

Installation instructions Parquet

Floating installation of parquet flooring with mechanical joint

Carefully read through all the instructions before installing the floor.

Pre-installation

The room and the boards must have a temperature of at least 18° C (64° F). Ensure that you evenly distribute the packs so they can acclimatise to the room temperature.

Take care to inspect each board before installation. If you are using a professional, make sure that they also read the installation instructions carefully before they begin. Bjelin bears no liability for obvious faults or defects that were visible before installation. Bjelin parquet flooring is normally laid as a floating installation but can also be glued down (see separate instructions). If using glue down, we recommend using a professional.

Open 2–3 boxes to check for any colour/design variations, and ideally mix boards from different packs. This will give you an idea of the variations before you start installing.

Parquet flooring is laid floating, i.e. joined together without being attached to the subfloor.

- The subfloor should be dry, flat, firm and clean.
- Remove all carpets.
- If installing on cellular plastic (EPS), the plastic must have a compressive strength of at least 150 kPa.
- Parquet flooring can be installed on underfloor heating. The heating system should provide effective, well-distributed heat across the whole floor. The surface temperature of the floor must never exceed 27°C/80°F (also applies where there are radiator pipes, under rugs and so on).
- Measure the subfloor's evenness at 2 m and 0.25 m. If the difference is greater than ± 3 mm at 2 m or ± 1.2 mm at 0.25 m, the subfloor will first need levelling. Note that ± 2 mm at 1 m is approved for installation.
- The room's relative air humidity (RH) must not exceed 60%. If the RH is below 30%, there is a higher risk of concavity and gaps between the boards. If the RH is low, an air humidifier can be used to increase the humidity.
- Wooden floors should in most cases be protected against moisture from the subfloor. For best results, we recommend Bjelin's floor underlay Kombi, which is a combined vapour barrier and foam. You can also use a 0.2 mm age-resistant polyethylene film, applied with a 200 mm overlap in combination with foam or builder's paper/rag paper. In markets where these products are not available, please contact your local Bjelin representative for approved products. Please note that damp proofing is mandatory on subfloors of newly cast concrete, lightweight concrete, concrete floor directly on the ground, crawl space foundations, on joists over hot or humid rooms (e.g. boiler room or laundry room) or underfloor heating systems.
- The subfloor must be well cleaned and dry to avoid mould. In most cases, this will mean vacuuming the subfloor.

- When using a separate vapour barrier, use an interlayer on top to reduce impact noise. For example, use a 2–3 mm polyethylene foam of approved quality (compressive strength of at least 20 kPa) or builder's paper/rag paper. The interlayer is laid edge to edge. If there are nominal requirements for impact noise reduction, contact a sound expert.
- If the RH in the subfloor is 90–98%, an air gap forming moisture barrier, such as Platon or Matakı, must be used.
- The boards should always be laid lengthwise along the room. The floor moves with varying humidity and should therefore usually have a minimum expansion gap of 10 mm (applies to rooms up to 6 metres wide) against walls and fixed objects (stairs, columns, door frames etc.) for ease of installation. It is also possible to calculate the size you need: include a 1.5 mm expansion gap per metre of floor width. This expansion gap must be around the entire floor against the wall and other solid objects. Bear in mind that if just 10 mm of your newly laid floor is touching another surface, such as a wall, it will no longer be able to expand. Rooms up to 25 m wide and 25 m long can be installed as one continuous surface. If the floor is larger, you should divide it. Floors should be divided in doorways with an expansion gap. Cover the expansion gap with moulding. When installing in L-, T- or U-shaped rooms and at transitions to corridors, an expansion gap must be left.
- A skirting board or T moulding needs to be 50% thicker than the width of the expansion gap. Example: If you have worked out that you need an 8 mm expansion gap between the floor and the wall, the skirting should be at least 12 mm thick.

Installation

First work out how many boards you need for the width of your room. If the last row of boards ends up less than 40 mm wide, the first row should also be sawn so that the first and last rows are the same width. This will ensure a sleeker-looking installation. It's easiest to start along the long wall with the most doors. If there are doors on the short side, start the row there. The boards can be laid from left or right, and also be reverse installed.

