



# **5** STEPS TO SUBFLOOR PREPARATION FOR WOOD FLOORS

**GOOD  
FOR WOOD**



**PALLMANN**



## ROOT AND BRANCH

Sums up the PALLMANN full range offer for the installation, renovation and maintenance of wood floors.

This straight talking guide from the experts at PALLMANN will walk you through the subfloor preparation steps to ensure that everything is as it should be before the installation of a wood floor.

Some basics:

- Prepare the building for the wood floor.
- If the building isn't in absolute "live in" condition, then DON'T INTRODUCE THE WOOD FLOOR.
- So ALL building working should be finished and all systems checked and operating consistently.
- Only then can you bring the wood floor into the building and follow the manufacturers acclimatisation instructions.
- At every visit take moisture readings of subfloor and wood, relative humidity (rh) and temperature readings of room space. Record and keep these measurements ... its really important!
- Always give your customer correct information to ensure realistic expectations.
- Use the following "5 Steps to subfloor preparation for wood floors".



A photograph of a forest floor. In the foreground, a large tree trunk with thick, moss-covered roots dominates the left side. The ground is covered in a layer of brown, fallen leaves and twigs. In the background, there are more trees and a patch of green grass with small white flowers. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title text.

# **5** STEPS TO SUBFLOOR PREPARATION FOR WOOD FLOORS



# STEP 1

## Assessment





## Subfloors should be

- Clean... free from contamination.
- Dry... with a moisture measurement of less than 65 % RH.
- Sound... free from any structural defects.
- Level... + or – 3 mm over a 2 metre length.
- Strong... the correct “tensile” strength to hold the lateral movement of a wood floor.

## Action

- Contamination can be controlled by chemical or mechanical removal and/or with priming. Old adhesive residues must be removed completely and if the substrate is not sound it should be removed or consolidated.
- Moisture measurement in the subfloor should be measured with a hygrometer and should be less than 65 %.
- If the subfloor is not level, then a levelling compound of the correct tensile strength can be applied.



## STEP 2

### Priming /Applying a damp proof membrane





- Once the subfloor is clean it should be primed with PALLMANN P104 using the nylon fibre roll roller 80 – 200 g per square metre, per coat.
- If the subfloor moisture content exceeds 65 % but not 90 % then a second coat of PALLMANN P104 can be applied at 90 degrees to the first. This dries within 1 hour.
- If a levelling compound is to be applied the final coat of PALLMANN P104 must be gritted while still wet using copious amounts of quartz sand to provide a better connection.



- After leaving overnight excess sand can be removed and saved for future use.



## STEP 3

### Levelling







- If the subfloor needs levelling or doesn't have enough "tensile strength" then PALLMANN P25 wood floor levelling compound can then be applied at a minimum thickness of 3 mm.
- It should be mixed thoroughly, poured and then rolled with a spike roller to ensure smooth and level finish.
- PALLMANN P25 should be left for a minimum of 24 hours before the adhesive can be applied.

## STEP 3

## STEP 4

### Applying adhesive







- For most wood floors PALLMANN P5, P4 or P9 should be applied with a B11 notch trowel at a rate of approximately 1 kg per square metre.
- For wood floors thinner than 10 mm the PALLMANN adhesive should be applied with a B3 notch.
- For “engineered” wood floors PALLMANN P4 should be applied with a B11 notch.

**load bearing**



**sanding**



**STEP 4**

## STEP 5



## Install wood floor to manufacturers' instruction

For exotic wood floors, underfloor heating or floating installations please contact  
Technical support for system changes. E-mail [info@pallmann.co.uk](mailto:info@pallmann.co.uk) or call 07825 382174.







## STEP 5

Wood flooring is a genuinely skilled trade which requires craftsmanship and expertise in order to achieve a beautifully finished wood floor. We believe that manufacturers should also take full responsibility for their systems. We are so confident of our products performance that we are prepared to underwrite the work that our PALLMANN Profi contractors do with our systems for 24 months\*. PALLMANN Profi contractors have to attend regular formal training at our UK training school and demonstrate that they are fully competent in 6 key areas:

- 5 steps to subfloor preparation for wood floors
- 5 steps to sanding wood floors
- 5 steps to lacquering a wood floor
- 5 steps to maintaining a newly lacquered floor
- 5 steps to “magic oiling” a wood floor
- 5 steps for the aftercare of oiled wood floors

\*In order to provide the warranty PALLMANN Profi contractors must use PALLMANN and UZIN products, adhere to strict '5 steps' guidelines and keep records of site conditions for 24 months PALLMANN guarantee form must be completed.





PALLMANN provide a range of premium quality products to ensure the installation and finish of your wood floor is of the highest standard. At PALLMANN you will find us working really hard to phase out solvent-based products, replacing them with lower solvent, water-based products. PALLMANN's water based products are safer and less harmful than traditional solvent-based products, which can damage your health and have a very strong odour.

- Most products in our range are now water-based, which have low solvent (VOC) content and subtle odour.
- Some of our products have no solvent whatsoever and rely on new technology to help shorten drying times.
- We continue to work hard and invest significantly in developing EC1 (very low solvent) compliant products.



"EMICODE" is the emission label of a German building materials association (GEV). "EC 1" marks very low emission installation materials (the highest possible classification in this system) ([www.emicode.de](http://www.emicode.de)).



The "Blue Angel", awarded by the German "Federal Environmental Agency" is the best known and most traditional German environmental label.

# 5 STEPS

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