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MONOLAM ENGINEERED FLOORING

Professional Installation & Preparation Guide

Monolam Engineered flooring is a world-class, multi-layer timber product designed for superior stability. To ensure the performance and longevity of your floor, adherence to professional installation standards is mandatory. **Check manufacturer guidelines in every box before commencement.**

1. SUBFLOOR PREPARATION & PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS

Subfloors must be **free from laitance, clean, dry, and smooth.** We exclusively advise the use of **Uzin** professional systems for all preparation work.

Mandatory Laitance Removal

Laitance is the weak, friable layer of cement or calcium sulphate that rises to the surface of new screeds. **It is vital that all laitance is mechanically removed by sanding or grinding** until the sound, structural slab is exposed. Primers and adhesives will not bond to laitance; failure to remove it will lead to delamination.

Damp Proof Membranes (DPM)

Subfloor moisture is the leading cause of floor failure. A professional DPM creates a permanent barrier against rising vapour.

- **Uzin PE 404:** A 1-component polyurethane moisture barrier for cementitious screeds that consolidates the surface and blocks residual moisture.
- **Uzin PE 480:** A 2-component epoxy resin barrier for high moisture levels (up to 90% RH).

Providing a structural seal is essential to protect engineered boards from moisture-related movement.

Priming Systems

Priming binds residual dust and regulates subfloor suction so prep materials and adhesives bond effectively.

• **Uzin PE 360 Plus:** A rapid-drying primer for absorbent screeds that improves the spread and bond of smoothing compounds.

• **Uzin PE 280:** A carbon-filled primer for non-absorbent surfaces like existing tiles or epoxy DPMs, providing a superior mechanical bond.

Smoothing Compounds

A perfectly level foundation is required for large-format engineered planks.

• **Uzin NC 151:** A heavy-duty compound for standard requirements on cementitious substrates.

• **Uzin NC 196:** A fibre-reinforced compound specifically engineered for high-tension areas and renovation.

Note: If smoothing over plywood, **Uzin NC 196** must be used exclusively to handle the natural flex of the timber.

2. MOISTURE TESTING & COMMISSIONING

Testing must be recorded before installation. For Monolam engineered flooring, subfloors must meet these criteria:

SUBFLOOR TYPE	MAX RELATIVE HUMIDITY (RH)	MAX MOISTURE CONTENT (CM)
Concrete / Cementitious Screed	75% RH	**3.5% CM**
Anhydrite (Calcium Sulphate)	75% RH	0.5% CM
Timber Subfloors	Must be within 2% of flooring moisture content	

Underfloor Heating (UFH)

It is critical that your underfloor heating system is **fully commissioned** and has completed a full thermal cycle (as per UFH manufacturer protocol) before installation. The system must be turned off 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after installation.

3. INSTALLATION METHODS

A. Glue Down Installation

A full-spread bond using **Pallmann P4 Adhesive** is the most stable method. Apply the adhesive using the correct notched trowel to ensure 100% transfer. This method minimises "drummy" sounds and manages the natural expansion and contraction of the boards most effectively.

B. Floating Installation

Boards are joint-glued or clicked over an underlay. The choice of underlay determines the comfort and performance of the floor:

• **No Underfloor Heating:** Use a high-density **Acoustic Rubber Underlay** for maximum sound

reduction and foot comfort.

• **With Underfloor Heating:** Use **Thermalay** or **Acoustica Bronze**. These are specifically designed with low thermal resistance to allow heat to pass through the underlay and board efficiently.

C. Nail Down Installation

On structurally sound timber subfloors (18mm plywood or existing floorboards), Monolam can be secret-nailed through the tongue. Use professional cleats at 200mm intervals. This method provides a traditional mechanical fix but must only be used where the subfloor moisture is verified as stable.