Wood floors should always be installed with end joints at least every other row. This also applies to smaller spaces, such as hallways or small rooms. If the end joints are evenly distributed, the floor will remain flat as the climate changes. The end joints in adjacent rows should be staggered by at least 500 mm.

Use wedges to ensure the right distance between the floor and wall. This will create an expansion gap of at least 10 mm against the wall and other fixed objects. The boards should always be laid lengthwise along the room. See the table below.

Finally, remove the wedges, and cover the gap between the wall and flooring with skirting board or trim. Flooring trims

or transition reducers are used to join wood floors and other flooring materials. Install trims so that the floor can move with seasonal variations.

If you come across a damaged board, put it aside. It may be left over or can be used when finishing. Of course, you can also exchange it where you bought it. The installer is responsible for ensuring that boards with obvious defects are not installed.

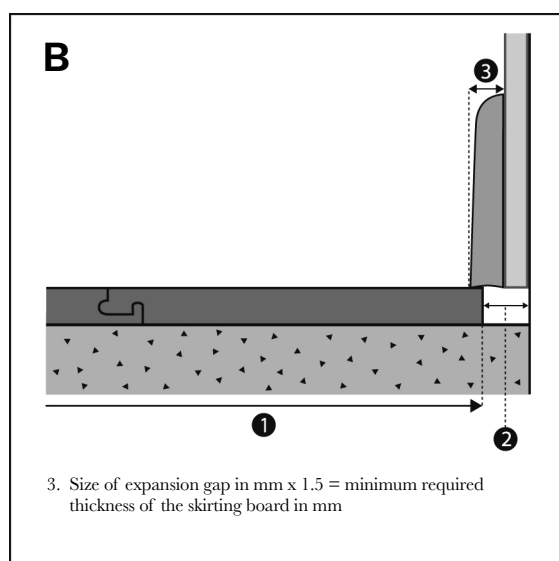
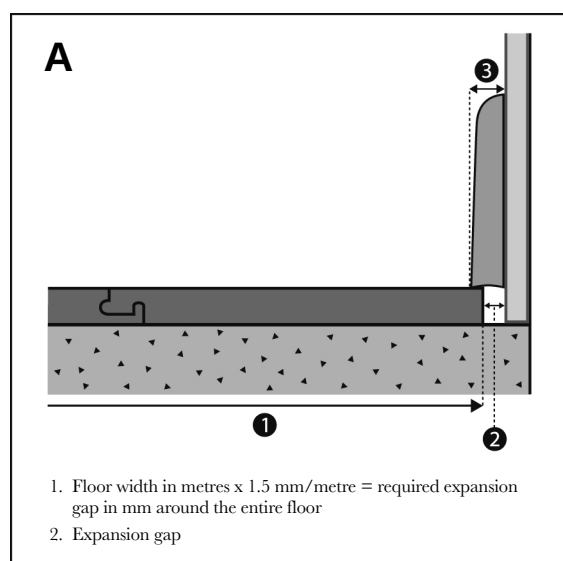
Skirting board thickness

Remember that it's the size of the expansion gap that decides the thickness of the skirting board – not the other way around.

- Larger floor areas will require wider expansion gaps and therefore thicker skirting.

Tip: If you are doing a renovation or new build, install the walling panels slightly higher up. That way the floor can move beneath them and you'll avoid having to use thick skirting boards. See image B.

How to calculate the thickness of the skirting board



Make sure the floor can move freely under the walling panels.

