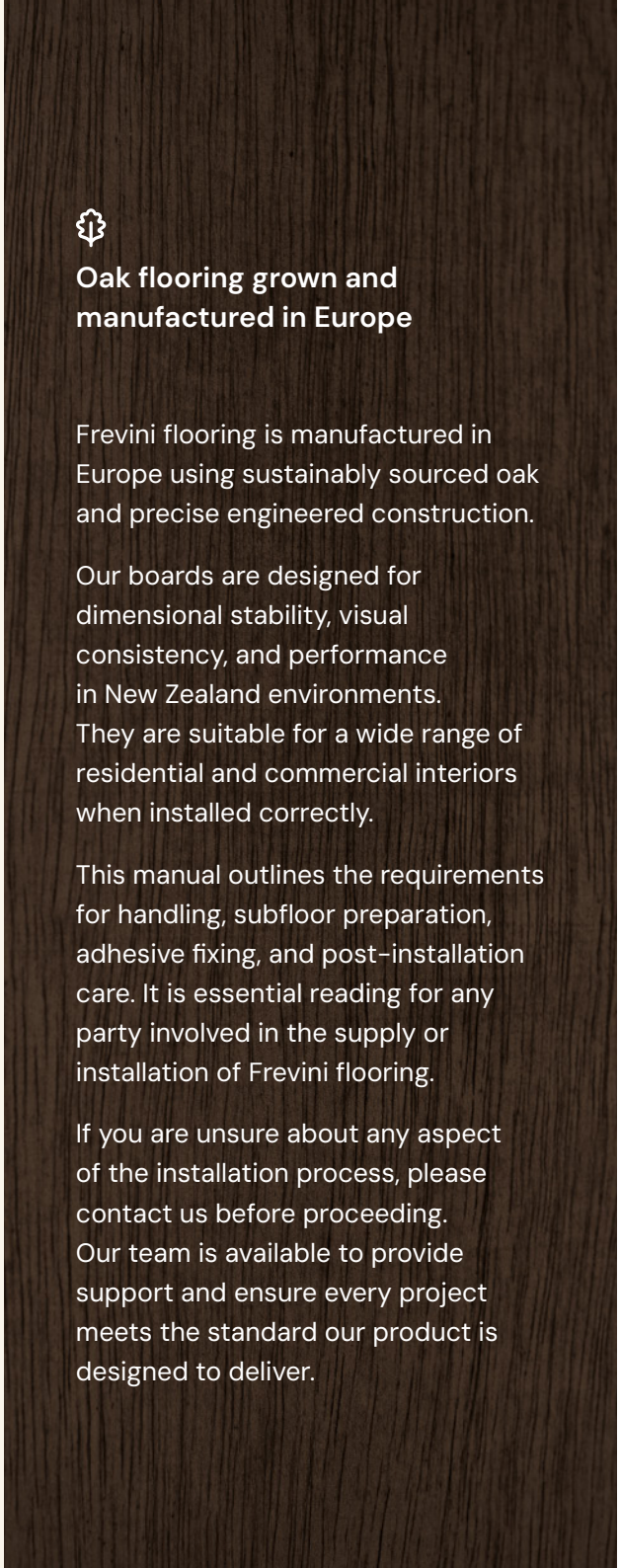
Installed to stand the test of time

FREVINI
INSTALLATION GUIDE

FREVINI
STUDIO

Thank you for choosing Frevini timber flooring. This guide has been developed to ensure our product performs to the highest standard throughout its lifetime. Whether you're an installer, designer, or builder, this document provides the critical information needed to achieve a high-quality, long-lasting result.



Oak flooring grown and manufactured in Europe

Frevini flooring is manufactured in Europe using sustainably sourced oak and precise engineered construction.

Our boards are designed for dimensional stability, visual consistency, and performance in New Zealand environments. They are suitable for a wide range of residential and commercial interiors when installed correctly.

This manual outlines the requirements for handling, subfloor preparation, adhesive fixing, and post-installation care. It is essential reading for any party involved in the supply or installation of Frevini flooring.

If you are unsure about any aspect of the installation process, please contact us before proceeding. Our team is available to provide support and ensure every project meets the standard our product is designed to deliver.

Pre-installation checks & conditions

Before installing any Frevini flooring, it's essential to confirm that the site is dry, stable, and as close as possible to its finished condition. While perfect climate control isn't always realistic on New Zealand sites, following these guidelines will help reduce the risk of movement, adhesive failure, and visible defects.

Acclimatisation requirements

Timber flooring must be acclimatised in the actual room it will be installed in for at least 48 hours before installation. The goal is to let the timber adjust to the ambient environment. Once the moisture content of the wood is around 8% (±2%) and the timber temperature matches the room, you can proceed with installation.

During the acclimatisation period:

- Keep the flooring in its original packaging.
- Store it away from walls, direct sunlight, or heat sources like radiators.
- Stack the packs on battens to allow airflow and avoid heat buildup at the bottom.

PRE-INSTALLATION CHECKS & CONDITIONS

Room conditions

Aim for conditions that reflect how the space will be lived in. Sudden shifts in temperature or moisture should be avoided during installation and in the days following. We recommend using a digital gauge to monitor the humidity and temperature level.

If site conditions are too extreme or unsettled, it's best to delay installation until stable.

The following conditions aren't strict limits but represent best practice:

Temperature: ideally 18–22°C

Relative Humidity (RH): ideally 45–65%

Site readiness

The building must be closed in with roof, windows, and doors installed.

