



Balmain Oak – Wood Flooring installation Instructions.

Please read these instructions carefully prior to installation.

PLEASE READ BEFORE INSTALLING!

COLOR VARIATION

This flooring is a natural product and colour variations are to be expected. For best visual effect, shuffle planks from several cartons and do not install boards varying greatly in colour next to one another.

ACCLIMATISATION

As relative humidity varies in different parts of the country, acclimatisation of the flooring prior to installation is the most important precaution to take in order to insure a successful installation. Proper acclimatisation is necessary to adapt the moisture content of the flooring to the conditions of your environment.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Subfloor must be level, dry and free of imperfections. An uneven subfloor will make the floor feel unstable and cause premature damage or a crackling noise between flooring panels, **do not install if subfloor does not meet flatness, 2 mm over 1m radius.**

General:

It is essential that safe work practices are employed when preparing or installing floor coverings. Protective eyewear and safe footwear should be worn throughout the installation. Dust extraction and respiratory protection should be used when cutting flooring or trims.

Flooring should be one of the last items installed in any new construction or remodel project. All work involving water or moisture should be completed before flooring installation. Installation of flooring over a wet subfloor will cause cupping, lipping of end joins and telegraphing. Subfloors must remain dry all year round, it is a requirement that the subfloor is tested for moisture before installation of Balmain Oak flooring. Floor Distributors is not responsible for failures related to site related moisture issues.

Balmain Oak flooring must be acclimatised onsite and in its original packaging for at least 2 days prior to installation. In winter this should be extended by a further 2 days prior to installation. Flooring should be installed when conditions are between 15 – 22°C with a relative humidity of 45 – 65%. Installation in environments below 30% Relative Humidity will likely cause gapping, cupping and checking of flooring material.

It is the homeowner responsibility to provide a moderate indoor environment for your flooring to prevent cracking and distortion of the flooring, even when unoccupied.

The two most common causes of failure are uneven subfloors, and inadequate expansion to the perimeter of the floor.

If you intend to install this flooring over underfloor heating or cooling, please contact your retailer for more specific information.

Tools Needed:

To install Balmain Oak in Uniclic you will need the following accessories. Pulling Iron, Spacers, Tapping Block, Underlay, Saw, Water Proof Tape, Pencil, Safety Goggles and Gloves.

Along with these tools you will also need a quality inderlay (with adequate moisture protection) as well as profiles to complete the installation.

Preparation:

Firstly, you need to ensure that the subfloor or surface you are installing your Balmain Oak flooring over is level. Using a 1 metre straight edge, the subfloor level should not exceed +/- 2mm over 1 lineal metre in any direction. Remember, uneven floors may lead to movement and noise, so it is necessary to assess the levelness and get it right. Timber floors can be sanded level and concrete floors, or existing floor coverings can usually be levelled using a self-levelling compound. Balmain Oak Flooring cannot be installed over carpet or carpet underlay, but can be installed over well bonded vinyl, cork, ceramic tiles if sufficiently level.

Balmain Oak Flooring must always be installed over a dry subfloor. Check the moisture content of the concrete subfloor to ensure the moisture content is below 75% R/H, as per AS1884. Timber subfloors must be well ventilated and dry, as a guide the timber subfloor should be below 12% moisture content when tested with an electrical resistance moisture meter.

Always use continuous damp proof membrane under your Balmain Oak Timber Flooring. This continuous damp proof membrane can be provided by 200uM builders plastic, overlapped 300mm at the joins and taped with a vapour tight tape or Performance Plus Underlay. Performance Plus underlays are manufactured with a plastic damp proof membrane on one side and are conveniently fitted with a 100mm overlap with a peel and stick tape. Performance Plus Underlay is rolled out along the starting wall with the plastic down, peel & stick side to the wall. Additional rows are rolled out with tape down over the extended clear overlap. The wax tape can then be peeled away forming the continuous damp proof. Cut ends must be taped with a waterproof tape.

In the instance of knowingly or logically wet subfloor, or heated subfloor, always use 200uM builders plastic sheeting, overlapping joins by 300mm, taping joins with waterproof tape and turning up at walls or vertical fixtures.

