

THE WOOD BIBLE

by LAMETT

Lamett®

PASSION FOR FLOORS!



LOVE WOOD

ABOUT LAMETT



When Lamett Europe was founded in 2004 by Bruno Descamps, the activity was limited to the import of wooden floors and laminate from Asia. Very soon they longed and dreamt of their own story, their own brand. In 2008, the brand Lamett was purchased which was one of the first laminate brands on the market in 1985. The agency was replaced by a solid company with a strong team, which now has grown into a real wooden floor specialist. In Europe there are 100 employees active, but the heart of the company is located in Deerlijk, West Flanders. Every year approximately 15 000 to 20 000 orders are sent, mostly wooden floors. The Lamett range includes budget friendly as well as sophisticated wooden floors.



Bruno Descamps
Managing Director

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WHAT IS A
WOODEN FLOOR?

WHAT IS A WOODEN FLOOR?



Parquet or a wooden floor is the collective name for all wood floors with a solid wooden top layer of at least 2.5 millimetres thick. It is a natural product and is therefore characteristic. All of our wood floors are oak floors. Oak matches every type of interior, from modern to traditional, and has a long life due to its wear resistance. The warmth of an oak wooden floor cannot be mimicked by any imitation whatsoever. Oak floor radiates conviviality and warmth.

A wooden floor is also durable, when you consider that you can intensively clean your floor yourself and also sand it up later if desired. Then your wooden floor still looks as good as new after many years.

A wooden floor is subdivided based on the composition of the planks. We have wooden floors in 3 different structures: multi-layer, 3-layer and solid wood.



TYPES OF WOODEN FLOORS

WOODEN FLOORS CONSIST OF DIFFERENT STRUCTURES AND FINISHES

1. TYPES OF STRUCTURES

A wooden floor is subdivided based on the composition of the planks.

SOLID WOODEN FLOOR

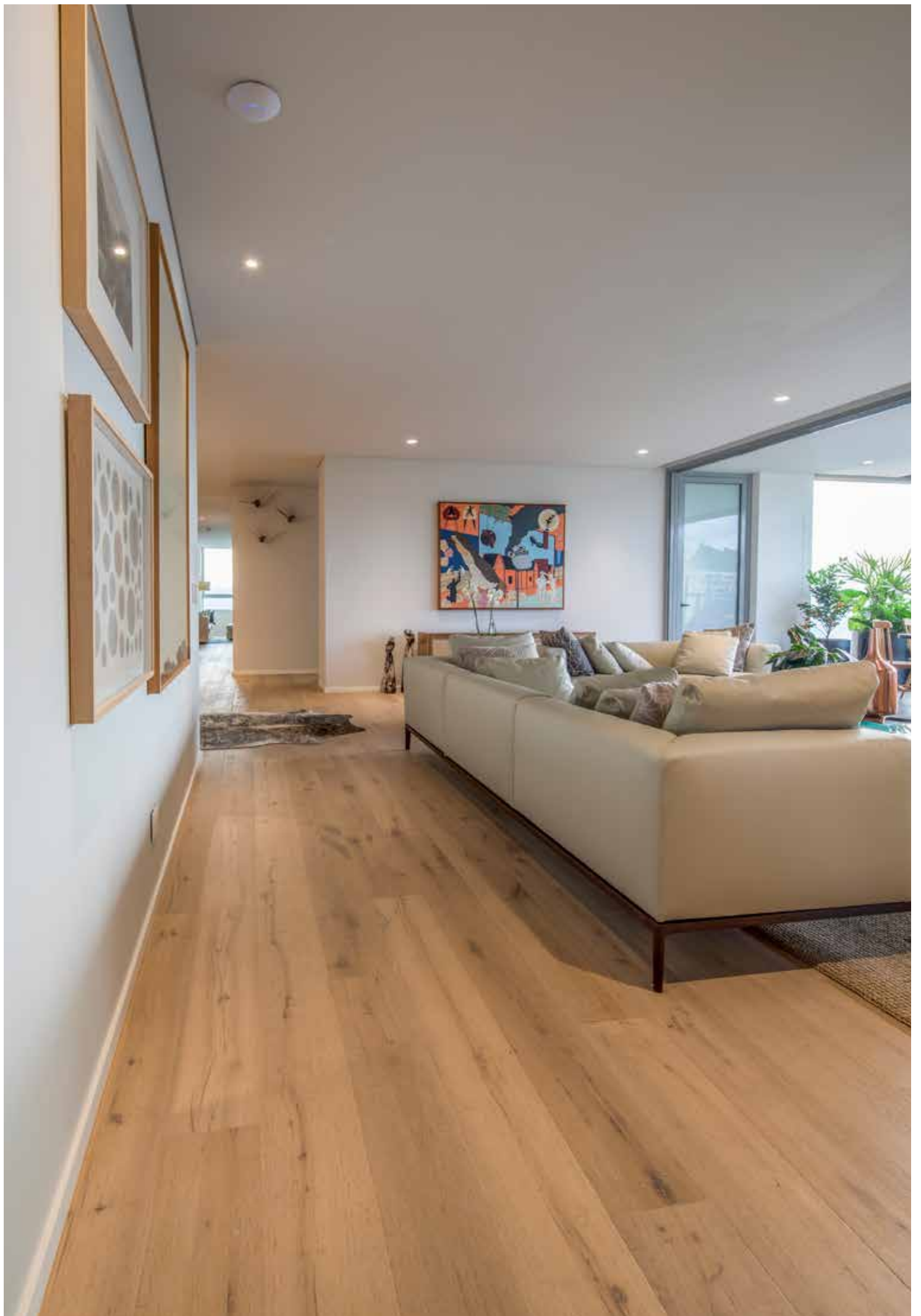


A solid wooden floor consists of a solid block of wood in which a tongue and groove have been carved. Most people think that a fully solid plank is the ultimate in wooden floors. But a solid floor is sensitive to shrinkage and expansion and will often be advised against by a wooden layer. If, however, you fully realise and accept that a solid plank 'lives' and can shrink or expand during winter and summer this is not a problem. Solid wooden floors are a very noble product.

MULTI-LAYER WOODEN FLOOR



A multi-layer wooden floor, also often called engineered wooden floor, is composed of 3 or more layers of wood affixed to one another at right angles. The top layer is made of hardwood (at Lamett oak) with a thickness of at least 2.5 mm. The layers below are also made of wood products, but then of pine or wood sheeting (e.g. plywood, pressed wood fibre (HDF), etc.). This type of floor is the solution to problems that can occur with solid wood. A multi-layered wooden floor is much more stable than a solid floor.



TYPES OF FINISHES

EACH TYPE OF FINISH HAS ITS OWN SPECIFIC PROPERTIES

1. OILED

Applying wood oil is a saturation process: the oil penetrates the wood grain until it is completely filled. This wood oil can be applied manually or by machine. A distinction is also made in the floor's drying process.



OXIDATIVE OILED (TRADITIONAL)

The application of the wood oil occurs here in the traditional manner. Each plank is oiled manually with very high quality wood oil (Rubio Monocoat or Woca oil). In order to achieve the look of an authentic oiled wooden floor, the oil is applied and then wiped away again until optimal saturation of the wood fibres is achieved. To fix the colour, the planks are placed on the drying racks for 5 days where they are allowed to dry in a completely natural manner. The result is a plank with a distinct wood grain, both in the light and the dark tints. Previously, this entire process was carried out on-site, with all of the many practical inconveniences that resulted (dust, rooms that were inaccessible for several days, ...).



