fastened floors are not abnormal due to the structural movement caused by changes in the environmental conditions. Following these instructions can minimise these factors but offer no guarantee that the floor will not create minor occasional noises.

General information for fastening machines:

**It is the installers responsibility to ensure an appropriate automatic nailer is used for installation.** Avoid striking the edge of factory-finished products with the fastener's mallet. Edge crushing can occur, causing unsightly cracks and splinters. Use a block to hammer against if necessary.

Faceplates should be covered with protective materials to prevent damage to the surface of the flooring. Any water damaged, swollen or delaminated sub flooring materials will not hold staples properly and must be repaired or replaced.

General information for **manual** fastening machines:

Improper adapter plate selection can cause severe edge damage. Ascertain that the proper adapter has been selected and properly installed for the thickness of the flooring being used.

General information for **pneumatic** fastening machines:

Improper pressure settings and failure to use proper adapters can cause severe damage to the flooring. The correct adapter and air pressure setting will properly set the fastener in the nail pocket. Low air pressures may fail to properly set the staple and damage adjoining boards. Air pressures set too high may cause damage to the tongue, preventing installation of adjoining boards and cause blisters on the face of the flooring. Make certain that the compressor has a regulator in-line with the air hose for proper adjustment. Set pressure at 70 PSI to begin with and adjust until proper staple setting occurs.

## SUB FLOOR REQUIREMENTS

### CLEAN

Scrape, hoovered or brushed clean, and smooth. Free of wax, paint, oil, sealers, surface coatings, old adhesives, curing agents and other debris.

Check any sub floor surface coating that cannot be removed for adhesive compatibility when installing the floor in a stick down manner. Consult the adhesive manufacturer for advice and recommendations before installing the flooring.

**Note: Unclean, weak or contaminated sub floor surfaces can result in adhesive bonding failure.**

### LEVEL/FLAT

Within +/- 3mm of 3 lin metres. Sand high areas or joints. Flatten low spots with layers of plywood for wooded sub floors and use the recommended Sika levelling compound for concrete sub floors.

**Note: Uneven sub floors can result in popping, squeaking, hollow spots and premature failure of the floor.**

**Note: Laminated resin/bitumen moisture barrier paper conforming to BS1521 acts as a moisture retarder and should be used when installing the flooring over an existing wooden suspended sub floor or when installing directly onto existing joists.** This will minimise the risk of movement in the floor caused by changes in sub floor void moisture thereby reducing the risk of cupping, gapping, warping and shrinkage. In addition, the use of these materials can give the floor a more solid feeling, reduce sound transfer, prevent noise caused by minor irregularities and debris, and make it easier to slide the wood together across the surface of the sub floor.

**Note: Failure to protect the floor from excess moisture from below can result in the floor cupping, expanding and bridging. Shrinking due to an excessively dry sub floor can result in gapping and splitting of the boards.**

**If in doubt as to the dryness or moisture content stability of the sub floor always install an appropriate precautionary damp proof membrane to eradicate the risk of moisture affecting the flooring.**

### STRUCTURALLY SOUND

Nail or screw any loose areas that squeak. Replace any water damaged, swollen or delaminated sub flooring or underlayments. Avoid or repair sub floors with excessive vertical movement prior to installing the flooring as deflection in the sub floor will cause deflection in the flooring itself which may lead to failure of the joints of the flooring.

**Note: Unsound sub floors could result in the flooring deflecting leading to squeaking, gapping and premature failure of the flooring.**

DRY

**Check the moisture content of the sub floor with the appropriate moisture meter** and carry out any remedial works to resolve damp or moisture issues before installation of the flooring. **If installing over a concrete sub floor then a specific equilibrium relative humidity test conforming to B.S 8201:2011** should be carried out on the concrete sub floor to ensure that the concrete is suitably dry throughout its thickness to ensure that the sub floor is suitable to lay wood flooring over and that no risk of moisture vapour release from within the sub floor is present.

**If for any reason the sub floor cannot be correctly checked for moisture suitability install an appropriate liquid DPM such as Sika MB Primer to eradicate any risk of sub floor moisture affecting the boards post installation.**

**Also check the concrete surface for strength and remove any fine particle laitance layer if it is present to ensure good compressive strength of the concrete surface.**

If any doubt exists with regard to the suitability of sub floor moisture content or strength suitability then an appropriate damp proof membrane should be installed over the sub floor before or a surface strength assessment should be conducted before installing the flooring. If in doubt have your sub floor checked by a professional prior to installation of your flooring.

