

# INSTALLATION GUIDE

## ENGINEERED WOOD TONGUE AND GROOVE (CANADIAN) NAILED OR GLUED

It is important to read all instructions before installing. An installation that does not comply with instructions could void your warranty. It is recommended that your floor is installed by a certified professional installer.

### PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Parquets Alexandra engineered wood floors can be installed in the basement, the ground floor and the first floor. Because of their assembly, it is possible to glue the engineered wood floors on a concrete and wood under-floor, or to nail it on plywood.

### RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTIES OF THE INSTALLER AND OWNER

Prior to installation, the installer and the owner must ensure that the work environment and subfloor meet the conditions and recommendations mentioned in this installation guide. Parquets Alexandra guarantees the hardwood floor under normal environmental conditions, which means that the temperature of the place is maintained for 7 days at about 22°C and the relative humidity is between 40% (minimum) and 50% (maximum) to obtain a maximum yield of the dimensional stability of the boards.

Parquets Alexandra floors meet strict quality standards and comply with the standards of the wood flooring industry. A margin of 5% for natural imperfections, manufacturing defects and grade selection is allowed.

If the installer has a doubt about the grade, manufacturing quality or finish and cannot place the boards in a less visible location, you should not install it. Once the board is installed, it is considered accepted by the installer and the owner.

When ordering your floor, a loss of 3% to 5% (depending on the location and type of installation) must be provided following the loss caused by the cuts.

\* installation in angle will cause loss of about 7% to 9%.

### WARRANTY ENGINEERING FLOOR

Parquets Alexandra warrants to the original purchaser that the prefinished and prefinished engineered floors meet quality standards of Parquets Alexandra and the industry. This warranty applies only if the floor is installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and only applies to residential and commercial installations, except for heavy commercial use. This warranty applies to the original purchaser and a proof of purchase must be provided for the application of the guarantee. This warranty is not transferable.

### Structural warranty

Parquets Alexandra engineered wood floors are manufactured according to the most severe quality standards and are inspected rigorously in all the stages of their production. Parquets Alexandra protects the original purchaser of the engineered floor and guarantees their engineered floor against delaminating, warping, torsion, bending and the formwork. (When used under normal conditions, according to the maintenance and installation recommendations and of the installation guide and maintenance.)

### Warranty against finish wear- Signé Alexandra and Expression (Prefinished)

No warranty applies to the oil finish because the oil becomes part of the wood. It is therefore normal that the wear of wood also causes wear in oil. This applies to both residential and commercial use.

- 35 years from the date of purchase for residential level and under normal conditions of use.
- 3 years from the date of purchase for commercial level, for projects with low traffic such as: office, store, clinic. Therefore, the project must be registered with the manufacturer who will authorize the installation.

### Warranty against finish wear- Intemporel (Preoiled)

No warranty applies to the oil finish because the oil becomes part of the wood. It is therefore normal that the wear of wood also causes wear in oil. This applies to both residential and commercial use.

### Warranty Exclusions

Parquets Alexandra assumes no responsibility and shall not pay any compensation for the following points but are not limited to these:

- Installation not in accordance with the recommendations of the Installation Guide.
- An improper storage or transportation.
- Different environmental conditions to those required.
- Excessive exposure to sunlight.
- Deformation caused during installation by tools.
- Damage caused by misuse, falling or friction of object, abrasive (salt, sand and other), high heels or spike, domestic animals claws or other scratches.
- Inadequate protection under chair legs, tables or other furniture.
- When the floor is installed in the basement, with the exception of engineered wood and solid hardwood 3/4" in the intemporel collection (Except maple not guarantee).
- Maintenance does not comply with maintenance recommendations from our maintenance flyer. Parquets Alexandra has developed a range of specific products for maintenance and repair of our oiled floors and is not liable for the use of products other than those distributed under the brand INTEMPOREL. Maintenance procedure will begin 21 days after the date of production of the wood.
- Use of a different mop than sponge mop or string mop.
- Use of a mop that has been contaminated with other soap than Parquets Alexandra's one.
- Mop washed with another product than water.
- Non-pressed mop.

### Exclusion of warranty due to natural physical properties of wood

- The following natural phenomena are excluded from the warranty:
  - Depending of humidity variations the wood expands or contracts and can create thin gaps between the boards.
  - Exposure to light and to air alters the color of all wood species.