UV OILED (BY MACHINE)

The oil is applied evenly with a brush or roller in the same direction as the wood fibres. After a short penetration time, this wood oil is rubbed into the wood mechanically, and the excess oil is also removed mechanically. The planks are dried in just a few seconds with UV radiation. A photo-initiator is added to the oil before use. This initiator is activated by the UV radiation. These molecules initiate the curing reaction. The planks leave the oil-processing line dry and ready to be packaged.



2. LACQUERED

By applying lacquer, a film is created on the surface of the wood which completely seals off the pores of the wood. Lamett oak is finished with a matt lacquer which mimics the appearance of an oiled wooden floor as much as possible. The lacquer is applied perpendicular to the wood grain using a roller. Several layers are applied, and each layer must dry completely before the next layer can be applied. The total thickness of this layer of lacquer determines the wear-resistance of the wooden floor.



3. SCRATCHES AND WEAR AND TEAR (see also page 41)

Whether you choose a lacquered or an oiled wooden floor, scratches will not appear immediately. The planks are too hard for this. For lacquered floors however, scratches might appear in the varnish film itself. You can fill the scratches a little with floor polish. It will be difficult to re-apply lacquer locally, because you might perceive a colour difference. Therefore it is important that the old varnish layer is sanded away completely before applying a new layer of varnish.

Scratches are easier to repair with an oiled floor. You can locally sand the surface and saturate again with oil, without colour differences.

SURFACE SCRATCHES

Most surface scratches can be repaired by applying a new layer of oil. Make sure that you use the original oil to avoid colour differences.

- First, sand the surface lightly (P120 grit). Apply a limited amount of oil to the area using a polishing block (with a white pad). Evenly distribute the oil by rubbing in the direction of the wood grain until just beyond the edge in order to avoid visible edge marks.
- All excess oil that remains on the plank must be removed immediately with kitchen paper.
- Allow to dry.

DEEP SCRATCHES

If the scratches are too deep to fill with oil, then a wood filler must be applied.

- Apply the wood filler to the scratch.
- Remove any excess wood filler after it has dried.
- Sand this area in the direction of the wood grain.
- Moisten this area slightly so that the pores of the wood open and apply a small amount of oil. See instructions above. It is possible that there will be a colour difference between the new and the old wood.



ASK ADVICE

Luc - technical advisor of Lamett

Are you looking for a new wooden floor? But you doubt between a lacquered and oiled finish? Just contact us. We would like to advise you. info@lamett.eu | +32 56 77 45 15

INSTALLATION METHODS

The following is a summary of the most common installation methods for wooden floors:

1. STRIP FLOORING

This is the most common installation method for a wooden floor and can be further subdivided into 1, 2, or 3 strips. Here the different planks are installed side by side in a row. The appearance will also differ depending on the width and the length of the planks.



2. HERRINGBONE

Herringbone is truly back in again. This ancient synchronous installation method results in a classical, yet dynamic look and fits perfectly in any contemporary home. This wooden floor consists of short rectangular planks laid in the form of a herringbone.



3. HUNGARIAN POINT

Hungarian point is often confused with the herringbone installation method. The planks are rectangular in herringbone floor. In a Hungarian point floor the planks have the form of a parallelogram. You then have one straight line when laying this wooden floor.



4. VERSAILLES

The Versailles pattern consists of a square frame with inside geometric patterns of a multiple of planks. This laying pattern perfectly matches stately country houses and traditional homes. The origins of this pattern go back to the time of Louis XIV in the palace of Versailles.



5. HIGH SIDE

High side wooden floor is very popular among architects. It is a wooden floor with small planks laid sideways. With high side, the planks can be in different lengths and different thicknesses seen from above. These floors were mainly used in industry, but are becoming increasingly popular in private homes. The unique appearance gives a specific character to your living room.



Source: www.amerhout.be

6. END GRAIN

With an end grain wooden floor, the floor consists of square or elongated blocks and not flat strips. The blocks are sawed through the wood grain so the growth rings can be seen on the surface. This makes the wooden floor a pressure-resistant and wear-resistant floor and is also ideal for industrial use.



Source: dehoutmeester.nl



GRADING DESCRIPTION

Our floors consist of different grading selections, so the appearance of the wood is in line with your interior. We have very rustic floors but also select (non-rustic) floors.

PRIME: uniform color and structure, without sapwood, without knots



1BIS: slight color and structure differences, small knots of 10mm / no cracks, no sapwood allowed



RUSTIC A: colour and structure differences, knots of 15mm, sapwood limited allowed



RUSTIC A+: colour and structure differences, filled (dead) knots up to 30 mm, sapwood allowed



RUSTIC AB: vivid colour differences, filled knots up to 30 mm

RUSTIC AB+: vivid colour differences, filled knots up to 50 mm



RUSTIC B: vivid color differences, knots and sapwood unlimited allowed



RUSTIC B+: very rustic planks

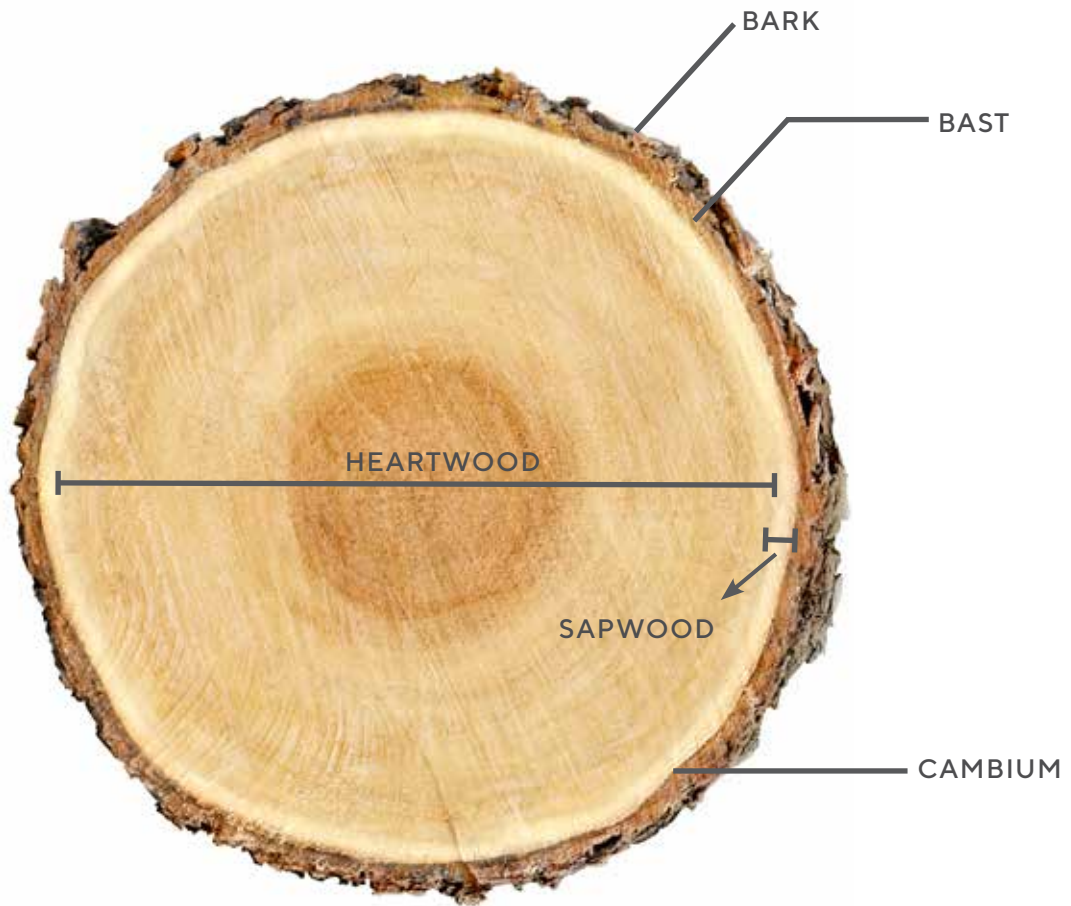


* What is sapwood?