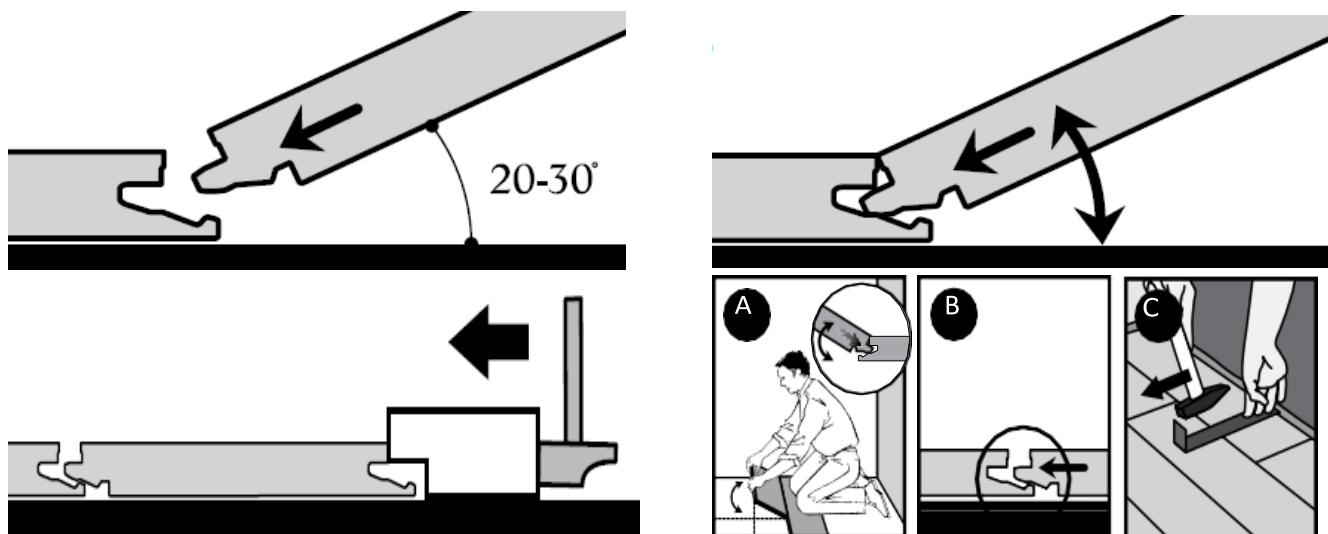
In the case of gluing Balmain Oak Flooring directly to your existing subfloor, a suitable parquet adhesive must be used. Direct gluing of your Balmain Oak Flooring is a complicated process. Please contact your retailer for more information before carrying out this procedure.

Please check floor panels prior to installation, panels with faults or defects should never be installed.

Make sure you mix floor panels prior to installation; this will help insure a random variation of colour and woodgrain throughout your Federation Plank installation.

Balmain Oak is not suitable for known wet areas, this includes installations in bathrooms.

Installation:



Installing the first 3 rows:

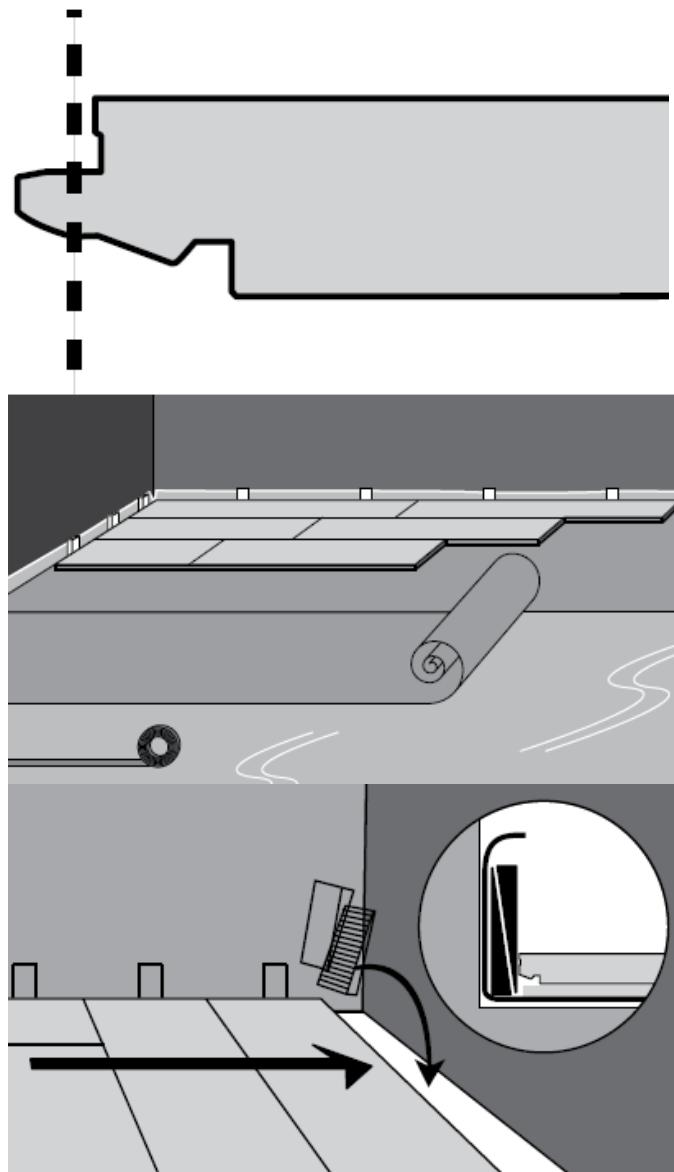
Select a wall that is long and visible, install the first 3 rows parallel to this row. Roll out the first row of plastic and/or underlay, then install the first row with the tongue facing the wall. If the starting wall is uneven, scribe the boards on the first row to cater for the undulations, while ensuring a full **12-15mm** expansion gap is maintained. If scribing is not required, remove the tongue along the starting row. This will help in maintaining the necessary expansion gap.