Minimum width of the expansion gap and skirting board for different floor widths

FLOOR WIDTH 1	EXPANSION GAP 2	SKIRTING BOARD WIDTH 3
4 m	6 mm*	10 mm
6 m	9 mm*	15 mm
8 m	12 mm	18 mm
10 m	15 mm	22 mm
12 m	18 mm	27 mm
15 m	22 mm	33 mm
18 m	27 mm	40 mm

*For easy installation, the minimum recommended expansion gap is 8–10 mm

Floor cover

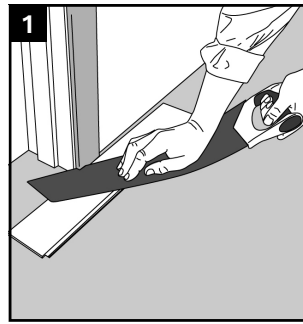
The basic rule is that the wooden floor should be laid last in a construction project in order to avoid damage. If further work is to be done in the room where the floor has been laid, the floor must be protected with a material that allows moisture to pass through (e.g. builder's paper/rag paper). Also check that

the cover does not discolour the floor or leave residues such as wax. Do not tape against the wood floor but only against each sheet of protective covering. Many tapes stick so strongly to the floor surface that the coating comes off when the tape is removed. The longer the tape is left in place, the higher the risk that it will stick more strongly to the finish.

Instructions

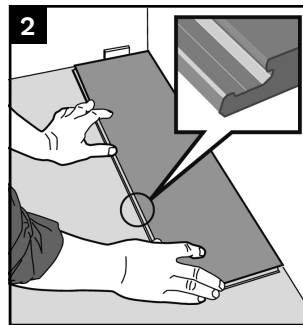
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Start by removing/trimming door frames/architraves so that the floor can be pushed underneath, which provides a neat and professional result. The easiest way is to use a multi-tool or a hand saw. Use a board turned upside down with underlay as a template to achieve the right height. Remember not to lock the floor against or under the door frame.



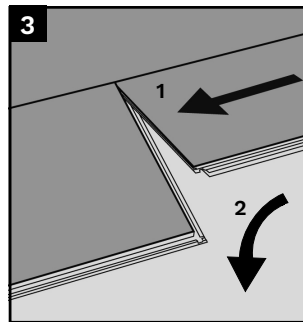
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Begin in a left-hand corner, and lay the first board with the tongue facing out into the room on both the long and short sides. The long side's distance from the wall can be adjusted later, when three rows have been installed.



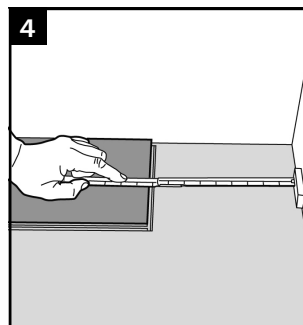
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Place the next board with the short end against the first board's short end. Press the short end down so it clicks into place. Continue in the same way along the whole first row.



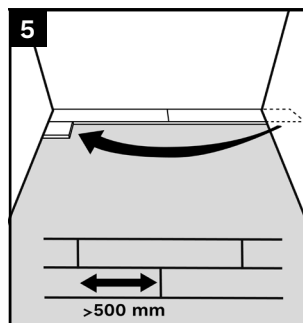
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Cut the last board of the first row to the right length. Don't forget to leave an expansion gap around the entire edge of the floor.



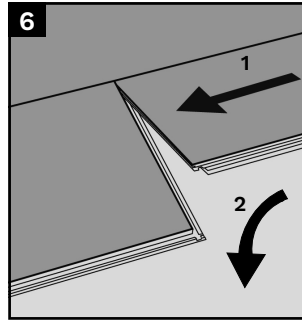
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Start the next row with the offcut from the previous one. The boards' end joints should be staggered by at least 500 mm.



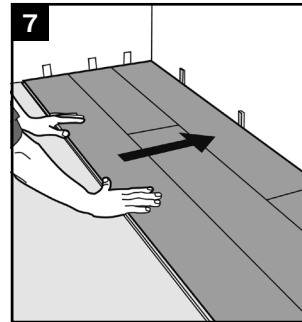
6

Push the new board's long side into the previously installed board to form a tight seal. Then press the board down lightly while tapping it with your hand, and the board will fit easily into place. Take care when tapping so as not to damage anything. Make sure there is no debris in the joint, such as sawdust, as this can obstruct or damage the board when it's pushed into place. Continue installing the remaining rows of boards in the same way.



