

LAYING A RIGID CORE FLOOR



This document is designed to give you a step-by-step guide to fitting a rigid core floor from the Palio Home range, and will help you with fitting around fixed objects and adding your finishing touches.

In most circumstances you will only need the following tools for successful installation:

- pencil
- utility knife
- ruler/straight edge
- spacers - 5mm spacers minimum
- pull bar & hammer
- rubber mallet

- angle finder (for herringbone)

For bathrooms or rooms with contoured fixtures, you may need:

- drill and spade bit (for cutting around pipework)
- jigsaw (for cutting curves/irregular shapes)

ALWAYS REFER TO THE INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR SUBFLOOR PREPARATION AND FITTING REQUIREMENTS.

Step 1. Subfloor considerations

Prepare your floor to gain a smooth, flat, level surface and have less than 95% relative humidity.

If fitting over an uneven surface it is limited to a maximum of 5mm below the level, 3m in any direction plank or tile and 3mm below the level for 2m in any direction for herringbone. Level any grout lines with a width and/or depth greater than 5mm.

- A. Solid subfloor: Apply an appropriate smoothing compound and allow to dry.
- B. Wooden subfloor*: Overlay with a minimum of 5.5mm flooring grade plywood or for existing floorboards, firmly fasten, fill gaps and level prior to installation.

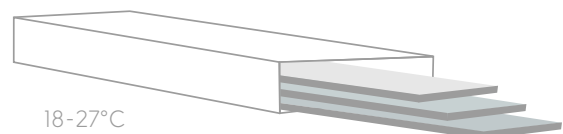
* Except for laminate which is recommended to be removed.

Step 2. Calculating the size of your room

Calculate the size of your room by multiplying the length by the width. This will determine how many packs you will need. Add 10% to allow for wastage. See page 7 for tips.

Step 3. Acclimatise your floor

For residential installations acclimatisation is generally not essential if the product temperature is already in the range 18-27°C. Acclimatise if the product has been exposed to extreme temperatures prior to installation (see installations guidelines). Mixing the planks or tiles up before fitting helps with colour variation for a more natural look.

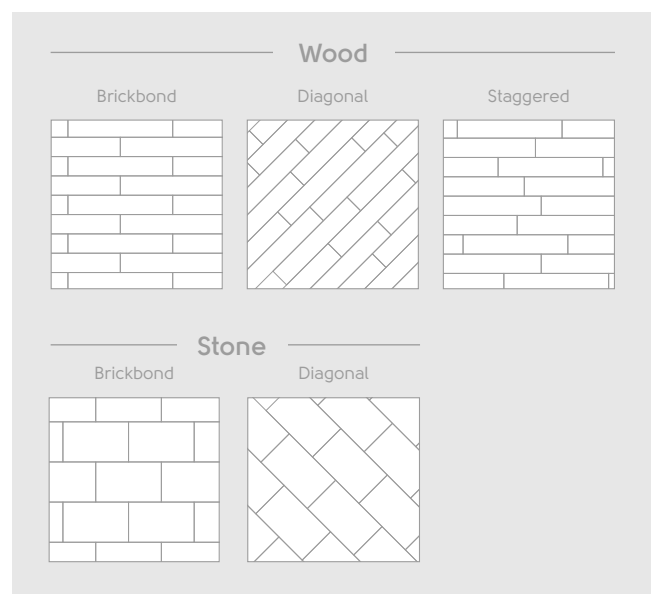
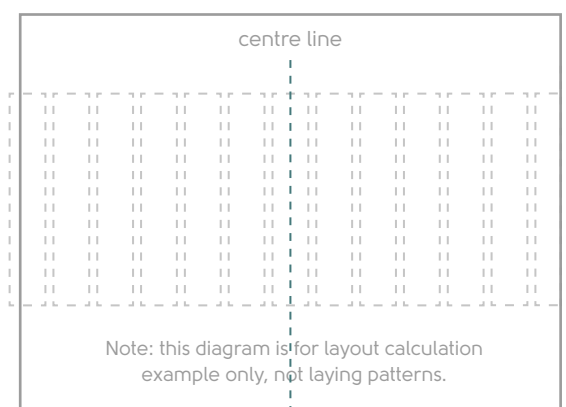


FOR PLANK/TILE INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOW STEP 4 ONWARDS.
FOR HERRINGBONE INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOW STEP 10 ONWARDS, PAGE 4.

