

## Colli Easy DIY Projects

# Install a Floating Floor

- Easy to follow step-by-step guide
- Important and handy tips
- Materials check list
- Project cost estimator



Before you begin your exciting new project, please read through this entire pamphlet carefully and estimate and assemble all the materials you will need for the project and gather your tools and equipment together. Refer to the checklist and estimating form on the back panel of the pamphlet to assist in this preparation. If you require any help, please don't hesitate to speak with one of Colli's experienced trade team.

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TIMBER AND HARDWARE 1969-2009



# DIY Floating Floor installing made easy

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## Important!

### Read this prior to installation

- Measure the room to determine the quantity of flooring required. Talk to your local Colli store about the available pack sizes of your preferred flooring to assist in estimating how much you need, alternatively simply take your measurements to the store and our experienced team of experts will work out the quantity you require.
- If your preferred style of flooring is manufactured in natural timber, you'll need to allow for an expansion gap of 10mm all round the room and around any protruding pipes, columns or other objects. This gap enables the timber to expand and contract in line with seasonal changes and the relative humidity within the room.
- Ideally, any natural timber flooring products should be allowed to acclimatise for a week or so in the prospective room prior to installation. This is not as critical if the manufactured flooring is veneer. Once again, if you have any queries, do not hesitate to check with your local Colli store.
- If installing the flooring into a new building, you must ensure that the room is weathertight prior to installation.
- Always use a moisture barrier film such as builder's plastic over sub-floors such as cement slab, cement screed, anhydride screed, mineral levelling compound, chipboard and fibre board. Overlap the film by 40mm and seal with waterproof tape.
- If installing over a slab heating system, you must seek professional advice from your preferred heating supplier.

## Care of your pre-finished floor

Clean your floor using a bristle brush, vacuum cleaner or active fibre mop. Footprints or clinging dirt can be wiped off with a dry, clean cloth. For stubborn marks use either methylated spirits or any quality spray-on, non-abrasive cleaner and a clean cloth.

Safe cleaning agents for your new floor are methylated spirits, sugar soap, household detergent and hot water. Do not clean with wax, polish, scouring pads or abrasive cleaning preparations – these will adversely affect the factory finish of your new floor.

In hallways and other high traffic areas, lay mats that can be easily removed and cleaned. To ensure furniture does not mark the floor surface, fit felt tips to the feet of chairs and tables. Replace hard plastic castors on mobile furniture with rubber castors designed for use of timber floors.

Using these few tips, your floating floor will provide you with years of service and add value to your home.

## Existing timber floorboards

- Check the floor for level and remedy any high or low spots to within the tolerance stated above.
- Vacuum the floor thoroughly.
- Fix any loose or creaking floorboards and ensure that all nail heads are punched below the surface.
- Remove existing skirting boards prior to installation of the new floor.

## Particleboard or plywood floors

- If the floor has an existing covering (such as linoleum, vinyl or cork tiles) check that it is securely fixed. If adhesion is poor, remove the covering completely.
- Ensure the sub-floor is clean and dry.
- Remove existing skirting boards prior to installation of the new floor.

## Ceramic tiles and flagstones

- Check for level as stated above.
- Ensure the tiles or flagstones are securely fixed to the sub-floor.
- Vacuum clean and ensure the surface is dry.
- Remove existing skirting boards prior to installation of the new floor.

## You can install floating floors

### What is floating flooring?

Floating flooring products are manufactured boards, usually constructed of Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) or a plywood substrate with either a solid timber, timber veneer or manufactured laminate surface. Floating flooring is sold in various pack sizes and is, in most cases factory finished. This means that there is no need to sand or apply finishes once the installation is complete. What's more, floating flooring can also be installed over most existing floor surfaces, according to the instructions below.

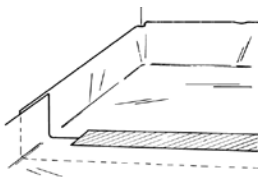
### Preparation of the sub-floor

Before beginning the installation of your new flooring, you must ensure that all sub-floors are level, clean and dry with the maximum deviation from level not exceeding 2mm under a 1.5 metre straight edge. Any deviations greater than 2mm must be filled appropriately and any lumps will need to be removed prior to laying the flooring. Ask our experienced team if you need any advice regarding this.