N.B. A minimum of **12mm** gap is required in lower relative humidity environments like Melbourne or Hobart. A minimum of **15mm gap** is required in areas of higher relative humidity like Queensland or Darwin.

Balmain Oak may expand up to 4mm per LM in the width, so the wider the floor and the higher the humidity, the larger the perimeter gap should be. In rooms where the flooring is longer than 12m, and where widths exceed 8m, the use of an expansion joint is required.

Always remember to use expansion joints (e.g. at doorways) throughout the flooring installation, particularly between rooms. Never affix fixtures (e.g. built in wardrobes or kitchens) directly onto the flooring, as this will negate the floorings ability to freely expand/contract during seasonal changes.

If the client objects to the recommended use of expansion trims at time of installation, we recommend the installer keeps on record that the client did not wish to use such trims.

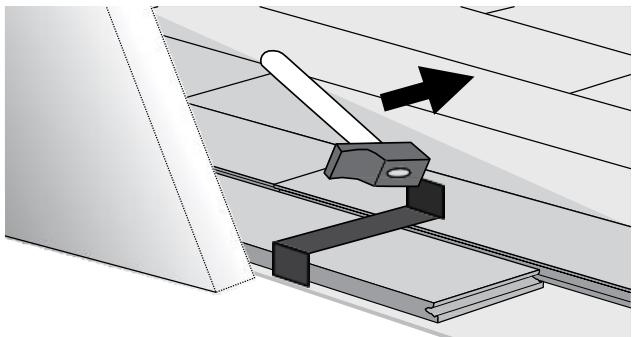


Now we will assemble the first 3 rows in staggered formation. This will help provide a foundation for additional rows. Always ensure spacers are used along all walls to ensure a free gap is maintained.

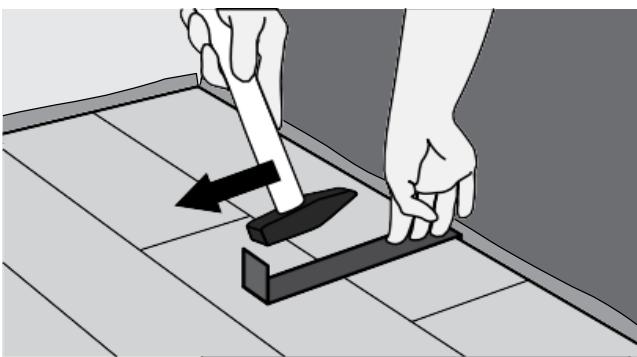
The offcut from the first row, can be used as the to start the following row. This can be continued throughout the installation so long as the starting piece for the next row, as well as the joint stagger between rows are a minimum of 30cm.

If the new board is less than 30cm, or the stagger is less than 30cm, a new board will need to be used to maintain an adequate stagger.