Step 4. Planning your layout (plank/tile)

Once you have decided which way you would like to run your planks or tiles in the room, calculate the number of widths of planks or tiles that will fit across the room by dividing the width of the room by the width of the planks or tiles.

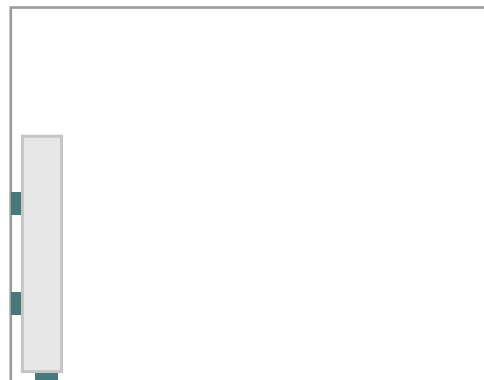
If your final row results in a narrow width of the planks or tiles, you will need to cut the first row width to create a more balanced, stable finish.



Step 5. Laying your floor

Lay the first plank or tile towards the left-hand corner, with the tongue side/cut edge facing the wall.

Insert 5mm spacers between the plank/tile and wall on both the short and long edges. Connect another plank/tile along the short edge of the first plank/tile and continue with the first row adding in spacers along the length of the wall.



Step 6. Cutting planks and tiles

Before you fit a row of planks/tiles, consider if the final piece in the row will be long enough to remain stable. If not, you will need to shorten the first laid plank/tile. Place a plank/tile directly on top of the last clicked in plank/tile (this will be the plank/tile used for the final piece in the row). Place another plank/tile on top and move it to meet the wall, ensuring you position a spacer. The exposed plank/tile beneath will be the desired size. Using the edge of the overlaid plank/tile as a guide, score the plank/tile underneath. Remove the top plank/tile, snap your scored plank/tile and click into place to complete your row.

When connecting the second row of planks/tiles, align the horizontal long side using an angle of 30 degrees, slide the plank up so the short sides are close. Press the short side down so you hear an audible click of the 5G® locking mechanism, which signals a firm connection.

Step 7. Staggering planks and tiles

After two to three rows have been clicked together, ensure the rows are pushed against the spacers and the wall you are working away from. A sizeable off cut can be used to start the next row with the cut end against the wall. Otherwise, you can cut a plank/tile in half to ensure staggered joints.

Continue to install planks/tiles across the room until the room is complete. Only if necessary, use a rubber mallet and an offcut of the product to gently tap the product together. A pull bar can be used to pull the product together around the edges of the room.

Step 8. Fitting the final row of planks or tiles

Place a full plank over the top of the last row, make sure it is lined up exactly with the plank underneath with the groove side facing the wall, and the tongue side facing away from the wall (which will click into the last laid row).

Then using a full width off-cut, which has the tongue still attached, place the groove side against the wall and using a pen/pencil mark along the full plank to get a perfect cutting line for the final row. The width of the tongue will account for the 5mm expansion gap required around the edge of the room. Score and snap along this line to cut the plank or use a jigsaw. Insert the tongue into the groove of the previous row, you may need to use a pull bar and hammer to help ensure a tight fit. Repeat this process until the final row is complete.

