

Installation Guide

This installation guide has been specifically developed for the New Zealand market and differs in a few points from the factory installation manual found in the Karelia packs.

Karelia is mainly designed for the European/North American and Russian markets. These countries have a dryer climate and different construction methods to New Zealand.

It is in your own best interest to install Karelia in a way that has been proven to work in New Zealand.

Quality Floors Ltd's preferred installation method in New Zealand is glue down.

However, it is also possible to install Karelia as a floating floor.

The most suitable installation method for your situation depends on a lot of variables.

Please call us **PRIOR** to installation to get advice on which method to employ.



TIPS AND TRICKS

Storage:

Store the Karelia packs in a dry, covered place, off the ground (on pallet or similar).

Acclimatizing:

Karelia packs do not need to acclimatize - so only open the packs when you start installing. Open 2 to 3 packs at a time and mix the boards. Open further packs only as the installation progresses.

Timing of Installation:

Karelia should get installed second to last to carpet.

Karelia is pre-finished so avoid as much traffic (builders, trades people, etc) as possible once installed. Always install Karelia at the end of the building process.

Install kitchen units and similar prior to Karelia (especially when installing Karelia as a floating floor). Heavy units will create pressure on the timber and potentially lift the floor in a different area.

We recommend you do not cover the timber floor after installation to protect it against foot traffic. Dust and dirt will find its way between the timber and the cover.

Laying direction:

Try to lay the boards in the direction of incoming light or parallel to the longer wall.
If you lay Karelia on an existing T&G wooden floor, it is recommended you lay the boards crosswise.

Starting place:

Ensure skirting boards and kitchen toe kicks are removed/off.
Start from a solid wall. First check with a cord that the wall is straight. A straight and solid starting line is crucial for successful installation. When necessary, draw a line matching the shape of the wall on the first boards and cut them to that shape.

Expansion allowance:

Leave as much room for expansion as you can. World wide, NZ has a very unique climate (only comparable with Japan). Across NZ the relative humidity (RH) is almost 80% on average.
As Karelia is a natural timber floor, it does expand/shrink according to the RH.
Leave at least a 10mm gap between the wall and the timber floor. Cover this gap with the skirting boards or quarter rounds. Karelia expands 6 times more width wise than length wise.
In larger areas we recommend lining up the gib boards approximately 20mm off the ground or undercutting them to achieve more expansion room.
Karelia expands substantially more if installed as a floating floor than as a direct stick.
If you install Karelia as a floating floor installation in an area exceeding 8 linear meters, expansion joints must be inserted at least every 8 linear meters.

For images on how to install Karelia, please see the installation manual in the Karelia packs.

Subfloors / Floor preparation

Karelia hardwood flooring can be installed on concrete or wooden substrates (particle board, ply or existing T&G floors). It is also possible to install Karelia on existing cork or vinyl.

The subfloor must be clean, clear and level to within 3mm over 3 linear meters (industry standard). If the subfloor exceeds this given tolerance we recommend the following:

Wooden substrate: sand or use a leveling component

Concrete substrate: grind or use a leveling component

Existing cork or vinyl: remove existing floor, sand/grind subfloor and level it



Glue-Down Installation

...on a wooden substrate:

Check that the subfloor is level and prepare the floor if necessary as per above.

...on a concrete substrate:

Check that the subfloor is level and prepare the floor if necessary as per above.