Sapwood is the living wood in a tree. It is found between the inner bark and the heartwood of the tree. Sapwood ensures the upward sap flow and serves as a storage place for nutrients. It has exactly the same structure as heartwood, but a different chemical composition: it does not deposit the substances that protect the heartwood and is always light in colour. Depending on the growing speed of the wood type, sapwood may be more or less visible on wooden planks. A stripe with a shade lighter than the rest of the plank can then often be seen.



Sapwood



BARK: protection against external influences

BAST: transports nutrients from the air (photosynthesis causes carbon dioxide and water to be converted into sugars and oxygen under the influence of light) to the roots.

CAMBIUM: important for cell growth in the wood (cellulose). The cambium layer has an influence on the bast and the sapwood and causes growth rings.

SAPWOOD: this is the living part of the tree that consists of growth rings. The sapwood layer is very rich in water and transports nutrients from the roots to the crown.

HEARTWOOD: this is sapwood that dies on the inside and lignifies. The heart is usually darker than sapwood.

With wooden floors, one uses heartwood and with rustic floors also sapwood.

WHAT CAUSES KNOTS?

Knots are dark marks on a plank. These dark parts originate where a branch grew out of the tree. A tree is sawn into strips to form planks.



A photograph of a forest during autumn. The trees are tall and slender, with their leaves turned various shades of yellow and orange. The ground is covered in fallen leaves. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting sunlight filtering through the trees. The text is overlaid in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

25% OF A TRUNK
IS USED FOR
WOODEN FLOORS

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

A WOODEN FLOOR AND UNDERFLOOR HEATING: AN IDEAL COMBINATION

A wooden floor gives your interior extra warmth and atmosphere. Underfloor heating makes your home even more comfortable. But can you put a wooden floor on top of underfloor heating? Our customers often ask us this question.

The answer is a resounding “Yes”. A wooden floor and underfloor heating are a great combination. The floor stays in excellent condition and heating efficiency is good, as long as you take a few things into account. Below, you can find the most frequently asked questions about wooden floors and underfloor heating.



ARE ALL TYPES OF WOODEN FLOORS SUITABLE FOR UNDERFLOOR HEATING?

As a general rule, the thermal resistance of a floor covering should not exceed ca. 0.17 m²K/W. All Lamett wooden flooring are in the ideal range, between 0.07 and 0.12 m²K/W.

We do not recommend using solid wood if you want to combine underfloor heating and a wooden floor. Instead, we advise using a multilayer wood floor. This type is more stable than solid wood. It will not shrink, expand or warp as much due to changes in temperature and humidity.

A multi-layer wooden floor is made up of layers of wood which are placed perpendicular to each other. In some types, the lower layers are made from wood from conifers, and others contain boards like multiplex or fibreboard (HDF). The top layer is solid oak. This produces a very stable material, with the same attractive looks as authentic wooden planks.

ARE ALL TYPES OF FLOOR HEATING SUITABLE FOR PARQUET?

No! The surface temperature must not exceed 28°C and must not be heated or cooled too abruptly. For that reason is an installation on electric underfloor heating or infrared underfloor heating usually not suitable. Exceptions may be permitted under certain conditions.

Our floors are suitable for installation on reversible underfloor heating, provided that the surface temperature does not fall below 18°C and the difference with the room temperature does not exceed 5°C.

Water-controlled underfloor heating is the most suitable. The recommended maximum temperature in the heating pipes is 38°C and for the floor surface 28°C. The heating pipes should be covered by at least 30 mm of cement sub floor.



WHICH WOODEN FLOOR CAN I PLACE ON UNDERFLOOR HEATING?

At Lamett, you can choose from all our collections of multi-layer wooden floors. Our herringbone floor is a perfect choice for placement on underfloor heating. Whether you choose a lacquered or oiled finish, everything can be combined with underfloor heating. In other words, plenty of choice!

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF THE UNDERFLOOR HEATING FOR A WOODEN FLOOR?

The recommended maximum temperature is 38°C for the pipes and 28°C for the floor surface. Your wooden floor must not be exposed to excessive differences in temperature. For this reason, you should try to make sure that the underfloor heating stays at a constant temperature. Increase or decrease the temperature by a maximum of 2 to 3 degrees per day. The installation of your wooden floor requires a specific start-up procedure for the underfloor heating that takes several days.

HOW ENERGY EFFICIENT IS A WOODEN FLOOR ON UNDERFLOOR HEATING?

Wood on top of underfloor heating is definitely efficient enough. That is why a wooden floor and underfloor heating has been a popular match in recent years, for both new buildings and renovation projects. However, it is important that the floor is thin enough. We recommend using a maximum thickness of 15 millimetres. The thicker the floor, the longer it takes to heat the room above, and therefore the less efficient the underfloor heating.

DOES THE WOODEN FLOOR HAVE TO BE GLUED?

We prefer to always glue down the wooden floor on underfloor heating. Not necessarily to prevent the floor from warping. Rather, because a floating floor has an extra layer of air which acts as insulation, blocking the heat from the underfloor heating. This therefore has a negative effect on heating efficiency. Use good quality adhesives with good temperature stability. (Eg. Lamett Power Glue).



CAN I INSTALL A WOODEN FLOOR ON UNDERFLOOR HEATING?

It is best to leave a professional to install floors on underfloor heating. The installer is responsible for ensuring that the basic installation instructions are followed.

DOES A WOODEN FLOOR ON UNDERFLOOR HEATING REQUIRE ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE?

No, there is no need for additional maintenance. It is important when you have an oiled wooden floor that the floor is well nourished by using a suitable soap for regular maintenance.

You should always make sure that the humidity in your home is high enough when you have a wooden floor, whether or not you have underfloor heating. The ideal humidity level is between 45 and 65 per cent. As long as humidity is regulated, there is a reduced chance of expansion and shrinking, and therefore less risk of cracking.

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

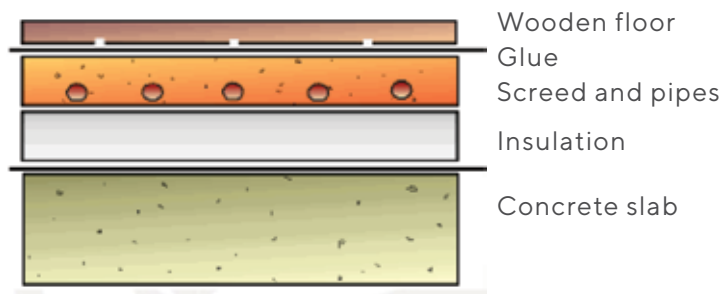
The heating pipes should be covered by at least 30 mm of cement sub floor.

Shrinkage gaps cut in the sub floor in the case of large areas must be filled with polyester, epoxy resin or the like before installation.

Careful professional installation of the sub floor (it must be solid, especially with good surface stability, etc.) is important for good quality in all types of floors.