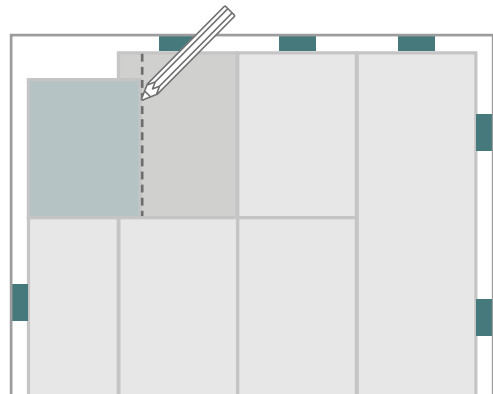
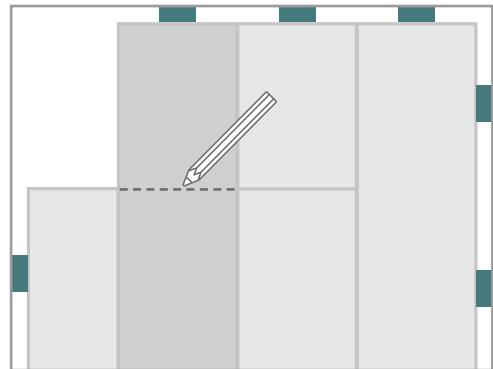
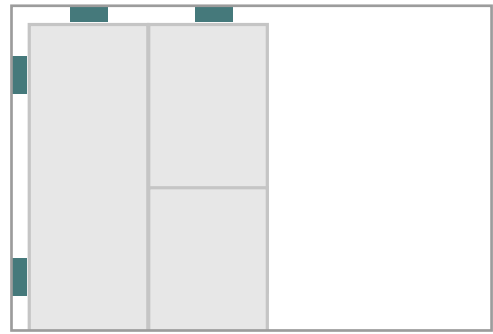
Step 9. Fitting around radiator pipes

It is likely that you'll have to cut a plank/tile to fit around radiator pipes or a fixed object in the room. To do this, lay the plank/tile in position next to the radiator pipe. Use a pencil to draw a line across the width of the plank/tile at the point where it hits the centre of the pipe.

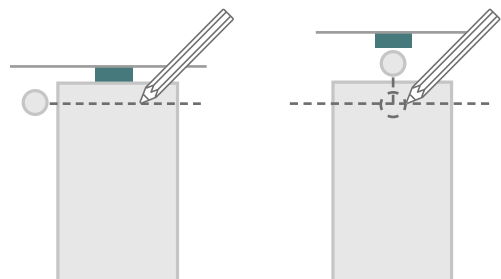
Lay the end of the plank/tile up to the pipe and mark where the centre of the pipe intersects the line that you've drawn – not forgetting to include the expansion gap at the wall. This is where you need to drill your hole using a drill and spade bit.

Mark a line from the hole to the edge of the plank/tile.

Flex the plank/tile to open the cut to slide around the pipe.



NOTE: WHEN CUTTING PLANKS/TILES ALONG THE LENGTH YOU MAY FIND IT EASIER TO USE A JIGSAW TO CUT.



TO COMPLETE YOUR PLANK OR TILE FLOOR, AND FOR AFTERCARE AND FINISHING TOUCHES, REFER TO STEPS 15 ONWARDS, PAGE 6.

Step 10. Planning your layout (herringbone)

Once you have decided which way you would like to run your herringbone pattern in the room, measure to find the centre of the room on the start wall and finish wall. If your final row results in a narrow width of the planks or tiles, you will need to cut the first row width to create a more balanced, stable finish.

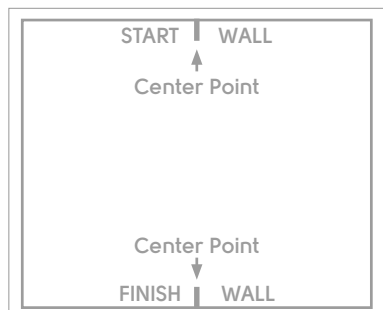


Fig. 1

Step 11. Finding your start point

Measure 54 mm (Fig 2a) from the left and right of the centre mark at both ends of the room and strike a chalk line.