### Parquets Alexandra's obligations

Responsibility of Parquets Alexandra is limited to repair or replacement of the equipment up to the total purchase price of the floor (excluding installation). Parquets Alexandra does not cover any costs of labor or otherwise disadvantage connected to the replacement of the floor. The warranty applies only to the original purchaser and is not transferable. The guarantee will cover only products bought from an authorized retailer of Parquets Alexandra.

### Claims Process

For filing a claim, you need first to contact your authorized Parquets Alexandra retailer. The written complaint must reach Parquets Alexandra within six months after the problem occurred. In the absence of an agreement with your retailer send all documents submitted to your retailer by mail to:

Parquets Alexandra  
945 rue Jean Marchand, Lévis, QC  
G6Y 9G5

Or by email at:  
info@parquetalexandra.com

### Warranty Registration

The registration form of the guarantee is on our website at [www.parquetalexandra.com](http://www.parquetalexandra.com).

### RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES

1. Vacuum or sweep
2. Level
3. Wood Moisture Tester [and concrete if necessary]
4. Acoustic Membrane
5. Measuring tape
6. Wood glue (for glue down installation)
7. Pneumatic nailer (for nailed installation)
8. Finish nails – approximately 1-1/2" (for nailed installation)
9. Chalk line
10. Mitre saw
11. Tapping block
12. Track lifter
13. Putty knife 4" or 5"
14. Hand saw
15. Hammer
16. Parquets Alexandra repair kit
17. Parquets Alexandra maintenance kit

### For glue down installation, here are the recommended adhesives

- Finitec (888) 838-4449 [www.finitec-inc.com](http://www.finitec-inc.com)
- AD-316

Check with the manufacturer of the adhesive if it is suitable for radiant heating systems.

### Recommended nail guns and staplers

- Primatex (800) 363-1962 [www.primatex.ca](http://www.primatex.ca)
- P250 – Pneumatic nailers and nails of 2"
- P240 – Pneumatic nailers with Trackedge and nails of 2"
- Bostitch (800) 556-6696 [www.bostitch.com](http://www.bostitch.com)
- MILIFN – Pneumatic nailers with nails 1-1/2"
- MILIFS – Pneumatic stapler with staples of 1-1/2" to 2"

### Note: Parquets Alexandra is not responsible for damage caused by the use of inadequate tools Tongue & Groove engineered

### Recommended used for Engineered tongue & groove prefinished and preoiled floor

### PREPARATION OF PLACES

The installation of a wood floor should be the last stage of your project. Here are points to validate before proceeding to the delivery and to the installation of your wood:

- The heating system must be functional and the temperature of the room must have been maintained at 22°C for a whole week.
- The relative humidity has to be situated between 40% and 50% otherwise delay the installation and the delivery of your wood (never store wooden boxes in an inadequate place such as a shed, a not warmed garage or a basement).
- The plywood humidity must not exceed 11% and the gap between the subfloor and the wood boards must not be over 4%. If the humidity level is too high, warm, ventilate and dehumidify more. The gap between the interens boards humidity of 4" wide and more, and the plywood must not be up to 2%.
- The subfloor must be dry and the basement well aerated to avoid the damage caused by a source of humidity.

### Acclimatization

Store boxes in the room where the floor will be installed at least 48 hours before the installation by respecting the standards of humidity above mentioned. It will allow the wood to take the same environmental conditions as the room.

### SUBFLOOR STRUCTURE

To assure an excellent stability to our products of hardwood recovery, it is very important that our products are installed on plywood substrate and that the nailing or stapling is made following the N.W.F.A. norm which applies to each width of boards. A flooring product of 3/4" (12mm) in thickness, from our society, installed on a <<OSB>> substrate type which was not glued in addition of being nailed or stapled, automatically lose any form of guarantee. Before proceeding to the installation of any type of flooring, the installer must imperatively be assured that the substrate humidity is not over the percentage pre determined by Parquets Alexandra Inc.

**PLYWOOD:** The humidity rate of the plywood must not exceed 11%. The use of the plywood CDX (outside rank) with tongue and groove of a minimum of 5/8" is now allowed. You have to make sure that the floor will be fixed with the suitable ties. The use of drywall screw is not acceptable. Plywood must be nailed or screwed at all 4" to 6" inside it and at all 2" to 4" around. Fix plywood directly to joists.