Maximum sub floor moisture measured with the CM instrument:

- Cement (1.5% 2.3% without floor heating)
- Flow anhydrite 0.3% (0.5% without floor heating)



Before the installation of parquet

After the sub floor has essentially reached its final consistency, the heating should be run for at least 14 days. It is sufficient run the system at approx. 2/3 of the maximum flow temperature. In the middle of the pre-heating period, the heating power should be gradually turned up (max. 5°C/day) to the maximum temperature for at least 5 days. Two days prior to installation of the parquet, the heating should be turned off, or depending on the outdoor temperature, reduced until the surface temperature of the sub floor falls below approx. 20°C.

After the installation

The heating can be restarted (max. 3°C/day) the earliest 2 days after the installation. Heating or cooling should always be done gradually, also after a vacation. Sudden differences can be the cause of permanent damage to the floor. The maximum surface temperature of 28°C may not be exceeded. The humidity must remain between 45% and 65%. If necessary, keep an eye on this with an air humidity meter.

Attention! After the installation of your floor on underfloor heating, this may not be covered with materials that are not air and heat permeable. This ensures heat accumulation that can lead to irreversible damage to the floor.



RELATIVE HUMIDITY AND PARQUET

The relative humidity in the room is crucial for a healthy parquet and must be between 45 and 65%. This is to minimize the chance of distortion, crack formation or open slits. Taking this into account, gap formation is generally distributed regularly and must be tolerated.



GENERAL REMARKS

No carpets with insulating effect must be used on top of the floor as this accumulates heat.

The subject of underfloor heating can be discussed extensively. These are just basic instructions. The installation of underfloor heating is always the responsibility of the installer. In case of doubt, you can send a detailed report to us.

National recommendations may differ slightly.



ASK ADVICE

Luc - technical advisor at Lamett

Do you want more information about wooden floor and underfloor heating? Just contact us. We would like to advise you.
info@lamett.eu | +32 56 77 45 15

INSTALLATION



PREPARATION

What has to be done to a floor before you can lay a wooden floor on it? If you do not properly prepare the underlay, then you are guaranteed to encounter problems with your wooden floor later on. But first you must choose:

- Is it a new building?
- Are you removing an existing floor?
- Will you be laying a wooden floor on top of an existing floor?

FROM THE START: FLOOR BASE/SCREED

Pouring

Start properly: choose a good professional. He or she will always lay PVC sheeting first, to hold back rising damp from the ground. Even above the ground floor! In addition, ask for a reinforced screed. Then they will add a special product, or incorporate gauze to make everything even stronger. If you are considering doing this yourself, remember that pouring screed is work for skilled professionals. It has to be very smooth. It is a craft in itself.

Drying and measuring

Patience is a virtue. But how long should you wait? You can expect to wait for one week per centimetre, to 5 cm thickness, but that varies. A screed above 5 cm takes about 2 weeks per centimetre to dry. (eg a 8 cm thick screed, you can count 12 weeks). Thick screeds dry more slowly. But waiting is crucially important. For a screed without underfloor heating, there must be no more than 2.5% residual moisture. For a screed with underfloor heating, no more than 2%. You have to measure this with a moisture meter. But you are actually better off having a professional do this too.



Ventilation

Finally, make sure that the area is well ventilated. This helps speed up the drying process. But do not use a hot air blower! This will create condensation, and therefore mould. You have to open the windows. Even in the winter. You can only turn the heating on after a minimum of four weeks, but even then there must still be a draught.

REMOVING AN EXISTING FLOOR?

Then there are three possible scenarios.

- The screed is not damaged and there is foil under it: you can lay the wooden floor straight away.
- The screed is not damaged and there is not foil under it: you must apply an epoxy layer on the screed to block rising damp. After that, you can lay the wooden floor.
- The screed is damaged and there is foil under it: you have to level it. To do this, you need to use a self-levelling compound. It is a self-flowing product, but you still have to spread it with a spatula, and it dries quickly. If I were you, I would ask a professional to do this.

ON TOP OF AN EXISTING FLOOR?

This is also an option, as long as there are no loose tiles. You first have to degrease the surface properly, then roughen the floor with a diamond disc, and finally always apply an epoxy layer to block moisture from the ground. You can then lay the wooden floor normally.

ONE LAST POINT

Always check how thick your floor is going to be. Based on this, you can determine the thickness of the underlay. Basically, between 5 and 7 cm. That is thick enough to incorporate pipes. But make sure the screed is not too thick either. It would be a shame if you couldn't open the door! Try explaining that...



ASK ADVICE

Luc - technical advisor of Lamett

Do you want more information about the preparation and/or installation of your wooden floor? Just contact us. We would like to advise you. info@lamett.eu | +32 56 77 45 15

INSTALLATION

Depending on the type of wooden floor, there are several installation options.

FLOATING INSTALLATION - TONGUE & GROOVE

Wooden floors with tongue and groove can also be laid floating besides as a fully glued installation. The floor planks are then glued at the joints with water-resistant wood glue. We do however advise fully gluing a tongue and groove wooden floor. This has the advantage that there is no air layer between the wooden floor and the subfloor so this strongly reduces walking noise. A floating installation can easily be carried out without having to rely on a professional.



GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION - TONGUE & GROOVE

In a glued installation, the floor planks are affixed directly to the subfloor. This type of installation requires specific expertise; therefore, we recommend that this type of installation be carried out by a professional installer. The glue is spread over the subfloor using a glue comb, and the planks are laid on the glue. You can use a PU-adhesive. Lamett Power Glue (LPG) is a 1-component adhesive suitable for a glue down installation of wooden floors. The glue is spread over the screed.



FLOATING INSTALLATION - CLICK SYSTEM

Laying a wooden floor can be easy with a floating installation, ideal for DIY'ers. The floor planks are not affixed to the subfloor but instead are joined to one another and 'rest' on the subfloor. In this case, the oak planks are clicked together using the click system.

It is important that the subfloor is level here. In addition, it is recommended to use a subfloor that serves as moisture barrier and contact noise insulator. The ideal thickness of a subfloor is 2 to 3 mm.



GLUE DOWN INSTALLATION - CLICK SYSTEM

Our Drop-Lock floors allow to glue them as opposed to other click-through floors. We recommend that you always do this by a professional.

MY FLOOR HAS BEEN LAID. WHAT NOW?

OILED WOODEN FLOORS

The wooden floor was already oiled, but it needs another protective layer. After installation the floor needs to be cleaned with Woca Oil Conditioner.

Immediate use

You decided to install a wooden floor in your living room, for example. Nothing else needs to be done. No more painting, no more carpentry work, nothing at all. In this case, you can give the floor its first layer straight away.

First, remove the dust from the floor with a good vacuum cleaner, being sure to lower the brush on the suction nozzle. Once all the dust has been removed, you can clean the floor with the product given to you by the professional installer. This is not difficult. You fill a bucket with water, pour in the bottle of oil conditioner (or use the amounts specified by the professional installer), and mop the floor with a damp but not soaking wet mop. Then leave it to dry, and the next day you can put your furniture back, and you're finished. An important tip: put felts under the legs of your furniture.

More work to be done?

Your wooden floor has been installed, but there is still plenty to do. The kitchen still has to be fitted, the plumber is coming... Protect your wooden floor tooth and nail, and with cardboard. Lay light cardboard over the entire floor. Be sure to cover everything to prevent differences in colour. And do not use painting cardboard or plastic sheeting, because these do not let moisture escape. A wooden floor is very sensitive to moisture.