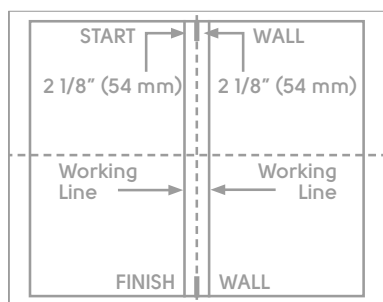


Fig. 2a

Step 12. Preparing the herringbone planks

Open several boxes of herringbone planks. The planks will be marked "A" and "B" on the back (diagram below). Separate the different planks in stacks keeping the edges the same direction (Fig 3).

Due to the high colour variation in our products, ensure you shuffle the planks in each stack to achieve a more natural look for installation.

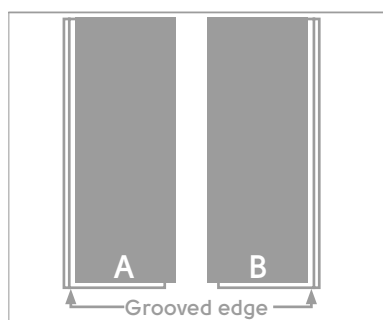


Fig. 3

Step 13. Fitting your herringbone floor

Take one "A" plank and one "B" plank and place as shown in Fig. 4a. Tilt the leading edge of plank B, slide the joint together and lay flat (Fig 4b).

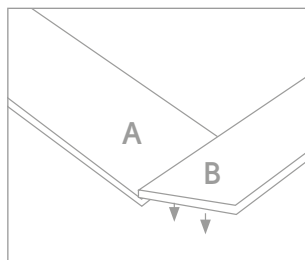


Fig. 4a

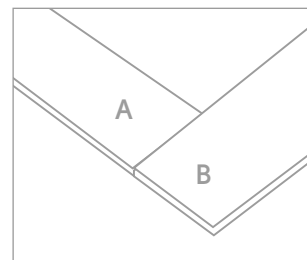


Fig. 4b

This is the starting angle. Note: 5mm spacers are required at all walls, fixed objects, or vertical abutments to allow for the minimum 5mm expansion gap.

Line up the outside corner edge of the "A" plank with the inside corner on the opposite line position (Fig 5).

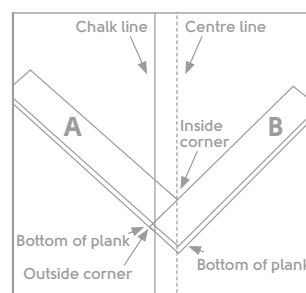


Fig. 5

Continue installing planks without cutting them, working in opposite directions. Verify that the installed planks are straight on the chalk lines. (Fig 6). Carefully tap the planks together flat on the floor.

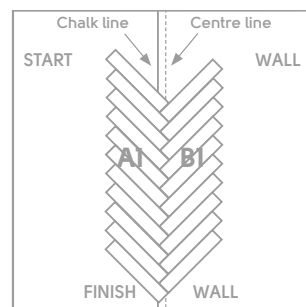


Fig. 6

To start the next row, begin at the 'finish wall' and slide the end joint of a 'B' plank into the side of an 'A' plank. Slide the 'B' plank back into the end of the 'A' plank at a slight angle until tight (Fig 7).

NOTE: IF THERE IS ANY DRIFT OFF THE CENTRE LINE, THE PRODUCT CAN BE MOVED BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE FLOOR SEE FIG 7.

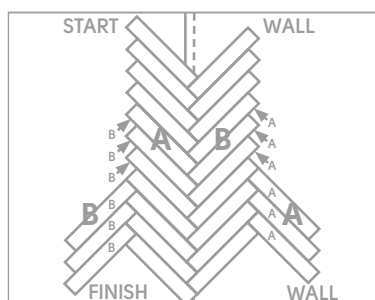


Fig. 7

Continue installing 'B' planks. Repeat on the other side of the row of original 'B' planks with the 'A' planks.