**Note: Excessively moisture laden sub floors can result in the flooring cupping, expanding and bridging as wood is a naturally hygroscopic material that will always take in excess moisture available to it.**

## SUB FLOOR TYPES

### Wooden sub floors

Recommended wood sub floor types – for nail down installation

- 18mm CDX grade minimum plywood
- 18mm OSB PS2 rated underlayment
- Existing 18mm solid wood flooring that has been checked for stability, dryness and soundness.

**Note: Any short length specification product, i.e 300 - 1200mm or 400 - 1200mm, must not be installed directly onto floor joists. Short length spec products must be installed onto a solid sub floor only.**

**If in doubt as to the length specification of your product contact your flooring supplier to clarify the specification before the installation method is decided upon.**

Recommended wood sub floor types – for stick down installation

- Refer to the enclosed Sika information pages

**Note: Do not install solid wood plank or strip over radiant heat sub floors (underfloor heating systems) as excessive movement resulting in shrinkage, gapping and lifting may occur. Do not install using the nail down method over chipboard or fibreboard sub floors.**

Make sure the existing floor or sub floor is dry and well nailed or screwed down every 150mm along each joist to avoid squeaking or popping before the floor is installed. **The wood sub floor must not exceed 12% moisture content.** Measure the moisture content of both sub floor and wood flooring to determine the correct moisture content with a reliable wood moisture meter.



**The difference between the moisture content of the wood sub floor and the wood flooring at the point of installation must not exceed 4%.**

Optimum performance of solid wood flooring products occurs when there is little horizontal or vertical movement of the sub floor. **The MINIMUM sub floor recommendations described above are for 400mm maximum centred joists.**

Ensure individual boards are supported by a minimum of two joists and use any short boards for finishing and starting rows where possible.

When installing the product over existing floorboards lay the boards perpendicular to the existing floor boards to give the floor a more solid feel and avoid sun floor sagging. If laying the new floor in a perpendicular direction is not possible lay and mechanically fix plywood the existing sub floor before installing the boards.

If the sub floor has excessive vertical movement (deflection) before installation of the floor it is likely it will do so after installation of the floor is complete. Deflection may cause the floor to become loose creating a noisy floor, i.e creaking, popping or squeaking or cause premature finish wear. Do not install this product over sub floors that do not meet these minimum criteria.

**Other spacing and spans as well as their engineering methods are the responsibility of the builder, installer, engineer, architect or consumer who is better able to evaluate the expected result based on site related performance.**

**As flooring manufacturers / distributors we are unable to evaluate each sub floor system and therefore the responsibility for the appropriateness of the sub floor lies with the installer of the flooring.**

All underlayment panels should be spaced 4mm apart to insure adequate expansion space or have the space cut around the perimeter using a circular saw.

When installing over existing wood floors parallel with the flooring, it may be necessary to install an additional layer of plywood to stabilize the flooring or install the wood floor at right angles. Applicable standards and recommendations of the construction and materials industries must be met or exceeded ie BS 8201: 2011.

### **Concrete sub floors**

Solid flooring can be installed over concrete sub floors by using 2 methods:

- Nail down installation - once the appropriate nailing/sub floor surface has been installed (see "recommended wood sub floor types" – above).
- Stick down installation – using only the appropriate recommended SIKA ADHESIVES AS PER THE ENCLOSED SIKA INFORMATION PAGES.

**The concrete must be of high compressive strength.** Check the concrete surface for strength and remove any fine particle laitance layer if it is present to ensure good compressive strength of the concrete surface. If in doubt have your sub floor checked by a professional prior to installation of your flooring.

**All concrete or mineral based sub floors should be tested for moisture content with an appropriate moisture or relative humidity meter which measures the moisture content / humidity throughout the slab and not just the surface face of the mineral slab. Concrete and other mineral slabs can hold moisture within them well below the surface until thoroughly dry.**

**Furthermore all mineral based sub floors should have their relative humidity checked and recorded prior to installation by testing with an**

**appropriate mineral based humidity reader and humidity box and readings taken should conform to BS8201:2011 of below 65% relative humidity.**

**The testing procedure for full compliance with British Standard BS8201: 2011 can be found in BS5325: 2001 and BS8203: 2001.**

**Note: Visual checks are not reliable. Test several areas, especially near exterior walls and walls containing plumbing.**

A "dry" slab, as defined by these tests can be wet at other times of the year. These tests do not guarantee a dry slab will remain dry all of the time. If in doubt regarding the suitability of the concrete sub floor install an appropriate liquid DPM such as Sika MB Primer.