Only when all the craftsmen have left should you remove the cardboard, get to know your long-hidden floor, and you are ready to apply the first protective layer: vacuum, mop with product and water, wait, and place your furniture. With felts!



LACQUERED WOODEN FLOORS

The wooden floor that you have installed is already lacquered and ready for use. Vacuuming is sufficient. In contrast with an oiled wooden floor, you do not need to apply a protective layer. What you definitely should do, is protect your floor if craftsmen still have to come and work.

You do not need to polish until six months after installation. The principle is the same as for oiled floors, you just mix a different product with the water. The varnish layer has protected your wooden floor so far, but you will have unavoidable small scratches that cannot be seen with the naked eye. During weekly maintenance (mopping) it is possible for moisture to get under the varnish layer through these small scratches, causing it to flake. The polish makes sure that everything is nicely filled in. Lacquered floors must be given a new layer of polish every six months.





MAINTENANCE

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

A wooden floor can be vacuum cleaned and mopped as normal. Do make sure that when you vacuum, you use the brush on the suction nozzle in order to avoid scratches. And only vacuuming will not be enough. All floors get stained eventually, and you can only get rid of stains by mopping.

OILED FLOOR? NEVER MOP WITH 100% WATER!

You must never mop oiled floors with just water. That would remove the protective layer, and make your wooden floor very sensitive to stubborn stains. You should therefore add a conditioning product, Woca Natural Soap, to your mopping water. For the annual maintenance, you can use the Woca Oil Conditioner.



Woca Natural Soap



Woca Oil Conditioner

LACQUERED FLOOR?

Lacquered wooden floors can be mopped with just water. We recommend to weekly maintain the floor with Bona Wood Floor Cleaner. For an annual maintenance, use the Bona Wood Floor Polish.



Bona Wood Floor Cleaner



Bona Wood Floor Polish

ALWAYS MOP WITH LUKEWARM WATER

Wood is alive. It expands, it shrinks... and you must avoid exacerbating this process with heat or cold. Use water at room temperature.

DO NOT USE A SOAKING WET MOP

Wood absorbs, expands and bursts. Especially if it is moist. For this reason, you should never use a soaking wet mop. Make it damp enough to clean effectively, but make sure that your floor can dry quickly enough. For example, open a window. Ventilation never hurts.

PERFORM (BI)ANNUAL THOROUGH MAINTENANCE

Oiled floors must, depending on use, be treated with a maintenance oil every six to twelve months. First, simply mop as normal. Then let the floor dry, and apply the oil **WITHOUT WATER**. You can do this with a dry rag. Pour a small quantity of oil on the floor, and rub it in evenly. You will see it soak into the pores almost immediately. Allow your floor to dry for six hours, and you're finished.

Beware - Never simply throw away rags soaked in oil. This is a fire hazard. Soak them in water first, then throw them in the bin.

Lacquered floors must, depending on use, be treated with polish every six to twelve months. The varnish layer has protected your wooden floor so far, but you will have unavoidable small scratches that cannot be seen with the naked eye. During weekly maintenance (mopping) it is possible for moisture to get under the varnish layer through these small scratches, causing it to flake. The polish makes sure that everything is nicely filled in.



ORDER YOUR MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS ONLINE

On our website you can order maintenance products for both lacquered and oiled wooden floors. In addition, you can also order glue, humidifiers, etc.

WHAT ABOUT SCRATCHES?

HOW DO I REMOVE SCRATCHES FROM MY FLOOR?

Obviously, you do not want any scratches on your wooden floor. Luckily, the planks themselves are not easy to scratch. The wood is simply too hard. Usually, the scratches are in the varnish layer (on lacquered floors) or they are shiny stripes (on oiled floors).

REMOVING SCRATCHES FROM LACQUERED FLOORS

You cannot do much about scratches in the varnish layer. You can use Bona Wood Floor Polish to fill in the varnish layer a bit. Applying this to the floor every six months keeps the surface shiny for longer. Re-varnishing part of a lacquered floor is not such a good idea, because this can cause differences in colour.



SANDING PART OF AN OILED WOODEN FLOOR

With an oiled wooden floor, it is easier to remove scratches. The damaged area can simply be lightly sanded:

- Sand the damaged area lightly with fine sandpaper.
- Spray the floor, so that the pores in the wood open up.
- Apply new oil to the floor.
- Remove excess oil with a clean cloth.

SANDING AND FINISHING THE ENTIRE FLOOR

Is your wooden floor completely covered in scratches? Then you may be better off calling in a professional. He or she can sand the entire floor, apply a new layer of finish, and your floor will look as good as new!



PREVENTING SCRATCHES ON A WOODEN FLOOR

Prevention is obviously better than treatment, which is why we offer the following tips:

- Always lift furniture off the floor when moving it rather than sliding it across the floor. This is particularly important when moving heavy furniture like sofas and TV cabinets. Legs can leave behind shiny stripes, or worse still, damage the floor itself.
- Apply to felts to the underside of the legs of chairs and tables. Try to avoid using rubbers, because these contain plasticizers. If they become warm, they can leave behind black stripes.
- Try to avoid sharp objects, like cutlery, coming into contact with the floor.
- Regularly treat your floor with the recommended maintenance product. This makes your wooden floor less vulnerable to damage.



Do make sure that when you vacuum, you use the brush on the suction nozzle in order to avoid scratches.

The removal of scratches is a job that should be done carefully. Making a mistake may result in permanent damage to your floor. It is therefore better to seek professional advice first. For example, feel free to contact us.

MY WOODEN FLOOR CREAKS?

People are sometimes worried that they will get a creaky floor if they choose a wooden floor. Well, I can assure you, that fear is unfounded. If the floor is properly fitted, it will not creak.

The most important requirement for a quiet wooden floor is a good subfloor. This helps to dampen the contact noise. Do you have a creaky wooden floor? Then it is possible that your floor has been installed directly in top of wooden beams, so there is a layer of air under the floor. Noises are then not insulated and can easily be heard. A proper subfloor would solve this issue.

GLUING THE WOODEN FLOOR

The best way to get good acoustics is to glue your wooden floor. The floor will then be unable to bend or move, and will not creak. If a floating floor is installed, then there is a chance that it will generate mild contact noise. But even a floating floor should not creak too much. A crucial requirement is a flat subfloor that makes contact with the floor everywhere.



WOODEN FLOOR ON OLD FLOORBOARDS

In old homes, a wooden floor is often laid directly on top of old floorboards. If you want to prevent your floor from creaking, it is crucial that the floorboards are fixed in place and totally flat. It may help to sand the floorboards to get them nice and flat. Then glue the floor to prevent creaking.

FLOOR TOO DRY

Creaking can also be caused by excessively dry air. This is especially common during the winter. A wooden floor is at its best at 45 to 60 per cent humidity. And it is not too hard to maintain this level of humidity. Simply install a humidifier, and that's it. These humidifiers add moisture to the air, and therefore also to the floor. You can, for example, set them to turn off automatically at 40 per cent and keep working until the humidity has risen to 50 per cent.



ASK ADVICE

Luc - technical advisor of Lamett

Are you looking for a solution for your creaky wooden floor? Do you want more information about a floated or glued installation? Just contact us. We would like to advise you.
info@lamett.eu | +32 56 77 45 15

DISCOLOURED WOODEN FLOOR?

Our customers often ask us whether a wooden floor discolours, and if so, what can be done about it.