Complete the installation, using the same method whilst keeping the expansion spacers in place and the pattern square (Fig 8).

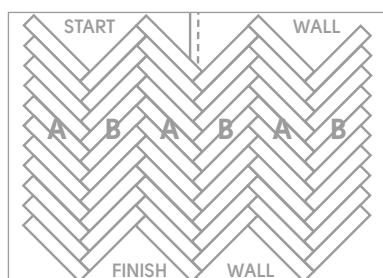


Fig. 8

Cutting and installing planks at the walls should be done as follows: Measure and mark the planks as shown in the diagram. The angle for the wall can be determined using an angle finder (see below, Fig 9).

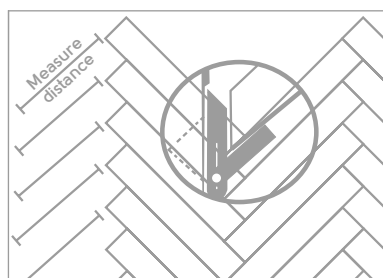
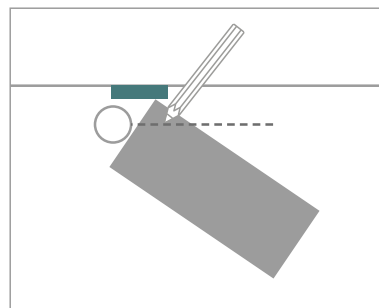


Fig. 9

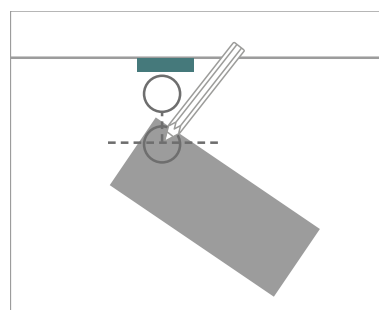
Step 14. Fitting around radiator pipes

It is likely that you'll have to cut a plank/tile to fit around radiator pipes or a fixed object in the room. To do this, lay the herringbone plank in position next to the radiator pipe. Use a pencil to draw a line across the width of the plank at the point where it hits the centre of the pipe.



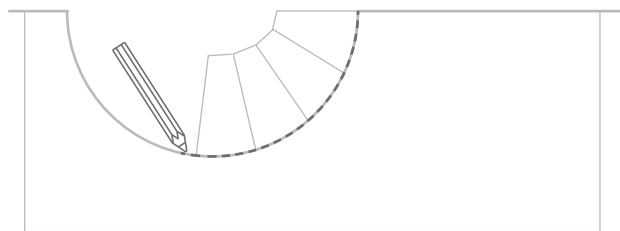
Lay the end of the plank up to the pipe and mark where the centre of the pipe intersects the line that you've drawn – not forgetting to include the expansion gap at the wall.

This is where you need to drill your hole using a drill and spade bit. Ensure you allow the hole size provides adequate expansion gap. Mark a line from the hole to the edge of the plank. Flex the plank to open the cut to slide around the pipe.



Step 15. Cutting around a circular or irregular object

Use a piece of paper which matches the size of your tile or plank, to create a template. Trace around the object using a pencil, create cuts in the paper to enable an accurate fit up against the object. Once the paper template is created, tape to your plank/tile ensuring you fit the template to the correct tongue/groove edge, and cut to shape (using a jigsaw can help with cutting curves).



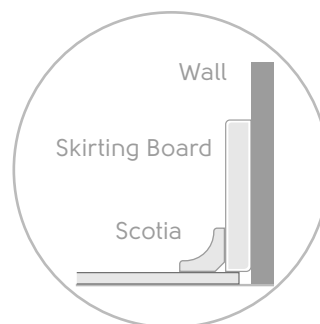
Step 16. Doorways

Where possible undercut door architrave and slot the planks or tiles into place.

