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INSTALLATION OF MARINE PLYWOOD OR STANDARD PLYWOOD OVER WOODEN STRIP FLOORING WHERE PERMISSIBLE

The final appearance and durability of any flooring installation depends largely on the condition of the surface upon which it is laid. All flooring materials require a smooth, hard, clean and level surface, not only for appearance but also for achieving a satisfactory adhesive bond and long-term durability. As per SANS 10070 Code of Practice: The installation of resilient thermoplastic and similar flexible floor covering materials, the specifier and the main contractor shall ensure that the sub-floor is acceptable to receive the specified product in respect of levelness, smoothness, soundness and cleanness.

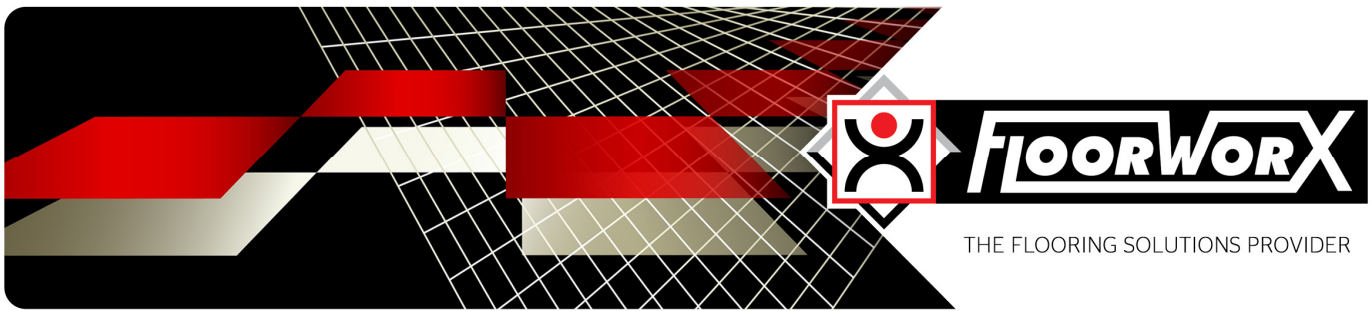
The below is a suggested methodology that can be considered in cases where the Wooden Strip Flooring **CANNOT** be removed – for example, suspended floors, in order to prepare the area with marine or standard plywood, for the acceptance of a vinyl, rubber, linoleum and luxury vinyl products. It must also be qualified that overlaying, in general, is deemed as bad flooring practice, as it will always present a risk, as it is dependent the existing – or old flooring - being able to breathe or “freely expand and contract” relative to temperature changes. The best option in all cases is to remove the old strip flooring, and where permissible throw a new concrete substrate, finished off with a reliable self-levelled screed, alternatively remove the existing wooden strip floors and replace with the appropriate plywood panels that will then serve as a new subfloor.

Kindly note wooden panels cannot be installed over or on the following floors:-

- Any solid wooden floor
- Any engineered wooden floor
- Any laminated floor
- Any parquet block or mosaic wooden floor
- Ceramics
- Porcelain
- Slate, slasto or terracotta flooring

It is further recommended that this scope of works only be carried out by contractors who are experienced and qualified in this field and capable of delivering the required finish.

It is important to note that the entire success of this approach is dependent on the state and soundness of the wooden floor. If the existing floor or its support structure is in any way rotten or compromised, then pursuing this approach may impact negatively on the outcome of the overall finish, and potentially compromise the FloorworX product warranty.



Standard

Note the following:-

- Since wooden floors will rot if exposed to excessive moisture, all suspended wooden floors must have adequate cross-ventilation.
- It is critical there is no movement of the wooden boards once in place and secured.

Methodology

- The existing wooden floor should be properly checked for soundness and stability before commencing the installation.
- The existing floor should be swept or preferably vacuumed, to remove all dust and dirt before the application of any boards.
- It is recommended that minimum 12 mm Marine Plywood be used as the preferred option, alternatively 16mm Standard Plywood.
 - Note: Standard Plywood should not be used in the case of bathroom and basement areas as it is not as water-resistant.
- Boards should be cut into a nominal size of 1.2 x 2.4 m size.
- It is preferable, especially in the case of Standard Plywood, that the undersides of the boards are coated with a primer to protect the boards, however, this is certainly not a prerequisite and relative to the area of installation.
- Boards need to be strictly installed in a brick bond pattern.
- The sheets must be screwed at 150mm centres around the border and across the centre of the sheet in both directions.
- All screws should be wood screws with flat heads and of appropriate length to ensure that the boards will be properly fastened to the surface upon which they are secured.
- All screws must be countersunk and filled with wood filler or hard silicon and allowed to set.
- Any small holes/imperfections and butt joints must be filled with wood filler or hard silicone and allowed to set.
- Any unevenness on completion of the installation needs to be sanded to provide the desired finish to accept a floor covering.

DISCLAIMER

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