### **Installing a secondary plywood sub floor**

If installing a secondary plywood sub floor for nailing purposes over a concrete sub floor, install a suitable bitumen core moisture barrier paper or sheet / DPM, joints overlapped by 150mm, over the existing primary sub floor followed by **a plywood sub floor with a minimum thickness of 18mm.** Allow **a minimum 12mm perimeter expansion space for the plywood sub floor** itself around all vertical objects and 4mm expansion space between all sub floor panels. The panel must be properly attached to the primary sub floor using at least one mechanical fastener per 300mm<sup>2</sup>.

## Important points for correct installation of your Tuscan solid wood floor

### Owner / Installer Checklist



- Check the product carefully following delivery of the flooring. Open at least one box and check for conformity to your order for correct product, acceptable colour shades, acceptable sizes, length spec, etc.
- Read the instructions in full, particularly in relation to acclimatisation of the boards. Ensure the correct checks are made to determine if acclimatisation has been achieved prior to installation.
- **If you have any concerns at the receipt of goods stage contact your supplier of the goods and clarify any concerns before opening any further boxes and commencing installation of the boards.** Claims for the product being unacceptable in any way that is apparent before or during installation will not be accepted.
- Make sure the sub floor is checked for appropriate flatness, soundness, and moisture content using the correct moisture testing equipment. Where installing over a concrete or mineral based sub floor, moisture content compliance to current British Standard BS.8201:2011 should be ensured. Recommendations for wood based sub floors can be found within the fitting instructions supplied.
- Use the correct tools. Having the appropriate tools makes the job easier and results in a better finish!
- Make sure the correct expansion gap facility is built into the floor as per the recommendations made within the fitting instructions.
- Maintain the floor correctly! Correct post-installation and ongoing maintenance will greatly enhance the performance of your new floor. Leave the enclosed maintenance details with the owner of the floor.

**Note:** Claims for product failure will not be accepted if the cause of failure of the flooring relates to sub floor preparation, moisture or performance deficiencies, environmental moisture fluctuations, incorrect acclimatisation, installation or maintenance methods.

# tuscan

## How to select a floor

plank width	90mm		96mm		120mm		150mm		180mm	
	Rustic Oak		Bamboo Natural Bamboo Carbonised		Rustic Oak Golden Hand Distressed Oak Big Earth Hand Distressed Oak Black Walnut		Brushed & UV Oiled Oak Golden Hand Distressed Oak Big Earth Hand Distressed Oak		Brushed & UV Oiled natural Oak Brushed & UV Oiled Chocolate stained Oak.	
Specie	nail down	stick down	nail down	stick down	nail down	stick down	nail down	stick down	nail down	stick down
Floor joists (to BS8201)	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X
Existing wooden T&G floorboarding (securely fixed, dry & sound)	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X
Particle boards (chipboard floor fixed to joists)	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Concrete floor (moisture content less than 4%)	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Concrete floor (with 18mm plywood fixed to the surface)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Concrete floor (with 18 x 50mm battens fixed at 400mm centres)	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X

**NOTE!**  
It is the responsibility of the installer to correctly check the suitability of the sub floor in all respects - ie moisture content, soundness, flatness, etc.  
If any doubt exists regarding the suitable moisture content of the sub floor then an appropriate Damp Proof Membrane should be installed before installation of the flooring product.

## Section 2 - Installation

### General installation tips

**It is not recommended that this solid wood flooring be installed in any way as a “floating” floor it must be fixed to the sub floor by using the recommended Sika adhesive or secret nail fixings using an appropriate nailer.**

The floor should be installed from several cartons at the same time to ensure good colour and shade mixture. Be attentive to staggering the ends of boards at least 150mm in adjacent rows. This will help ensure a more favourable overall appearance of the floor. A minimum of an **18mm expansion gap around all perimeter edges of the flooring and fixed objects must be left during installation.** Further in floor field expansion should be installed where a continual run of flooring exceeds 8 linear meters in length or width.

**Note: Lack of adequate expansion may cause buckling and lifting of the flooring during normal seasonal movement of the product.**

Large spans (i.e 8 lin m+) or flooring laid in areas of high humidity, require the addition of internal or field expansion. This can be accomplished by **inserting a “T” expansion bar which allows for a minimum of 18mm expansion either side.** It is further recommended that an expansion “T” bar is installed between all doorways to allow for potential varying movement of the floors within separate adjoining rooms.

