Douro Dryback planks

installation instructions

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Thank you for choosing us! If you lay your new floor carefully and look after it, it will look perfect for years on end. Douro Dryback planks are suitable for indoor residential and commercial use. Please read all the instructions before laying the floor. An incorrectly laid floor will invalidate the guarantee. For specific questions, please refer to our FAQ page on our website **www.lamett.com**.

STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

Make sure that the packages are never stored upright or in damp, dusty places. Do not expose the packages to extreme temperatures (below 2 °C or above 28 °C) either whilst being stored. Always transport the packs horizontally, never upright.

BEFORE INSTALLATION

Visual inspection and batch control

Check whether the product in the package is correct and that all the packaging has the same batch number. In case of different batch numbers, mix the planks from different packages to minimise colour differences.

Do NOT install the product if it features visible defects. This product is manufactured according to high quality standards, and it is the responsibility of the installer to check the product for defects in every package before installation. If you notice defects, stop the installation straight away and contact your local sales partner. The manufacturer is not liable for products that have been installed with visible defects.

Suitability

Douro Dryback planks can be laid on properly prepared concrete, cement screed, anhydrite screed, wood, multiplex boards, particle boards and ceramic tiles.

The planks are compatible with conventional, water-based low-temperature underfloor heating/cooling systems. The surface temperature of the floor must not exceed 28 °C.

The flooring must not be installed in permanently damp rooms such as saunas or close to swimming pools. The flooring is only suitable for installation in indoor spaces, in other words not even for covered outdoor areas.

The flooring can be used anywhere in indoor spaces at temperatures from 15 to 35 °C. Avoid extreme and rapid fluctuations in this respect. If the flooring is nevertheless installed in spaces with large temperature fluctuations (e.g. by large windows with direct sunshine), a special adhesive must be used during the installation process.

Requirements of the substrate

You should be familiar with the properties of the substrate so that you know whether it meets the requirements in terms of moisture content, compressive and tensile strength and whether you must prime it, level it or apply a moisture barrier. In case of doubt, contact the supplier or the person/company responsible for installing the subfloor.

The installation must comply with the national legislation and technical standards.

Preparing the substrate

The correct preparation of the substrate is a key prerequisite for a smooth installation and an outstanding surface. Because ultimately, the finished floor covering can only look as good as the substrate on which it is laid. Any irregularities in the substrate must be corrected otherwise there will appear telegraphing after installation. That's why the substrate must be prepared with the utmost precision.
Inspect the substrate carefully. It must be smooth, clean, dry, stable and not show any signs of warping. 1

- Make sure that the subfloor is completely level. All joints with a depth of more than 1 mm and a width of more than 4 mm, indentations, deep grooves and other uneven patches in the subfloor must be filled with cement-based repair and levelling compounds.
- Existing expansion joints in the subfloor must not be filled. They must be preserved in the finished floor covering.
- Uneven patches of more than 2 mm over a length of 1 m must be levelled. Remove the uneven patches in the substrate by sanding or scraping. The same applies to uneven patches of more than 1 mm over a length of 20 cm. Use a suitable levelling compound and check with the adhesive supplier whether any priming or sealing is necessary.
- The substrate must be free of excess moisture or alkaline residues. Remove dirt, paint, varnishes, wax, oil, solvents, all foreign matter and signs of contamination.
- Do not use any products that contain petroleum, solvents or citrus oil to clean the substrate, as these will impair the bonding strength of the adhesive system. Old adhesive residues must be mechanically removed.

All preparation materials must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and in compliance with the national standards for resilient floor coverings.

If you are laying the Douro dryback planks on a wooden subfloor, first remove any existing floor covering. There must be no signs of fungal or insect infestation. Make sure that the surface is even and nail down all loose parts according to the European norm. Apply a levelling compound or install a height compensation board in order to perfectly prepare the substrate. Underlay boards made of wood must be stable, smooth and completely sandblasted/smoothed so that the grain or texture is not carried through (telegraphing). Therefore do not lay the flooring on untreated particle boards, OSB boards, multiplex boards or fibreboards.

Moisture content of the subfloor 2

The moisture content must meet the local or national standards for the installation of resilient floor coverings.

- Cement screed without underfloor heating: < 2.0 % CM
- Cement screed with underfloor heating: < 1.8 % CM
- Anhydrite screed without underfloor heating: < 0.5 % CM
- Anhydrite screed with underfloor heating: < 0.3 % CM

The screed must have a vapour barrier. If this is not integrated in the design, a liquid vapour barrier must be poured on site. The way this is executed is the responsibility of the processor, in compliance with the national standards and the manufacturer's instructions.

It is only possible to start the installation once the processor has approved the subfloor.

Acclimatisation 3

Let the vinyl planks acclimatise in the room where they are being installed, or in a space that fulfils the same requirements: at least 48 hours before installation at a temperature between 20 and 25 °C and a floor temperature of 15 °C. Lay the packages flat and spread out on the subfloor, at a distance from heating or cooling and windows with direct sunshine so that the covering can gradually acclimatise. Do not place more than 3 packages on top of each other.