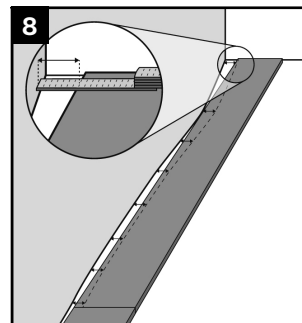
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Once three rows have been installed, you can adjust the floor's distance from the walls. Insert wedges between the floor and walls. Once the whole floor has been laid, they should be removed.



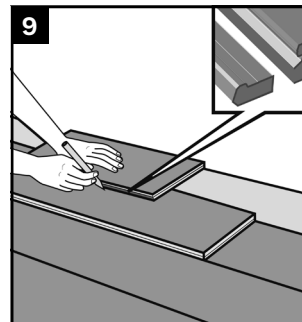
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Sometimes, the first row of flooring needs to be adjusted to an uneven wall. Draw the wall contours onto the floor boards. Then loosen the boards in the first row by taking the long side and pulling up while knocking the joint carefully. Then saw along your drawn line. For the best result, you may need to cut the boards of the first row lengthwise to make the first and last rows the same width; this will prevent the last row from being too narrow.



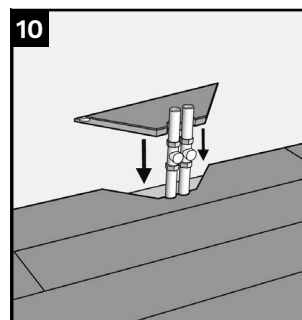
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The last row: Measure the exact width of the last row. What to do: Place the final board on top of the penultimate row of boards with about 7 mm of clearance from the wall. Use a piece of board with no tongue to mark your saw-line. Install the sawn board. You may need a pull bar or crowbar to fit the final row of boards, but remember to be careful.



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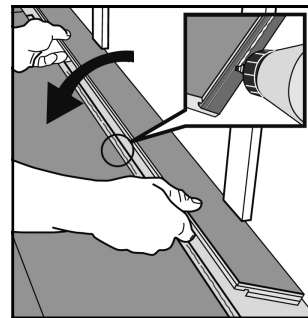
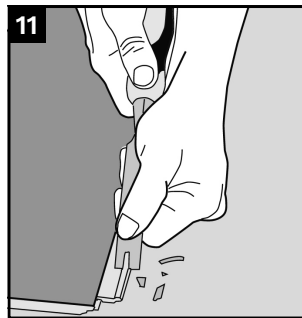
Around pipes, drill holes at least 20 mm larger than the pipe diameter. Saw as shown, and glue the loose piece back in place after laying the floor. Remove any excess glue immediately. Cover the holes with pipe collars.



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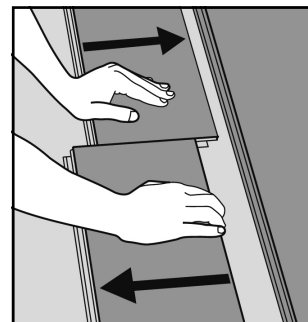
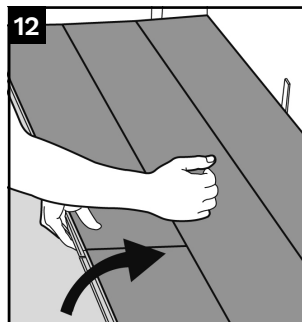
If you're unable to click in a board under a door frame or architrave: Saw or shave off the lock using a chisel or plane. Glue the tongue using PVAC/wood glue (D3) and then fit the board(s).

Use wedges to press the board firmly in place while the glue is drying.



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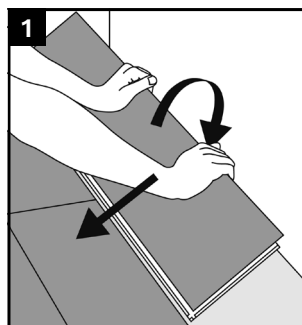
If you need to remove a board after installation, lift up the boards along the long side, an entire row at a time. Disconnect the short sides by pulling them apart horizontally.