### STEP 1 - DOORWAY AND WALL PREPARATION

Undercut door casings / frames **allowing for the minimum 18mm expansion gap.** Remove any existing base or doorway thresholds. These items can be replaced after installation.

**Insert an expansion facility at all doorways by use of a complement “T” moulding strip.**

### STEP 2 - ESTABLISH A STARTING POINT. WALL TO WALL INSTALLATION.

Where possible, installation parallel to the longest wall is recommended for best visual effects. However the floor should be installed perpendicular to flooring joists, or perpendicular to existing wooden floorings unless the sub floor has been reinforced/ overlaid with plywood to reduce sub floor sagging. For random or alternate width products, use the widest plank for the first row. **An 18mm minimum expansion gap must be left at all walls and any fixed item within the floor area.** Using this 18mm measurement, in at least two places, measure out and snap a chalk line.

**Note: Always end glue only all boards that are 100mm or more in width with a PVA wood glue.** This is to minimise the risk of header joints gapping after installation during seasonal environmental changes.

### STEP 3 - INSTALLING FIRST ROWS. WALL TO WALL INSTALLATION.

#### **NAIL DOWN METHOD**

**(refer to enclosed Sika instructions for stick down method)**

Use the longest, straightest boards available for the first two rows. Align the groove of the first board against the chalk line. The groove should be facing the starting wall.

Pre-drill the nail holes 25mm from back (groove) edge, 25–50mm from each end, and at 150mm intervals at a 45 degree angle down through the nailing "pocket" on top of the tongue.

Face nail the groove side where pre-drilled using a minimum 38mm length nail for this initial fixing. When complete, manually nail at a 45 degree angle through the tongue of the first row using **50mm barbed cleat nails**.

Continue manually nailing using this method with the following rows until the nailer can be used. End joints of adjacent rows should be staggered to a minimum of 150mm to ensure a more favourable overall appearance.

#### **STEP 4 – DRY LAYING / RACKING THE FLOOR**

"Dry" lay (rack) the flooring to cover approximately two thirds of the room. This is to give a visual check of the flooring for suitability and to ensure correct header joint spacings are achieved and to avoid installing unacceptable or inappropriate boards. Begin dry laying (racking) the boards and visually inspect each board before locating it with the previous laid boards. Following location of the boards check for any unacceptable gapping or run out between boards and trim or remove objectionable boards before commencing fixing of them.

Avoid pulling boards too tightly together on the sides, as they must move freely when fastening begins.

**Visually inspect the flooring, setting aside boards that need to have natural character or manufacturing flaws cut out.**

Use these boards for starting and finishing rows after objectionable characteristics have been cut out / removed.

Mark the final board in each row and cut to suitable width and length **allowing for 18mm expansion gaps.**

#### **STEP 5 - INSTALLING THE FLOOR. NAIL DOWN METHOD. (refer to enclosed Sika instructions for stick down method)**

Fasten a sacrificial board to the floor. This is to check for surface damage, air pressure setting or manual hammer pressure, tongue damage etc. before proceeding. Make all adjustments and corrections before installation begins. Once proper adjustments have been made remove and destroy the board.

Begin installation of the dry racked rows, in the order that the boards were checked and dry laid, using the nailer with **minimum 50mm barbed cleat nails**, fastening each board with at least two nails, proportionally more depending of board length, spaced 200 – 250 mm apart and at least 38 mm from the ends (to avoid splitting).

End joints of adjacent rows should be staggered 150mm when possible to ensure a more favourable overall appearance and to ensure structural weakness or squeaking boards are avoided.

The last 1-2 rows will need to be face nailed where clearance does not permit blind nailing with the nailer. Pre drill and face nail on the tongue side following the nailing pattern used for the first row. Rip final row to fit and face nail. If the final row is

less than 25mm in width, it should first be glued to the previous **uninstalled** row and the two joined boards should be face nailed as one.

## **STEP 6 – COMPLETE THE JOB**

Remove all installation debris from the floor and brush off all dust etc.

Clean the floor with the recommended wood flooring cleaner.

Lacquered or U.V. Oiled floors – Clean the floor as necessary using **Bona Wood Floor Cleaner**.



Re-install / install any transition pieces that may be needed, such as reducer strips, T-mouldings, or thresholds. These products are available pre-finished to blend with your flooring.