These are also the ideal conditions during and after installation. Installation is not so easy at low temperatures: the planks are less flexible and more difficult to cut. At higher temperatures, although the planks are more flexible, there is a risk that they will shrink after installation and gaps will form.

STARTING THE INSTALLATION

The conditions for the acclimatisation process are also the ideal conditions during and after installation. Keep the room temperature between 20 and 25 °C and the temperature of the subfloor at 15 °C, also for the 72 hours after installation.

Underfloor heating and cooling

Douro Dryback planks can be laid on floors with conventional underfloor heating or cooling systems (i.e. embedded in at least 40 mm of screed, water-based with low temperature).

Switch the system off 24 hours before installation. 72 hours after installation you can switch the system back on, and do so in 5 °C increments every 24 hours until the desired temperature (with a maximum of 28 °C on the surface) is reached. If you switch the system on immediately with full power, the high heat development can damage the flooring and/or the adhesive.

The floor cooling system must be equipped with a control and safety system that prevents the temperature from falling below the dew point. This is the temperature at which condensation forms between the subfloor and the vinyl flooring.

The dew point temperature is not a fixed value, but instead depends on the room temperature and humidity. As a rule of thumb, the dew point is 18 °C at normal humidity (50-60 %) and a room temperature of 20-22 °C. At very high humidity, the dew point is as high as 22 °C. Under no circumstances, therefore, should you use an underfloor cooling system to actively cool a room by setting the temperature very low!

The underfloor heating must be installed in accordance with the supplier's instructions and the generally applicable rules and regulations. For further information, please consult the manufacturer or installer of the heating or cooling system.

INSTALLATION

IMPORTANT: for optimal adhesion, a water-resistant, hard acrylic adhesive is recommended or a bi-component POLYURETHANE or EPOXY ADHESIVE. Always carry out a bonding test to determine the compatibility of the adhesive with the substrate. If this is not adequate, a primer can be used to improve the adhesion.

Tools

- tape measure/ folding ruler
- chalk line or laser
- adhesive and suitable serrated spatula
- damp cloth to remove adhesive residue for water-based glues
- square edge
- knives: cutter knife and carpet knife
- rollers: heavy roller weighing at least 50 kg, hand roller for difficult to reach places

First determine the installation direction and calculate the optimal distribution of the planks across the width of the room. The last rows must not be less than 5 cm wide.

Then use a chalk line or laser to mark a straight line in the middle of the room. Then draw a second line next to the first, which amounts to exactly a multiple of the number of plank widths (and is approximately one metre wide). In this way you have determined an initial area for gluing. When applying the adhesive, bear in mind the processing time specified by the manufacturer. Pay attention to the manufacturer's instructions in this respect.

It is recommended to lay the planks dry at first.

Spread the adhesive evenly on the subfloor with the serrated spatula and pay attention to the adhesive open time specified on the packaging. Start then with a whole plank, whereby the short side rests against the wall and the long side against the measurement line.

Then lay a second plank, which you cut off to a length of at least 30 cm (with the cut side facing the wall). Cutting is simply done with the cutter knife, whereby the decor side of the plank faces upwards.

Continue in this way across the entire length. Do not use the cut parts immediately in the next row to avoid a step effect. To finish a row, cut a piece to size so that if fits well against the wall. No joint space is needed.

Press on each plank immediately with a hand roller and then use the heavy roller to press on a whole section.

Remove the excess adhesive with a damp cloth (clean water, no cleaning agent).

Seal the joint between floor and wall with elastic silicone or cover it with baseboards.

Clean the floor with a brush or vacuum cleaner after installation.

No load must be placed on the floor during the first 72 hours, so that the floor and adhesive can stabilise at a constant temperature between 20 and 25 °C. After 72 hours, even the adhesive has dried to such an extent that initial cleaning with water is possible. 4

MAINTENANCE

Good maintenance extends the lifetime of your floor. The frequency of care depends on the intensity of use, the colour of the floor and the type of finish.

Preventive care

- Place mats at the entrances to prevent dust or dirt from getting into the interior space. You will prevent scratches and dirty marks in this way.
- With regard to these mats, two comments are necessary:
  - Discolouration caused by UV light is unavoidable. Floors that are constantly underneath mats or carpets will therefore not become discoloured, but the surrounding areas no doubt will. Blinds or curtains can reduce this effect.
  - Never use mats with a rubber or latex backing. The migration of plasticisers causes stains that cannot be prevented. This also applies to all furniture with legs or feet made of rubber.
- Prevent scratches by not dragging any heavy objects or furniture across the floor. These must be lifted
- Solid particles are best removed by vacuuming. If you wipe the floor, however, do not pour an excessive amount of water onto your floor.
- Remove spilt liquids or food remains as quickly as possible. Stains are unavoidable, but they can usually be removed easily. To do so, firstly use a damp cloth with clean water. If this is not possible, use a pH-neutral cleaner for PVC floors. Avoid chemical and/or corrosive products.
- After a longer time, also depending on how much the floor is walked on or the level of dirt, the floor may look dull or scratched. In that case you can use a refresh product for vinyl floors. (Please contact our technical department for more advice). This covers up smaller scratches and refreshes the floor.

Parquetvinyl Dryback planks

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