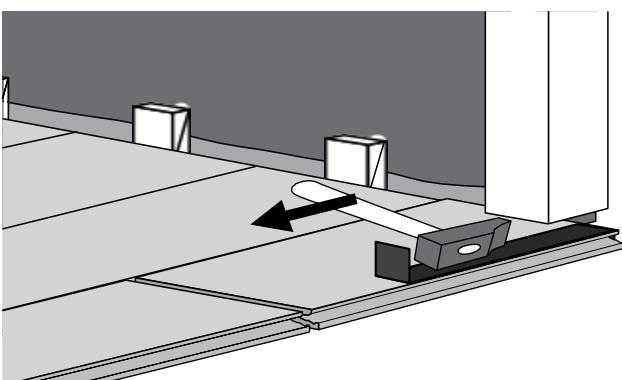
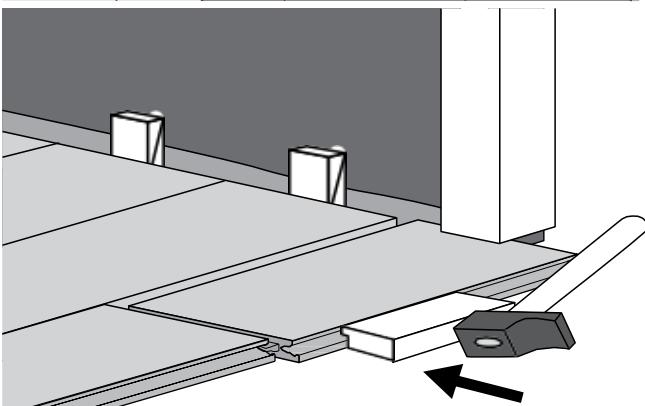
The body and the final row:



Continue installing the floor left to right. The final row will need to be trimmed to fit using a jigsaw and brought into place using the pulling iron. Remember to allow **12-15mm** for your expansion gap at all walls and vertical surfaces. This gap will be covered last of all.



Door frames and architraves should be undercut prior to commencing installation using a scrap of flooring and a long, flexible hand saw.



Finishing off:

Where skirting boards have been left in place, you can now fit scotia moulding to the perimeter of the flooring. If skirting board were removed prior to installation, they can now be reinstalled. Install in other profiles that have not already been installed during installation. Trims must hold the flooring in place, while allowing full and free expansion of the flooring.

Finally, any visible gaps between boards or at the flooring perimeter can now be filled with a suitable caulking compound.

General maintenance:

It is important that the floors room temperature and humidity levels are kept stable throughout its life in your house. The ideal temperature for a timber floor is between 18-20°C, with a relative humidity of 45– 60%. Maintaining a well-ventilated environment, are key in maintaining your Balmain Oak Flooring.

In Winter months for example if the humidity (RH) in a heated room goes below the specified 45% this may result in plank changes. As such, you should install an Air Humidifier to prevent damage to your floor, also maintaining that the surface temperature remains between 18-20°C, but never exceeding 27°C.

Balmain Oak is not designed to be exposed to extremes of humidity or temperature. It is important to note that floors exposed to such conditions may fail. Sensible protection of the flooring from such extremes, particularly in unoccupied homes, must be afforded. Measures can include curtains, awning, blinds, window tinting, and early commissioning and/or regular use of air conditioning or humidity control devices. Protection of the flooring from any radiant heat source should also be provided, e.g. around combustion heaters and other heaters, as these generate extreme low humidity. Balmain Oak should not be installed until these measures are in place, and should not be installed more than 2 weeks prior to occupation of the home. It is important to understand that any warranty, expressed or implied, may be voided if the floor is exposed to extreme conditions.

The same may also apply to Air-conditioned rooms.

A dry maintenance regime is generally recommended for your Balmain Oak Flooring. This includes the use of vacuum cleaners and regular sweeping. Use of dirt trapping mats at doorways are also recommended in reducing any abrasive wear, associated with foot traffic.

We never recommend the use of steam cleaners on Balmain Oak Plank Flooring.

Wet maintenance is not acceptable on Balmain Oak flooring. When cleaning your floor always ensure that moisture is removed immediately by using a dry cloth.

Always protect your floor by use of floor protectors under tables and chairs.

Wood flooring is affected by natural and artificial U.V. light. This will cause colour change in wood flooring.

TIMBER IS A NATURAL PRODUCT, AS SUCH VARIATIONS IN COLOUR AND GRAIN ARE TO BE ACCEPTED. PLEASE NOTE THAT SUNLIGHT WILL ALSO INFLUENCE COLOUR VARIATION IN WOOD FLOORING.

Disclaimer: Floor Distributors has used its reasonable endeavours to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained herein and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be liable for any inaccuracies, omissions or errors in this information nor for any actions taken in reliance on this information. Products must be installed in accordance with relevant installation recommendations and industry best practices.