## TUSCAN ACCESSORIES

### **Combistar 3 in 1 profile**

Colour blended 3 in 1 multi purpose profile that allows for expansion gaps and a smooth transition between different floor coverings within your home.

### **Veneer wrap scotia**

Conceals the expansion gap between the edge of the floor and the skirting board. Available in all Tuscan design finishes.

### **Sika adhesives**

T55 and T53 are European manufactured adhesives specifically designed for gluing down hardwood flooring.

# SIKA INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Key Benefits of Sika Wood Floor Bonding Systems

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**Reduction of construction period**  
**SikaBond®** elastic adhesive systems save time as they are all 1-component products and do not require any priming. They do not contain water so do not cause the wood to swell.
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**Lasting beauty of wood floor**  
**SikaBond®** elastic adhesive systems do not limit architects and house owners in their choice of different woods. **SikaBond®** bonds them all – as well as ceramic tiles, stone, metals etc. – to basically all different substrates.
- 

**Maximum walking comfort**  
**SikaBond®** elastic adhesive systems dampen every step and thus take care of your joints and musculature.
- 

**Sound radiation reduction (airborne)**  
Hard wood floor surfaces generate sound with every step. **SikaBond®** elastic adhesive systems reduce sound radiation and reflected airborne noise.
- 

**Sound radiation reduction (impact)**  
**SikaBond®** elastic adhesive systems reduce impact sound travelling to properties below by up to 25 decibels.

Sika Limited  
 Tel: 01 707 394444  
 email: technical@uk.sika.com  
 www.sika.co.uk



## A Guide to Fitting Solid Wood Floors using SikaBond® Adhesive Systems

### Installation of Solid Wood Floors using SikaBond® Elastic Adhesives

#### POINTS TO CONSIDER

Is your floor dry less than 2% water by weight

Does it need a damp-proof membrane?



**Sika® Primer MB** is a roller applied damp-proof membrane

#### POINTS TO CONSIDER

Is your floor level and flat (+/- 3mm over 3m straight edge)

Does it need levelling?



**Sika® Levelling Compound**

#### POINTS TO CONSIDER

Is your floor clean and free of surface contaminants such as floor polish paint etc.

Is it dusty?



For in depth installation instructions please consult the latest technical data sheet.

#### Bead Application Liquid Battens



##### Preparation

- 1 Vacuum substrate properly.
- 2 Pierce inner seal on cartridge.
- 3 Pre-cut nozzle as shown to give a V shaped profile approximately 10 mm high x 8 mm wide.

##### Gunning out

- 1 Holding nozzle at right angle to the substrate, extrude a triangular-shaped bead of adhesive approx. 10 mm high x 8 mm wide at 200 mm centres.

##### Placing Wood

- 1 Within ½ hour, place the wood into the **SikaBond®** adhesive
- 2 Firm to line and level using a mallet and block if required.

#### Full Surface Bonding Application



##### Preparation

- 1 Vacuum substrate properly.
- 2 Use sufficient **SikaBond®** adhesive ensuring that wood is placed before surface skin has formed (approx. 30 mins).

##### Trowelling out

- 1 Using a notched trowel spread the adhesive evenly at a minimum consumption of 0.7 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

##### Placing Wood

- 1 Place the wood without delay to required line and level, adjusting with a mallet and block if required.

#### Sika®AcouBond-System Application Silent Floor - SikaBond® T53 and Silent Layer Mat



##### Preparation

- 1 Vacuum substrate properly.
- 2 Pierce inner seal on cartridge.
- 3 Pre-cut nozzle as shown to give a V shaped profile approximately 10 mm high x 8 mm wide.

##### Laying Mat and Gunning out

- 1 Roll out **Sika® Layer** mat so slots are at right angles to the proposed direction of the wood.
- 2 Extrude triangular shaped beads of **SikaBond® T53** adhesive approx. 10 mm high x 8 mm wide into all of the cut-out slots.

##### Placing Wood

- 1 Place wood within ½ hour to required line and level, adjusting with a mallet and block if required. Ensure a gap of 12-15 mm is maintained around perimeter.



## Section 3 – Care and Maintenance

### Tuscan Solid Wood Flooring – care and maintenance instructions

***Please leave these instructions with the owner of the floor.***

Correct care and maintenance of you Tuscan solid wood floor will help ensure your floor always looks its best and will aid its long term reliability and performance.

For routine care and maintenance please follow these simple instructions:

#### **Initial Care immediately following installation**

##### Lacquered finish & UV Oiled finish flooring

Remove any installation debris and brush / dust the floor.