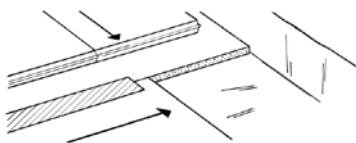
### Concrete/Cement floors

- Check all floor coverings are securely fixed to the floor, any loose areas must be re-fixed if possible. If you are unable to re-fix, we recommend that you remove the existing covering completely.
- The sub-floor must be clean and dry, and ensure that you vacuum all dust and debris before proceeding. Do not wash or expose the sub-floor to water prior to installation.
- Use a moisture barrier such as builder's plastic between the sub-floor and the underlay. Overlap seams by at least 40mm and seal with waterproof tape. Ensure the plastic sheet turns up the wall by 50mm all around the room, trim this excess off after the new floor is laid (see Fig 1).
- Use 2-3mm thick high density polythene foam underlay to provide moisture and sound insulation. Lay the underlay in the opposite direction to the flooring, butting seams together and sealing with waterproof tape (see Fig 2).

**Fig 1** Builder's plastic and waterproof tape



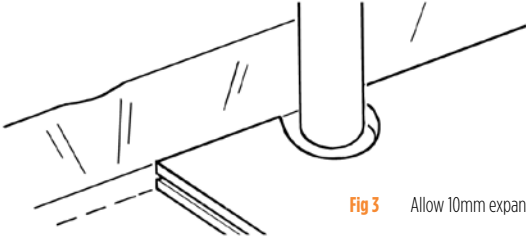
**Fig 2** Lay high density polythene foam in opposite direction to the flooring



## Installation instructions

If this is the first time you have installed timber flooring, you may find it useful to lay the first few rows of panels without glue to familiarise yourself with both the laying procedure and the structure of the panels.

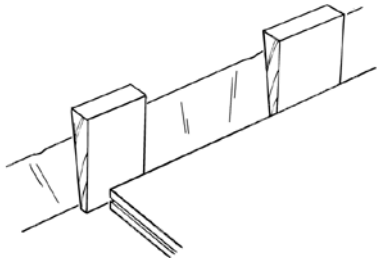
- If using a natural timber floating flooring product, allow for an expansion gap of 10 mm around the room perimeter and around all floor penetrations such as pipes or columns (see Fig 3).



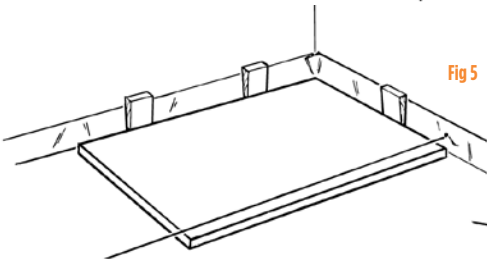
**Fig 3** Allow 10mm expansion gap

- Prior to beginning, it is a good idea to make a number of wedge shaped spacers from scrap timber. These spacers will assist in maintaining the expansion gap (see Fig 4). The first row of panels must be laid in a straight line with the tongue facing the wall – and we advise that you use a string line to align the panels to ensure a straight line (see Fig 5).
- When you are ready to permanently lay the panels, apply an even bead of the recommended adhesive.

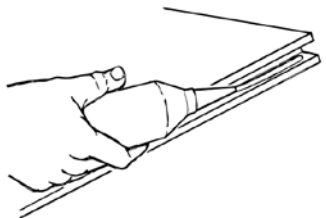
**Fig 4** Use wedge shaped spaces to maintain gap



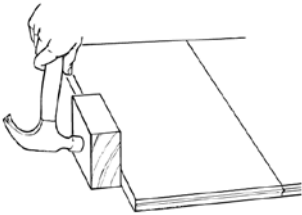
**Fig 5** Set up string line for alignment



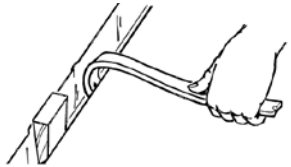
**Fig 6** Apply adhesive to lower surface of the groove on the panel



- Fix the next row of panels. Using a timber block and hammer, tap the panel into place (see Fig 7). Remove glue squeeze-out with a damp cloth, ensuring that all traces of glue are wiped off the boards.
- When laying the final row of panels or the last panel in a row, you may need to use a pull-iron bar to ensure a tight fit (see Fig 8).
- To install a panel around a pipe or similar protrusion, determine the centre point of the protrusion, mark on the panel and drill or cut a hole at least 10mm larger than the protrusion (see Fig 9A).
- Cut the panel across the centreline of the hole (see Fig 9B) and install, glueing the panel together around the protrusion. Ensure that the joined panel is not glued to the protrusion or the sub-floor.