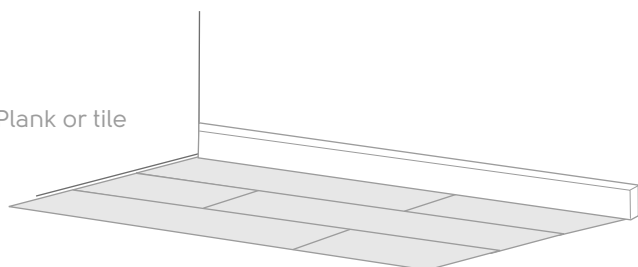
Step 17. Finishing touches

Once the floor is installed, remove the spacers and sweep the floor with a soft brush.

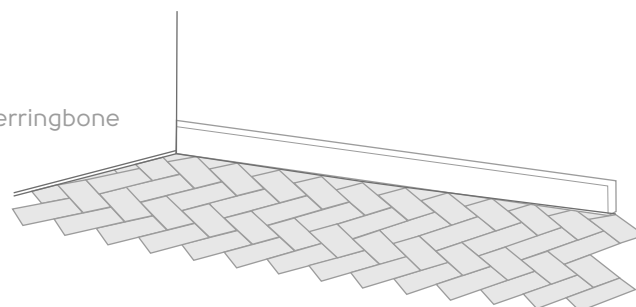
Finish your room with a skirting board and or suitable edge trim to hide the expansion gap between your floor and wall. The floor remains free to expand (see installation guidelines).



Plank or tile



Herringbone



After care

Regular cleaning with a pH neutral cleaner will help keep your floor looking its best.

Cleaning your floor helps to break up and safely remove any germs that are on the surface, in the same way as using soap for washing your hands.

1. With a soft sweeping brush, remove any loose dirt or dust.
2. Dilute the pH neutral cleaner as guided.
3. Mop the mixed solution over the entire floor, removing any excess liquid.
4. Allow your floor to dry.

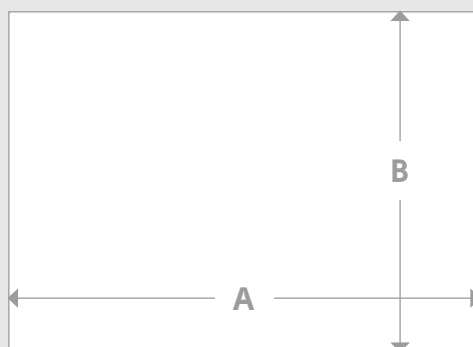
How do I calculate the amount of floor I need?

Rectangular rooms can be calculated easily by multiplying the length by the width (see example 1).

If your room isn't a standard shape, try splitting the room into separate rectangles. Calculate the area of each rectangle, then simply add these values together to reach your total room dimensions (see example 2).

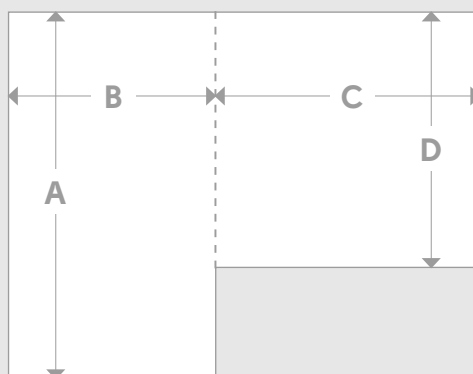
Example 1:

$$A \times B = \text{total area}$$



Example 2:

$$(A \times B) + (C \times D) = \text{total area}$$



Divide the overall measurement by the pack size to gain the number of packs required.

TIP: ADD 10% FOR WASTAGE BY MULTIPLYING YOUR FINAL FIGURE BY 1.10