**CONCRETE:** Always verify, with a moisture tester for concrete, that the humidity rate does not exceed 4%. If the humidity is higher, a calcium chloride test must be made. The result of this test must not exceed 3lb/1000 sq.ft. by 24 hours. If the humidity exceeds this last measure but is lower than 7lb/1000 sq.ft. per hour, it will be possible to use an approved waterproof membrane to cover the concrete. You should in no case install your floor if the concrete humidity rate exceeds 7lb/1000 sq.ft. You can also proceed by sticking plastic sheeting over the concrete during 48 hours to be able to verify if the concrete will change color or if condensation will appear.

Any trace of concrete sealant must be removed with a sander. To verify if the concrete is covered with a sealant, drop a drop of water above; if the drop is absorbed by the concrete, it is because there is no sealant. A minimal drying period of 60 days must be planned for any new concrete surface.

**ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB):** Panels must be installed with 90° compared with joists. With a moisture tester, assure that the humidity rate of the plywood does not exceed 11% and the gap between the subfloor and the wood slats must not exceed 2%. The outside rank of 3/7" or of 23/32" is also accepted.

**RESILIENT FLOORING:** You should not remove the tiles, because it could create an uneven floor.

**RADIANT HEATING SYSTEM:** Make sure that a heating and leakage test was made and the system was turned on and off repeatedly for a few weeks before the installation of your hardwood floor. Before installing, you must ensure that the heating system is switched off and it has reached room temperature. Pay attention to your system ducts; if they are exposed, they must be covered with plywood of 3/8" to allow the heat to spread more evenly. Once installation is complete, you can gradually increase the temperature of the heating system of 3°C (5.4°F) per day. The temperature of your heating system should never exceed 30°C (86°F).

### Preparation and correction of the sub-floor

#### Structural state:

The subfloor must be solidly fixed to joists with screws to prevent the movement of the plywood panels which could lead to cracks. Replace the subfloor which would have been able to be damaged by the water.

#### Leveling:

The surface should be level; it should not have a drop of more than 3/16" on a distance of 6" or 1/4" over a distance of 10'. In the case of the installation over concrete, you must correct the irregularities of the surface with a sander or with a floor leveler. With a floor leveler, it is necessary to allow it to dry completely before installing the floor. For the installation of the plywood, you must correct the irregularities of the surface with a sand paper grit 20.

#### Humidity and cleanliness:

The humidity rate has to be situated in the recommended limits higher. The surface must be clean, it must be cleared of debris, staples, adhesives and exposed nails.

We recommend you to install a membrane of a maximum thickness of 3/8" (3 mm) and of a maximal compression of 20%. You also have to install a film adom vapor of a thickness minimum of 0.6mm and be astride the rows of 20cm (8") before applying a superior-quality adhesive tape. Raise the moisture barrier along walls, under the ornamental moldings. The membrane and moisture barrier must be installed on the complete surface of the substratum to avoid any deformation of the floor which can be caused by the excessive humidity of the subfloor.

### SUGGESTED TIPS AND WORKING METHOD

#### Advices on the use of the pneumatic nail gun

- Clean and inspect several times the tray under the nail gun to avoid boards damages.
  - With the nail gun, you have to make sure that it is good press on the highly-rated and on the top of the wood blade before nailing it.
  - Assure that the pressure of air is adjusted well according to the hardness of the wood specie or the type of subfloor (maximum 90 Lbs)
- Suggested working method**
- Boards must be installed in the opposite direction (perpendicularly (90°)) or in an angle of 45° with regard joists.
  - The vacuum cleaner must be passed regularly during the installation to eliminate the sawdust.
  - Always use a block to strike, never use a hammer or a mass directly on floor boards.
  - Never put down your working tools directly on the wood floor: it could damage wood boards.
  - To assure the uniformity of your floor, make a selection of boards from at least 3 boxes at the same time.
  - In any case shall there be any adhesive in the grooves of the boards this would prevent the interlocking with the next row.
  - To avoid movement of boards, which would cause gaps between them during installation, use blue tape "3M" to keep the strips in place.
  - Always use a metal trowel because the teeth of the plastic trowel wear out and will have a repercussion on the rate of application of the adhesive.