DOES A WOODEN FLOOR DISCOLOUR, AND HOW QUICKLY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

A wooden floor is a natural product, and will always discolour a bit. This mainly occurs due to UV light. The process is very slow. For example, you certainly will not notice discolouration in the first month following installation. In addition, your furniture, wall coverings and upholstery will also be affected by the sunlight. As a result, you will not experience serious discolouration of the wood. However, if you pull away a rug for example, you will see a difference.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT DISCOLOURATION OF MY WOOD FLOOR?

The less your floor is exposed to sunlight, the less it will discolour. So make sure you have good blinds. In addition, you can maintain the colour of your oiled floor by regularly, weekly for example, treating it with conditioning natural soap. This product contains a small amount of oil that is absorbed by the wood. Natural soap is available in the colours white, natural and dark.

Let us say that you have a wooden floor that is showing yellow discolouration. If you treat the floor with natural soap with a white pigment for a few weeks, the floor will turn a shade lighter. You can determine how often you do this and how large the effect will be yourself.

HOW DO I RESTORE THE COLOUR OF MY LACQUERED WOODEN FLOOR?

It is not possible to use oil to recover the colour of a lacquered floor. This is because the varnish layer seals the floor, so that nothing else can be absorbed by it. In order to change the colour of the floor, it first has to be sanded with a belt sander. After that, you can reapply varnish or oil the floor.

Be aware that sanding a wooden floor is very painstaking work. Holding the machine in one place for as little as half a second too long can immediately cause a difference in level. That is why we recommend having it done by a professional.



HOW DO I TREAT COLOUR DIFFERENCES CAUSED BY WEAR?

In places that are walked over frequently, wear can occur and cause differences in colour. You can treat these parts of the floor more heavily. First, clean the floor thoroughly with plenty of water, soap (such as Woca Intensive Cleaner) and a scrubbing brush. In this way, you remove more oil than during an ordinary maintenance session. Then, apply a new layer of oil using just your hand and a rag. Your wooden floor will look great!

WHICH TYPES OF WOODEN FLOOR DISCOLOUR THE LEAST?

All types of wooden floors darken over time due to UV light. This effect will be less noticeable on a dark brown or black wooden floor, because these contain more pigment. Discolouration is more noticeable on light coloured wooden floors. Luckily, this can easily be dealt with using natural soap. Do you want your floor to stay as light as it was when it was first installed? Then choose an oiled floor rather than a lacquered one.



WOODEN FLOOR AND PETS?

3 REASONS TO LAY A WOODEN FLOOR IF YOU HAVE A PET

You and your pet are inseparable. Naturally, you take this into account when choosing a new floor. A wooden floor is very suitable if you have a dog, cat or other pet, for the following three reasons.

HAIR DOES NOT STICK TO YOUR FLOOR

The soft fur of your cat or dog that you love so much has one drawback: the hairs get everywhere! You will want to be able to remove these from your floor easily. For this reason, avoid choosing a type of floor with aged, solid planks. These contain deep grooves and knots where dirt and hair can accumulate easily.

A new, multi-layer floor is the perfect choice. These floors do not have any deep grooves or knots where dirt can get stuck. As a result, you can easily sweep up sand and hair together. Vacuuming also works very well. Make sure you use a suction nozzle with a brush, to avoid scratching the wood. We have an extensive collection of multi-layer wooden floors with smooth surfaces that are perfect for pet owners.



STAINS ARE EASY TO REMOVE FROM A WOODEN FLOOR

Every owner of a dog, cat or other animal knows: sometimes the floor will get stained. Whether it's water from the drinking bowl, leftover animal food or a urine stain, you don't want any permanent marks on your beautiful floor! Thankfully, it is possible to prevent and remove stains from your floor.

By regularly treating your oiled floor with a conditioning natural soap, you keep the wood in good condition and maintain the protective layer. This is because natural soap contains a small amount of oil that is absorbed by the wood. Dirt and grease are then less likely to stick to the floor. Water and grease stains can easily be prevented by laying a mat under your pet's water and food bowls.

It is possible that your pet will urinate on the floor. If you immediately clean this up, then it will cause no problems. If the urine has caused a stain, then you can use neutralising agents to clean it, such as Woca Easy Neutralizer. This product is used to remove stubborn stains from oak, that have been caused by reactions with the tannic acid in the wood. Apply Woca Easy Neutralizer to the stain, let it soak in, and then wipe it off with a damp cloth. Afterwards, treat the floor with oil.



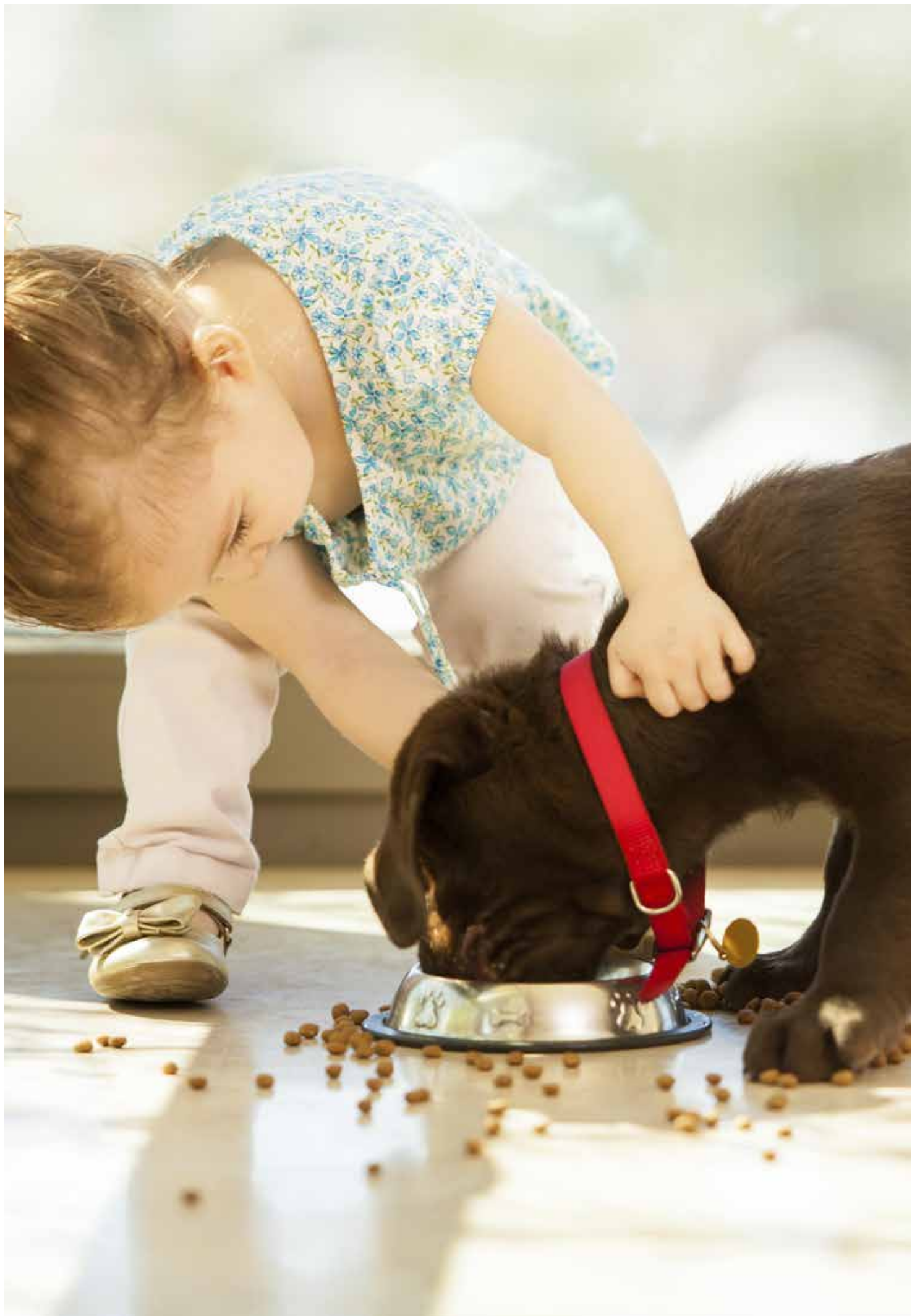
SCRATCHES ARE NO PROBLEM ON OILED FLOORS