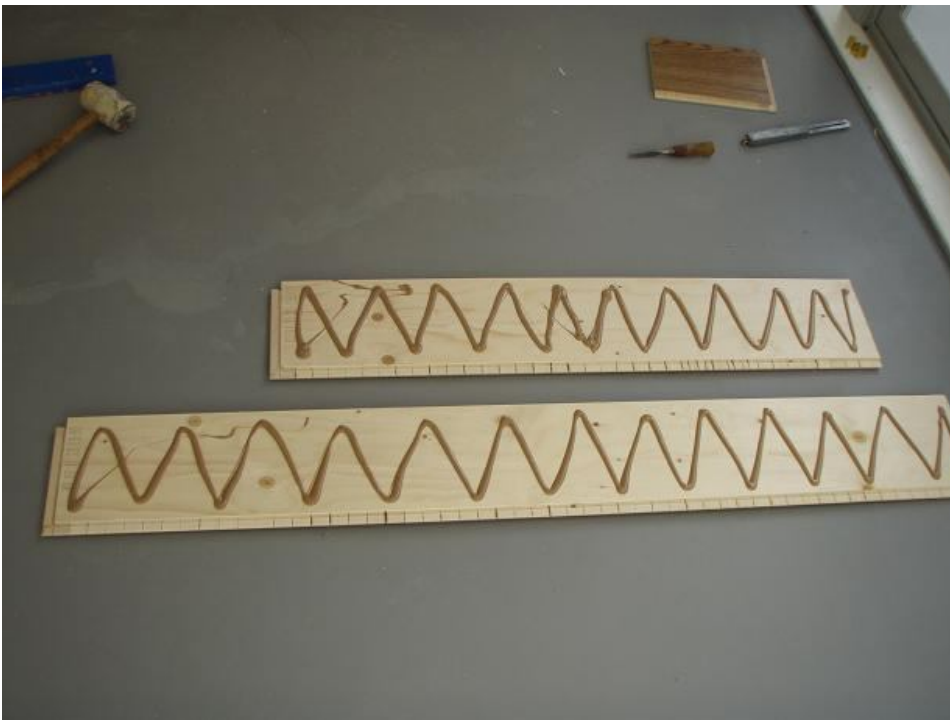
If glueing Karelia direct onto concrete the moisture content of the concrete (relative humidity = RH) must get measured. New Zealand's flooring industry regulations stipulate that the RH of a concrete slab must be less than 75% to allow installing a timber floor without first applying a moisture barrier onto the concrete. If the RH exceeds 75% you MUST apply a moisture barrier prior to installation. The most accurate instrument to asses the RH is a hygrometer.

FYI: the majority of professional timber floor installation companies in New Zealand apply a moisture barrier regardless to avoid any potential problems.



Adhesive:

We recommend industry standard adhesives in sausage form (Sika, Bostik, Selleys, etc.) which get applied with a sausage gun on the back of the board. The adhesive should be applied zig-zag wise, about 100mm apart. Install board by board and try to avoid adhesive on the surface.



Installation:

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Floating Floor Installation



...on a wooden substrate:

Check that the subfloor is level and prepare the floor if necessary as per above.

Underlay:

There are many underlays available in New Zealand for floating timber floor installations. Some focus on acoustic performance, others on insulation, and others on moisture (see glue down installation). Choose an underlay according to your needs/preference.

Installation:

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...on a concrete substrate:

Check that the subfloor is level and prepare the floor if necessary as per above.

Relative humidity (RH) of the concrete slab must be measured prior to installation. If RH exceeds 75% please contact us **prior** to installation.

We strongly recommend putting a plastic sheet (PE) of 0.2mm on the concrete first and then use an underlay which has an integrated moisture barrier, regardless of the RH of the slab.

Underlay:

It is important that you use an underlay which has an integrated moisture barrier. We recommend "Roberts Harmony".

Installation:

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Disclaimer:

Responsibility lies with the installer/owner to determine if the sub-floor is acceptable for the timber flooring installation. Quality Floors Ltd (QFL) is not responsible for timber flooring failure due to sub-floor deficiencies or lack of preparation.

Karelia is a natural wood product. Therefore natural variations in colour, tone and grain are to be expected. Again, it is the responsibility of the installer or owner to inspect each Karelia board carefully before installation.

QFL does not take responsibility for boards with visible defects once they are installed. OFL will not take any responsibility for moisture issues caused by the subfloor, trades people or faulty appliances. OFL can not be held liable for any installation related potential issues e.g. expansion, uneven subfloor.