Reverse installation

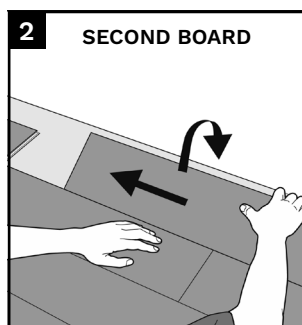
1

When reverse-installing, lay the floor from left to right. Fit the tongue under the previously installed row and lay it down.



2

Fit the next board under the installed row, push them against the short end of the adjacent board, and lay it down. Carefully press down the board's short end until you hear a click, which means it's now locked in place.



Care and maintenance of our floors

Bjelin wood floors are easy to maintain. Daily maintenance is most easily done by vacuuming and occasional cleaning with a well wrung-out cloth. Take care not to damp-mop too often as wood is sensitive to water. When you do damp-mop the floor, it should be dry within 1 minute, that way you'll know you have used the correct amount of water.

- If you use too much water, the floor may be damaged.
- If you accidentally spill, it won't leave a mark on your floor as long as you wipe it up immediately.
- Use a door mat outside and inside the front door to avoid bringing in dirt and grit, which can put a lot of wear on

your floors. Minimising dirt and grit will ensure your Bjelin floor lasts for many years.

- We recommend using felt pads under furniture to avoid unnecessary marks and scratches.

If you get a stain on the floor, see the table below.

Take care with strong stain removers. If you use too much or rub too hard, it can affect the lacquer or oil on your floor.

For more detailed maintenance instructions, go to bjelin.com.

Factory-lacquered surfaces

STAIN	REMOVAL
Asphalt, rubber, oil, shoe polish, soot, dried-in chocolate or grease residues	Bjelin Ecoline Magic Cleaner, Bona Kemi Deep Cleaner diluted with water, alcohol cleaner, benzine or similar
Crayon, lipstick, felt tip/marker	Alcohol cleaner diluted with equal parts water
Candle wax, chewing gum	Cold spray or apply a bag of ice cubes, then gently scrape off
Blood	Cold water

Factory-oiled surfaces

STAIN	REMOVAL
Asphalt, rubber, oil, shoe polish, soot, dried-in chocolate or grease residues	Bjelin Ecoline Magic Cleaner, Bona Kemi Deep Cleaner diluted with water, alcohol cleaner, benzine or similar
Crayon, lipstick, felt tip/marker	Alcohol cleaner diluted with equal parts water
Candle wax, chewing gum	Cold spray or apply a bag of ice cubes, then gently scrape off
Blood	Cold water

Oiled surfaces are sensitive to strong detergents and heavy cleaning. After spot cleaning, some touch-up with oil may be needed on the oiled surface.

For more information on maintenance, care and repair, go to our website www.bjelin.com

Glue down

If gluing to the subfloor, see separate instructions at bjelin.com.





Checklist:

- Remove all skirting boards
- Remove or trim door frames and architraves
- Leave a decent expansion gap between the floor and all fixed objects such as walls, thresholds, columns and pipes
- The floor should always be laid lengthwise along the room. If the room is roughly square, you are of course free to choose the direction of the floor



Tools and equipment:

- Safety glasses
- Approved dust mask
- Vacuum cleaner
- Installation wedges
- Saw
- Pencil
- Measuring tool
- Set-square
- Vapour barrier if required
- Wood glue (D3)



Wood dust

Sawing and sanding wood produce wood dust.

Preventive measures:

- Equipment should be equipped with a dust collector to reduce airborne dust.
- Use an appropriately designed protective mask to reduce exposure to airborne wood dust.
- Avoid contact with the eyes and skin.
- In case of irritation, rinse eyes and skin with water for at least 15 minutes.
- In case of severe discomfort, seek medical attention immediately.