Clean the floor with **Bona Wood Floor Cleaner**



taking care to use the correct type of flat mop and to follow the instructions on the container. This cleaner is available through your supplier of Tuscan solid wood floor.

#### **Ongoing care and maintenance**

Vacuum or sweep the floor weekly, or more if needed. The vacuum head must be brush or soft felt. Do not use a vacuum that has beater bars or a hard metal head. A floor swivel head flat mop with replaceable cloth cover is highly recommended to eliminate finer particles of dirt and grit that may build up on the floor.

**DO NOT clean your flooring using any form of steam mop as heat and humidity can damage your floor and its lacquer or oil finish**

Spillages and tracked in dirt should be wiped off the floor immediately.

Periodically, or as is deemed necessary based on dirt build up etc thoroughly clean your floor by using the Bona Wood Floor cleaning product.

### **Things to “do” and be aware of:**

**Do** - Make use of door mats at all external entrances and over high traffic areas of the floor as this will significantly help to avoid dirt and grit being walked on to the floor.

**Do** – Use the stated Bona cleaning products as they are specifically designed to clean and maintain your wood floor. The use of other cleaning products cannot be confirmed as suitable for your Tuscan flooring product and therefore may invalidate your product warranty.

**Do** - Use furniture protection pads under all furniture legs and feet as this will avoid damage being caused by the movement of furniture across the floor. Use workstation mats at desks, under desk chairs and in front of any furniture where continual to a small specific point on the floor to avoid damage and excessive or premature wear from castors and continual footfall in these areas.

**Do** – Try to keep the relative humidity within the room between 35 – 55% as this will minimise the floor’s natural tendency to move during the seasons on the year. Small humidity meters can be purchased via many online companies and should be relatively inexpensive.

**Do** - Protect your floor from constant direct sunlight where possible as areas subjected to constant sunlight will age and discolour at an accelerated rate compared to shaded areas of the floor.

**Be aware** - If mats or rugs are laid on the floor occasionally reposition them to avoid discolouration forming beneath them and at their edges as the flooring ages.

**Be aware** – That your floor is a natural product and as such will show signs of movement i.e minor gapping, occasional creaking etc, during the various seasons of the year as it reacts normally to its environmental conditions.

**Be aware** – That shade and colour variance is also a normal feature of wooden flooring and that “blending” of the boards is a normal part of the wood floor installation process to ensure an overall blended acceptable appearance is achieved when fitted.

### **Very Important “don’ts” and things to avoid:**

**Don’t** - “Wet mop” the flooring as this will cause excessive expansion of the floor and possible damage to the lacquered and or oiled surface finishes.

**Don’t** – Use any form of steam mop or steam cleaning product on your Tuscan flooring as heat and humidity can affect a natural wood product and its surface finish.

**Don’t** - Walk on the floor in narrow hard, or stiletto type, heels as this may damage the surface of the flooring.

**Don’t** – Slide heavy furniture or objects across the floor as this may also damage the surface.

**Don’t** – Use ammonia based cleaners, acrylic finishes, wax based products, detergents, bleaches, polishes, abrasive soaps or cleaners, or any acidic based cleaners. These types of cleaners can etch or pit the surface of your flooring.

**Avoid** - Letting pets with claws run across the flooring and always keep pets claws trimmed as animal claws may scratch the surface of the floor.

**Avoid** – Letting sunlight shine on the floor for long periods of time as this will accelerate ageing of the floor particularly if your room has large windows or patio doors. The use of curtains & blinds is recommended to reduce the effect of U.V. light ageing the floor.

## **Section 4 – Warranty Information**

This Tuscan product comes with a limited 10 year residential warranty against manufacturing defect.

To maintain the validity of your Tuscan warranty your Tuscan Solid Wood floor must be installed, cleaned and maintained in accordance with the published installation, care and maintenance details.

Please note that any longer term renovation of your floor involving sanding and sealing will render the original warranty invalid.

### **What to do if you have any problems.**

Should any problems be apparent with your Tuscan Solid Wood floor upon checking the floor prior to installation, you should immediately contact your supplier and advise them of the problem. If you have concerns of any kind do not start installation of the floor until your concerns have been clarified satisfactorily.

If any problems with your floor arise after installation then firstly contact your installer to discuss. Your installer should be able to remedy the problem if it is installation related, or alternatively report the matter to his / your supplier of the flooring for further assistance.

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