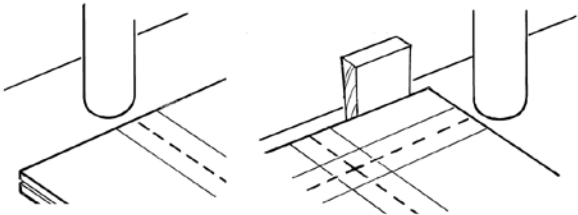


**Fig 7** Tap panel into place with hammer and timber block

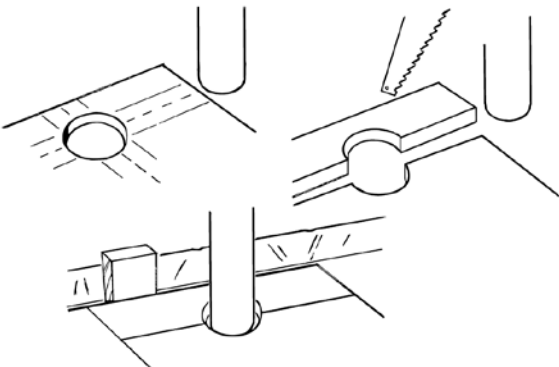


**Fig 8** Use pull-iron bar to ensure tight fit

**Fig 9** Stages of installation of panel around a pipe

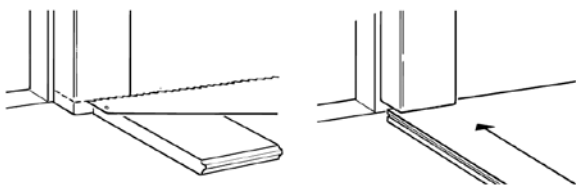


**9a** Mark out the centre point of the protrusion of the pipe

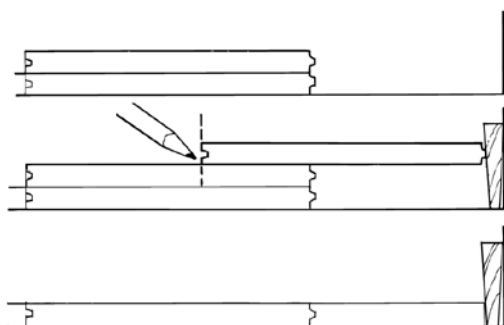


**9b** Cut the panel and glue the panel around the pipe, allowing a 10mm gap around the pipe

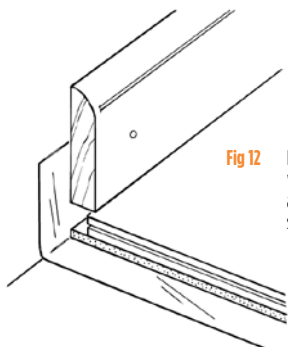
- When laying panels around architraves, cut the bottom of the architrave to allow the panel to slide underneath (see Fig 10). You may find it easiest to make this cut using a panel off-cut as your guide.
- To trim the last panel to size, lay it exactly on top of the second last panel, then lay a third panel on top, butted up against the spacer wedge (see Fig 11). Using the edge of this top panel as a guide, mark a line on the last panel indicating where to cut away the excess.
- Finally, remove all edge spacers and fix a new skirting board in place, ensuring that the new floor can move freely under the skirting board (see Fig 12).



**Fig 10** Cut bottom of architrave to panel's height and slide panel under



**Fig 11** Fitting the last panel



**Fig 12** Remove all wedge spaces and fix in new skirting board

## Project Cost Estimator

Materials Description	Quantity	Cost
Floating Floor packs		
Adhesive		
Builder's Plastic (for concrete sub-floor)		
Waterproof tape (for concrete sub-floor)		
High density foam underlay (for concrete sub-floor)		
Skirting Board		
<b>Equipment</b>		
Saw (hand or power)		
Hammer		
Tape Measure		
Scrap Wood Block		
String Line		
<b>Total</b>		

### All the materials you need for this job are available at Colli, your DIY specialist.

**Disclaimer:** Please note that this brochure is designed as a guide only - if you have any queries, please consult one of our Colli Team Members for further assistance. The information provided in this brochure is done so on the understanding that Colli Timber and Hardware is not liable for any loss or damage which is suffered or incurred, for any personal injury or property damage as a result of using the information contained in the Colli DIY Projects brochure. Colli Timber and Hardware advises you to call in a qualified tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert advice and services are required.

**Note:** Please ensure you comply with local council laws or regulations before undertaking any DIY project.

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