### EXPANSION JOINTS

The expansion joint allows the wood to be responsive to changes in humidity. These joints will be hidden by the baseboards and quarter-round that will be fixed to the walls at the end of the installation. It will be very important not to fix the baseboards or moldings to the slides but the walls. If your baseboards do not have the exact size to cover the expansion joint, it will then be possible to remove a strip of drywall thickness of your slices in the bottom of the wall in order to allow the floor to take his expansion under the wall.

Space required expansion	Maximum width of the room	Maximum length of the room
3/4 inch (13 mm)	Up to 26 feet (8 meters)	Up to 52 feet (16 meters)
1 inch (19 mm)	From 26 to 40 feet (7 to 12 meters)	From 52 to 80 feet (14 to 24 meters)

### FLOATING INSTALLATION

To facilitate the installation, always unroll the membrane in the same direction as the engineered floor. Join the extremities of the membrane with a ribbon. A membrane of a thickness of 1/8" (3 mm) and of a maximal compression of 20% is recommended.

#### Step 1 - CHARTING THE STARTING LINE

Parallel to the wall and to a distance of the wall, which is established by adding the width of chosen boards to your expansion joint; draw a guide line with your chalk line. To create the expansion joint, use spacing blocks or holds between your floor boards and the wall.

#### Step 2 - INSTALLING THE BOARDS

Apply a line of glue inside the groove (female side) over the entire length of the groove as well as in the extremity. (female side) Nail slats guides along the starting line drawn earlier. Assure that they are of the same width as your floor. These slats will serve you as supports for the installation of the first boards. Make the installation of the first board against the slat, the highly-rated of the tongue (male) towards this one. Install the following planks by managing you towards the right until you arrived at the end of the row.

There should be a joint of expansion of 3/4" in each row extremities. The last board of a row must be cut. The remaining piece will be used to begin the following row to minimize the losses. Plan that the remaining end is 6" longer or shorter than the board used in the first

row. The gap of the transverse joints from a row to the other one has to be at least 6". Make sure not to leave adhesive on planks, it could wipe them in. In case there would be some adhesive on board, wipe it simply with a linen moistened by water.

**Watch out! In the case of the floating installation, the floor must not be fixed to any surface.**

### GLUED DOWN INSTALLATION

It is recommended to install an acoustic membrane between the floor and subfloor. This type of installation is called "double-glued" whereas when boards are directly glued on the subfloor we call it "single-glued".

#### Step 1 - CHARTING THE STARTING LINE

Parallel to the wall and to a distance of the wall, which is established by adding the width of chosen boards to your expansion joint; draw a guide line with your chalk line. To create the expansion joint, use spacing blocks or holds between your floor boards and the wall. Nail guides planks along the starting line drawn earlier. Make sure they are the same width as your floor. These strips will serve as your reference points for the installation of the first row.

#### Step 2 - APPLY THE ADHESIVE

Begin applying adhesive sliding the trowel at an angle of 45°. The adhesive that will remain between the teeth of the trowel will equal the amount needed to apply. Pay particular attention to the area you cover with the adhesive because if you work on an area that requires more than 2 hours to cover, the adhesive may dry out, it will result in poor adhesion. The reaction time may depend on whether the adhesive manufacturer, the temperature or the relative humidity in the room.

#### Step 3 - INSTALLING THE BOARDS

Important note: Be sure to start straight and square. Make the selection of your boards, those who have imperfections will have to be cut while those who have colors variation too obvious can be relocated.

Make the installation of the first board against the guide (female), the side of the tongue (male) in front of you and the groove (female) in front of the strip and press the board into the adhesive. Place the following blades as you move to the right until you reach the end of the row.

There should be an expansion joint of 3/4" at each end of the rows. The last board of a row must be cut. The remaining piece will be used to begin the following row to minimize the losses. Plan that the remaining end is 6" longer or shorter than the board used in the previous row. The gap of the transverse joints from a row to the other one has to be at least 6".



Begin the installation of the blade of the second row with the remaining piece of the previous row. Insert the tip of the groove in the tongue of the board and lower there as close as possible to the next slide. Slide the tongue into the groove and press on the board. For the installation of subsequent rows, follow the same steps performed before.

When you have finished the installation of your floor, remove slats guides and install the last row of boards. To fit the last row of blades, you will need the lever bar. Make sure you meet the minimum requirements for your expansion joint.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Wait 24 hours before replacing furniture and authorizing a dense circulation.

