



This checklist covers the installation of block and mosaic sheet parquetry that is to be installed in accordance with the installation instructions, refer to <http://coffshardwoods.com.au/products/flooring>. Installation is to be undertaken by competent timber floor installers.

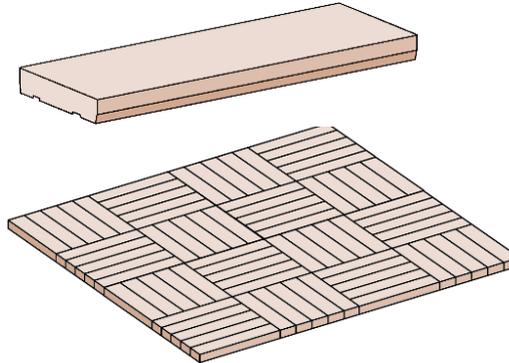
PRODUCTS COVERED

Block parquetry

1. 260 x 65 x 19mm
2. 260 x 65 x 14mm
3. 340 x 85 x 19mm
4. 340 x 85 x 14mm
5. 400 x 80 x 19mm
6. 400 x 80 x 14mm

Finger parquetry

1. 5, 6 & 7 Finger: Square on Square, Brickbond and Parallel Sheets = 535 x 535mm
2. Basketweave Sheets = 445 x 445mm
3. Gothic & Haddon Hall Sheets = 400 x 400mm
4. Herringbone Sheets = 440 x 400mm



PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

- **Transport and storage practices** – Ensure these have not adversely affected parquetry moisture content. Block or sheet widths and moisture contents should be checked for a samples and results recorded.
- **Locality and specific building site** – Consider where the flooring is to be laid and the expected floor movement (shrinkage and swelling) after installation.
- **Timber subfloor and subfloor space** (as applicable) – Ensure that timber and sheet subfloors and any subfloor space is suitable for accepting the parquetry flooring. When fixing over a plywood subfloor, it needs to be adequately flat and dry, and with adhesive use, both clean and sound. Strip T&G subfloors need to be structurally adequate.
- **Concrete subfloor** – Block and mosaic parquetry may also be direct adhesive fixed over a properly prepared concrete slab. That is a slab that is flat, dry, sound and clean. Moisture protection is to be provided with an applied moisture vapour barrier and any levelling compound used requires sufficient tensile strength.
- **State of building completion** – The building must be complete to the stage of being closed in, weathertight and the temporary window coverings may be needed after laying. Maintain internal conditions as close as possible to lived-in conditions and note that prolonged high temperatures in locked up buildings can adversely affect floors.
- **Acclimatisation** – It is recognised that this type flooring has greater in-service stability with most installations due to the smaller dimensions and installation patterns that often results in a mix to widths and lengths across a floor area. Note that expansion and shrinkage occur over the width of a block or finger, not down the length. Due to this acclimatisation is not normally needed.

FIXING ALTERNATIVES TO SUBFLOORS

- Block and mosaic sheet parquetry must be laid over a structural subfloor which can include sheet subfloors (plywood and particleboard), existing timber floors or concrete slabs. Parquetry products are adhesive fixed to plywood subfloors or a plywood underlay of about 6mm thickness that has been fixed over particleboard and timber subfloors. Underlay sheets may be fixed with beads of adhesive at 100mm spacing and staples around the perimeter of the sheet, 12mm in from edges and spaced at 75mm intervals. Through the main body of the sheets staple spacing is at 100mm.
- Alternatively, these products are direct adhesive fixed to an applied moisture vapour barrier (to the manufacturer's instructions) over concrete slabs.

SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS AND FIXING PRACTICES

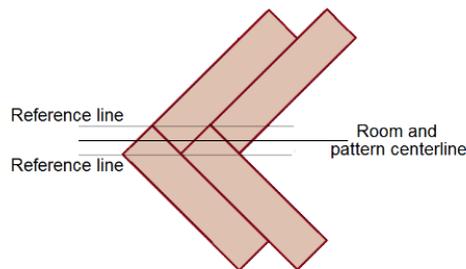
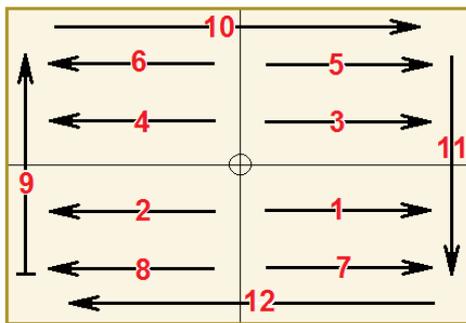
- **Concrete slab moisture and moisture vapour barrier** - Slab moisture when assessed by impedance meter is to be below 4% and an applied moisture vapour barrier is to be provided in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- **Sheet and timber subfloor moisture** - These subfloors should be within 2 and 3 percent of the flooring being laid. Note that moisture meters have reduced accuracy in sheet subfloors and oven dry moisture content testing may be required.
- **Subfloor flatness** – Concrete slabs need to within 3mm under a 3m straight edge. Parquetry laid on plywood subfloors or underlays should be sufficiently flat as to have no visibly obvious undulations.
- **Expansion allowance** – A minimum 10 mm expansion gap between parquetry flooring and any internal or external wall structures is to be provided. The exception being where block or finger ends abut doorways, the allowance may be reduced to be a neat fit but having a small gap (approximately 1 mm) to prevent rubbing. This may be filled with a flexible sealant (not silicone). Parquetry flooring does not usually require intermediate expansion allowance due to the smaller piece sizes and patterns having blocks or fingers at right angles. The exception being block parquetry laid 'edge on edge' in a brick bond pattern and for this, refer to the provisions for structural strip T&G flooring, which apply.

INSTALLATION TO RECOGNISED INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

Floor installation is to follow recognised industry practice as outlined in Coffs Harbour Hardwood's installation instructions <http://coffshardwoods.com.au/products/flooring> and with further details as outlined in the ATFA Industry Standard – Solid Timber Flooring. Provided below are aspects relating to the fixing of parquet flooring.

SET OUT

Installations vary significantly due to the variety of patterns achievable and with some also containing borders. It is usual that setting out utilises two string lines at right angles through the centre of the room and that installation also begins from the centre of the room, and in a set sequence. The main body of the floor is completed prior to any borders. When parquetry blocks are laid in a herring bone pattern, additional reference lines are needed. Similarly border lines would also be included if applicable. These aspects, along with a suitable laying sequence are shown in the diagrams from ATFA's Solid Timber Flooring - Industry standard, and also from this source additional information may be obtained.



Source: ATFA – Solid Timber Flooring – Industry standard

FIXING PRACTICES

Water-based parquetry adhesives have been largely replaced with polyurethane and polymer adhesives. Some of the polyurethane adhesives foam on curing and due to this, installers may prefer not to use this type.

Fixing of blocks and mosaic sheets is with a full trowel bed of adhesive applied to the slab and spreading about 1 m² at a time before laying the blocks or mosaic sheets into the spread adhesive. Care is needed to ensure the spread rate and height of adhesive is maintained.

During the laying process it is necessary to keep to the string lines and to ensure the pattern remains tight and even. With block parquetry some variation in block sizes can be expected and needs to be accommodated during laying. 'Creep' cannot be corrected so centre and reference lines as well as the laying sequence is important. Blocks may be tapped with a rubber mallet and timber block to reduce any mismatch at block edges with care needed during installation to ensure blocks do not shift.

When the perimeter of the floor is laid, blocks or mosaic sheets will need cutting, taking into consideration the perimeter expansion allowance. If a border is being installed, then the blocks or mosaic sheets are cut back to a border line before working on the border. Expansion allowance at the floor perimeter is to be covered by the skirtings which need to be of sufficient thickness. The adhesive is then allowed to cure before sanding and coating as outlined in Section 7. With many patterns the level sanding is undertaken so that the blocks or pieces are at an angle to the sanding machine.

Parquet may also be laid on acoustic underlays and it is important that the correct underlay is used. More flexible underlays can result in blocks or fingers depressing under foot pressure once the floor is laid. Underlays more specific to parquet are often cork and rubber composites to avoid this.

SANDING AND COATING

Timber floor finishes include oils and hard wax oils, oil modified urethanes, solvent and water-based polyurethane. When choosing a floor finish it is necessary to consider aspects that include the following: wear and ongoing maintenance, the effects that different types of coatings can have (e.g. edge-bonding, tram lining, colour changes), the desired gloss level and health aspects during application. A finish similar to that of fine furniture should not be expected, as site sanded and coated floors are not finished in a factory environment and different pieces of flooring will sand differently. The home environment is also not dust free and subject to greater variations in temperature and humidity. However, the finished floor can be expected to be of a high standard and have an even appearance. A minimal level of contaminants, minor sanding marks and other minor imperfections may be visible. Some finishes will also 'yellow' with time and if rugs are moved, a contrast in the depth of colour can occur.