"Won't my pet's claws scratch the floor?" An understandable concern for any pet owner. Luckily, there's no need to worry about scratches if you choose oiled wooden floor. The oil layer cannot be scratched. The wood itself is too hard for a dog or cat to scratch. Regular maintenance keeps the floor protected and in good condition.

You will only see scratches - under certain light - if you have chosen a lacquered wooden floor. This is because the varnish layer can be scratched. For this reason, we recommend that pet owners choose an oiled floor.

Your pet and a wooden floor go together perfectly

Don't let your dog or cat stop you from choosing a wooden floor! With the right maintenance, the planks will stay beautiful. If they still get stained, there are maintenance products to solve this problem. A wooden floor adds warmth to your interior, and contributes to a comfortable living environment in which you and your pet can feel right at home.



RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The relative humidity is the quantity of water proportionately present in the air. You need a hygrometer to measure the humidity. Most weather stations have a hygrometer. Too high humidity can cause mould, vermin... This can also have an influence on wooden floors.



The right relative humidity is between 45% & 65%. So it is certainly important to install the wooden floor when the humidity is between these values, and it is also important to keep an eye on this percentage after installation. A different percentage could cause the wooden floor to shrink or expand.

If the relative humidity is too low, the wood will repel moisture and shrink. This can result in irreparable cracks. If the air humidity is too high, the wood will absorb moisture so the planks will expand and lift.

Humidifiers with built-in hygrostat can be used to constantly measure the relative humidity in a space. This appliance measures the humidity in the air and will humidify the space if required by means of cold water technology.



The relative humidity can vary strongly between summer and winter (variations between 90% - 20%), so the wooden floor will expand and shrink depending on the time of the year. The most difficult period for wood is the winter. In freezing temperatures there may be extremely low humidity (down to 20%). If the spaces are then heated more, the wooden floor expels the last moisture so the planks react and can become detached from the joints.

It is important to remember that wood is a natural product with the possibility of deformation, cracks or open gaps in the joints and this must be tolerated.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Regularly measure the relative humidity. It is often necessary to place an electric air humidifier to be able to maintain sufficient relative humidity (45 to 65%). When purchasing a humidifier take account of the size of the space (cubic metres). It is recommended to place the humidifier in the middle of the space, as far as possible away from the heat source (radiator, hearth).
- Spaces not occupied in the winter must be heated to minimum of 10 °C.

A close-up photograph of a dandelion seed head in its mature, seed-dispersal stage. The seed head is a spherical cluster of many small, dark seeds, each with a long, thin, white, feathery pappus. The entire seed head is illuminated from the side by a bright sun, creating a strong rim light effect that makes the edges of the seeds and pappus appear to glow with a golden-orange light. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sky transitioning from a pale yellow near the horizon to a light blue at the top. The sun is a large, bright, glowing orb in the lower-left quadrant of the frame, partially obscured by the dandelion's stem. The overall mood is serene and natural.

THE IDEAL RELATIVE
HUMIDITY IS BETWEEN
45% AND 65%



SKIRTING BOARDS AND PROFILES

INSTALLATION SKIRTING BOARDS

Skirting boards are installed to create a nice transition between the floor and the wall. They complete the whole. The skirting boards will also cover the expansion joints. The standard skirting board thickness is 14 mm. Use quarter rounds or cover mouldings if the expansion joint is wider than 10 mm.

INSTALLATION PROFILES



Profiles are placed at door openings, at transition points to other floor coverings or level differences and at construction and expansion joints. When installing the profiles, an expansion joint of 10 mm must also be provided for on both sides.

3-IN-1 PROFILE

The 3-in-1 profile is a multi-functional veneer profile for wooden floors without visible grooves. Using the knife provided, you can very easily transform this profile in function of the required application.



Reducer profile
to bridge the transition between 2 floors of different heights.



Threshold profile
is installed when no skirting board is used, for example at the base of a flight of stairs or under a sliding glass door.



T-profile
is installed between 2 floors of equal heights or for covering an extra expansion joint.

WOODEN FLOOR VS PARQUETVINYL



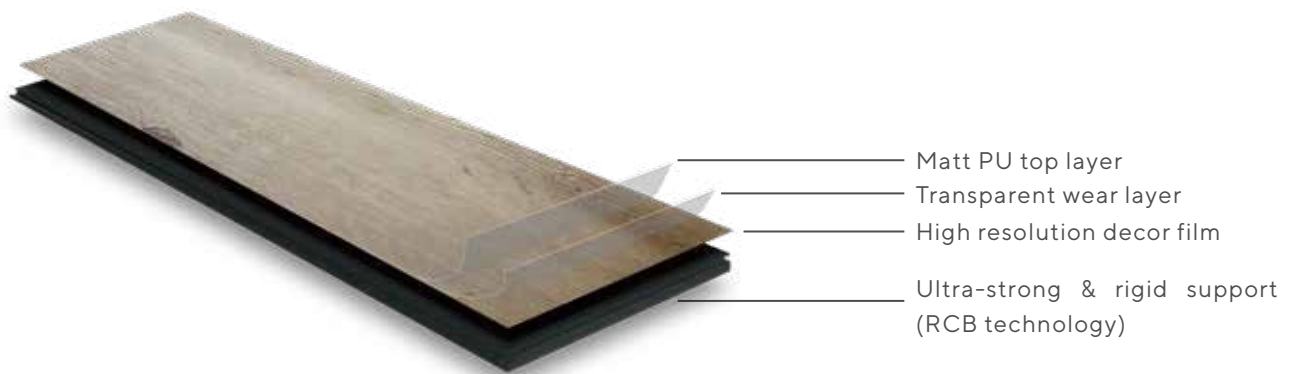
Which type of floor suits you the best: a wooden floor or ParquetVinyl? That is largely dependent on your aesthetic preferences. However, the installation method, maintenance requirements and price of the floor are also factors worth considering. In order to help you make a choice, we have put together a summary of the most important properties of these three types of floor.

Before we can start the comparison, you would probably like to know what we are talking about. A short introduction:

- A wooden floor is the name for all wood floors with a solid wooden top layer at least 2.5 millimetres thick. All of our wood floors are oak floors.



- ParquetVinyl is a floor that combines all the benefits of a wooden floor, laminate and vinyl. It looks like real wood but has the ease of maintenance and water resistance of vinyl. Due to the ultra strong and rigid support, this is a very stable floor that can be installed in any room of the house, even in humid areas. Due to the deep structure of the decor, this floor can hardly be distinguished from a wooden floor:



APPEARANCE OF A WOODEN FLOOR AND PARQUETVINYL

Naturally, when choosing a floor, you first look at what you personally think is the most attractive option. A lot of people swear by wood floors. After all, a wooden floor does look lovely, and nothing compares to the pure look of natural wood. However, ParquetVinyl has truly undergone a revolution.