### INSTALLATION BY NAILING

#### Step 1 - CHARTING THE STARTING LINE

Parallel to the wall and to a distance of the wall, which is established by adding the width of chosen boards to your expansion joint; draw a guide line with your chalk line. To create the expansion joint, use spacing blocks or holds between your floor boards and the wall.

#### Step 2 - INSTALLING THE BOARDS

Important note: Be sure to start straight and square. Make the selection of your boards, those who have imperfections will have to be cut while those who have colors variation too obvious can be relocated.

Make the installation of the first board along the starting line, the side of the tongue (male) in front of you and the groove (female) in front of wall preparation. Nail the board on the most ready possible top of the wall (the molding will hide nails). The first rows will also have to be stuck by removing the sub layer of paper felt in these places. Pay attention not to leave any glue on boards, otherwise use some mineral oil and rub with a cloth. Take note that the glue PL must not be used.

There should be an expansion joint of 3/4" in each row's extremities. The first rows must be nailed by hand owed to the insufficient space to use the nailed gun. Boards must be nailed at all 8" to 10". Every board must be fixed with a minimum of 2 nails. Make sure not to nail closer than 2" from both extremities to avoid the breakage of the tongue.

The last board of a row must be cut. The remaining piece will be used to begin the following row to minimize the losses. Plan that the remaining end is 6" longer or shorter than the board used in the previous row. The gap of the transverse joints from a row to the other one has to be of at least 6".

For the installation of the subsequent rows, begin again the previous stages, but use the nail gun.

The last rows must be installed in the same way as the first rows, because of the closeness of the wall. You will maybe have to rise the boards that follow the wall to leave the expansion joint of 3/4". Assure that the tongue (male) respects the spacing of 3/4", otherwise remove the tongue. In the last row, make sure to select boards which get married well to the moldings to avoid color variation. Pay a particular attention to the cracked or broken tongues because they can cause cracks. A too high pressure of the compressor can cause this damage.

**Make sure to always nail the male side and not the female side.**

### MOLDINGS INSTALLATION

It is possible that you have to install moldings such as nosings, T- moldings, quarter rounds and reducers. They are available in the same species and colors as your floor. Thus you can order these moldings directly from your retailer at the same time than your wood.



# ALEXANDRA

Parquets

Pre-drill your moldings to avoid cracking when they will be nailed. Fix the moldings to walls and not to boards, it will allow the natural movement of the floor.

### MAINTENANCE

When your floor is installed with the glued down method, a 24 hours waiting period must be provided before replacing furnitures and begin to circulate.

#### Maintenance of a prefinished floor

Vacuum the floor and clean it with the Parquets Alexandra's spray cleaner for prefinished floors. It is recommended to keep boards to allow you to make repairs. If you have any small defects on your floor such as holes left by nails, use your Parquets Alexandra's stain and finish pencils.

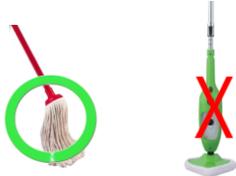


#### Maintenance of a preoiled floor

Vacuum the floor and clean it with the use of the Intemporel wood soap. It is recommended to keep boards to allow you to make repairs. If your floor contains small defects, such as holes left by nails, use the Intemporel repair kit.

For regular maintenance of preoiled floors refer to Intemporel maintenance sheet on our website at [www.parquetsalexandra.com](http://www.parquetsalexandra.com)

REGULAR MAINTENANCE	
<b>Sweep, vacuum or damp mop.</b>	If necessary to remove dust and light dirt.
<b>Wood Soap</b>	Add 1 capful (10ml) per 1 liter of warm water. Mop with a well wrung out mop. Do not rinse. Let dry 30 minutes. Frequency: Ideally all washes
<b>Revitaliser (spray)</b>	Spray on the floor. Apply in the direction of the boards with a well wrung out mop. Let dry 30 minutes. Contains natural waxes soluble in water. Frequency: Ideally every four washes



Parquets Alexandra recommend to use a string mop for the maintenance of the floor. Do not try other types of mop, such as steam mps, which open the wood pores and let penetrate water in the floor. Furthermore, flat mop (mop with reusable pad) must be washed in the machine with water only. Do not wash it with detergent and/or softener. These products affect the fiber and leave a greasy substance on the floor.



**WARNING!**

Never clean a hardwood floor with lots of water.