When you think of ParquetVinyl, you can forget the dusty, rolled-up ‘hospital floor’. We offer high quality planks, with a structure that feels like wood, and very realistic wood patterns. It is nearly indistinguishable from the real thing!

WATER RESISTANCE

ParquetVinyl has one major advantage: it is water resistant. This means that you can install it in humid rooms like your kitchen, bathroom or cellar. In addition, ParquetVinyl can withstand direct sunlight and can be fitted in a veranda.



A wooden floor is made of wood and is therefore not water resistant. However, this does not mean that it will immediately be damaged if liquids are spilt on it. An oiled wooden floor is treated with a moisture resistant protective layer. By regularly treating your oiled floor with the right natural soap, you can keep it in good condition and well protected from moisture. A lacquered floor cannot be conditioned, only cleaned. The layer of lacquer provides protection.



INSTALLATION

When it comes to ease of installation, ParquetVinyl is the undisputed champion. You can easily lay this type of floor yourself. The planks are easy to cut with a Stanley knife, so you don't have to worry about dust. The collections have a click system for a cheap and fast installation. For a wooden floor, we usually recommend a fully glued installation, because this ensures the greatest stability and the best acoustics.



MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of ParquetVinyl is child's play. To remove dust, sand and dirt, you can use a vacuum cleaner or brush. For a more thorough clean, you can mop with plenty of water, because ParquetVinyl is 100% water resistant. Preferably, use Bona Tile & Laminate Cleaner It's clear: with ParquetVinyl, you have no more worries about the maintenance.



With a little attention, a wooden floor can be kept in perfect condition. Regularly clean the floor with a conditioning natural soap (for oiled floors) and apply oil when necessary.

ACOUSTICS

ParquetVinyl has a noise dampening effect. This type of floor is extremely quiet, especially when fully glued. The contact sound of laminate can be unpleasantly harsh or unnatural. This can be remedied by fitting a suitable subfloor. A floating wooden floor creates more 'walking noise' than a glued wooden floor, due to the layer of air between the subfloor and the wooden floor. Here, the thickness of the floor also makes a difference.



PRICING

A wooden floor is by far the most expensive type of floor to purchase, install and maintain. However, the additional expense buys you a floor that can be kept beautiful for an extraordinarily long time. You can even completely sand the floor and give it a new look. ParquetVinyl is more budget-friendly.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING

ParquetVinyl and a wooden floor can all be combined with underfloor heating. For the latter, be sure to choose a multi-layer wooden floor rather than solid planks.

DURABILITY

ParquetVinyl is exceedingly durable and hardwearing. There is a type of ParquetVinyl for any application, from residential to heavy industrial. The durability mainly depends on the thickness of the wear layer and the rigidity of the substructure.

A wooden floor also wears over time. However, as mentioned earlier, it can be sanded and reoiled or varnished, after which it is as good as new.

CONCLUSION

Your choice of floor should mainly depend on your taste. If you love the warm feel of real wood, then you should definitely treat yourself to a wooden floor. Don't avoid it just because of the maintenance; a wooden floor will stay good as new if the recommended maintenance is carried out.

Would you prefer a very low maintenance, easy and affordable floor, which looks remarkably like a wooden floor? Then ParquetVinyl is a great choice. It is easy to maintain, completely waterproof, affordable and easy to install. Come to our showroom for an introduction; you'll be pleasantly surprised by the authentic looks of our ParquetVinyl floors!

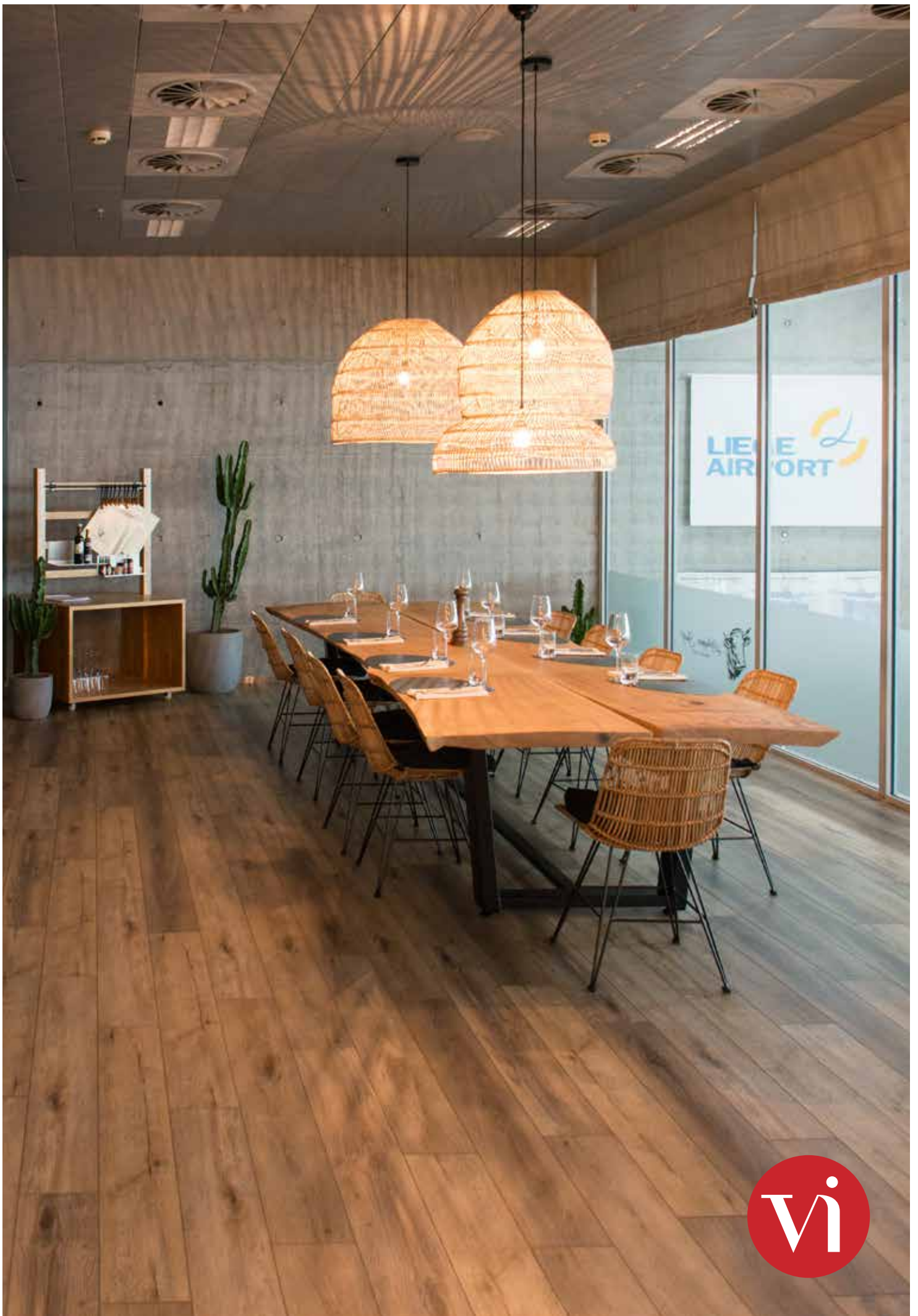
WOODEN FLOOR



PARQUETVINYL







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