All wet trades, concrete, screeds, plastering, tiling, and painting, must be complete and fully dry.

The installation zone must be free from standing water, active leaks, or significant construction traffic.

Separate note on underfloor heating

If underfloor heating is present, the system must be fully commissioned and cycled before Frevini flooring is delivered to site.

Refer to the Frevini Underfloor Heating Installation Guide for detailed requirements, including warm-up and cool-down protocols and allowable temperature limits.

Installer responsibilities

Visually inspect all boards before installing. Do not lay any product that is bowed, damaged, or outside of acceptable grading.

Confirm that the subfloor is dry, flat, clean, and structurally sound.

Always check the technical documentation of all adhesives, primers, moisture barriers, or levelling compounds used. Ensure they are fit for purpose and compatible with Frevini engineered timber and the site conditions.

Issues? Let us know

This is where we do things a little differently. We don't just want to avoid installation issues – we actively encourage feedback from installers on-site. Whether it's something in the product, the packaging, or the way it performs on the floor, we want to hear about it.

These insights are some of the most valuable things we can receive, and play a direct role in ensuring Frevini is most trusted manufacturer of timber flooring in New Zealand.

Moisture content & subfloor testing

Moisture is one of the most common causes of floor failure, and one of the easiest to avoid. Before any adhesive is opened or any boards are laid, moisture readings should be taken and recorded for both the subfloor and the environment.

This is not optional.

Testing Methods

- For concrete, the preferred method is in-slab RH testing using a digital hygrometer with insulated probes at the correct depth. Allow readings to stabilise before recording.
- Surface meters (e.g. pinless scanners) may be used for a preliminary check, but they are not sufficient for decision-making on their own.
- For timber, use a pin-type moisture meter with species calibration to ensure accurate readings.

If readings exceed the thresholds listed above, installation must be paused. Subfloors must meet the required moisture levels or a moisture barrier be used before Frevini flooring can be installed.

Substrate & preparation guide

All substrate preparation must be carried out in accordance with NZS AS 1884:2013 The finished surface must be clean, dry, structurally sound, and free from contaminants that could affect adhesion. The acceptable level variance of a substrate must not exceed 3 mm over a 3 m span. Any deviation outside this tolerance must be corrected using approved levelling systems before installation commences.

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Concrete

Concrete must be structurally sound, level, and free of friable areas, laitance, and surface contamination such as dust, oil, paint, curing compounds, or adhesive residues. Any weak or soft material must be mechanically removed and repaired with a high-strength cementitious compound. Laitance should be removed by grinding or shot-blasting to expose a clean, porous surface.

Check moisture content using an approved, calibrated method. Cementitious screeds must be ≤ 65% RH (≤ 2.0% CM) for direct-stick installations. If above 70% RH but below 95% RH, apply a manufacturer-approved epoxy or polyurethane moisture barrier.

Timber (new and existing)

Both new and existing timber subfloors must be structurally sound, securely fixed, and free from excessive deflection, squeaking, or movement. Repair or replace any damaged, loose, or rotted boards. Ensure all fixings are secure and that the surface is level and flat within tolerance (±3 mm over 3 m).

Check timber moisture content with a calibrated pin-type meter. Subfloor timber must be within the range recommended for the flooring being installed (generally 9–14% in NZ conditions). Any excessive moisture must be addressed before installation, for new floors, confirm the framing and sheet materials are fully acclimatised before proceeding.

Ceramic

Tiles must be sound, well-bonded, and free from cracks or hollow-sounding areas. Remove and repair any defective tiles using a high-strength patching compound. Mechanically abrade the tile surface to remove glaze and provide a key for adhesion. Thoroughly clean to remove dust, grease, or contaminants.

Primers & levelling

Apply an approved bonding primer to the prepared substrate. Where levelling is required, use a cement-based levelling compound over the primed surface to correct height differences and fill surface irregularities.

Adhesives

Install the timber flooring with approved trowel-applied, semi-rigid or flexible wood flooring adhesives compatible with the primer, moisture barrier, and/or levelling system used. Apply evenly with the correct notched trowel to ensure full coverage and continuous bond.

E3 Wet area installation compliance requirement

In accordance with NZBC Clause E3/AS1 – Alternative Solution, Frevini recommends the following installation practices to achieve compliance for wet area and splash zone applications.

Preferred substrates

- Concrete slab (on-grade) in sound, dry condition.
- 18 mm H3-treated plywood.
- H1.2-treated solid Radiata pine or Douglas fir.

Installation requirements (within 1.5 m of any sanitary fixture or appliance)

- Seal all board-to-board joins with D3 PVA adhesive.
- Seal the full perimeter of the wet area with a water-resistant silicone sealant.

Areas covered by this alternative solution

- **Single dwellings** — kitchens, laundries, WC.
- **Multi-dwellings** — kitchens, laundries *(note: sinks and tubs must have an integrated overflow with a minimum flow rate of 0.25 L/s).*

Where this is not possible

If the above guidelines cannot be followed, the best practice is to apply a waterproof membrane to the substrate prior to timber flooring installation. The membrane must be compatible with the adhesive system and installed in accordance with the membrane manufacturer's instructions.

Design layout & considerations

Client approval

Always open a pack of the flooring and show the client to confirm they are satisfied, and it meets their expectations. Ensure you have client approval on all transitions and trim/ corking colour prior to installation.

Layout

The layout of the plank or pattern direction should be signed off with the installer and customer prior to the installation taking place. Often a wooden floor looks best when it is installed the same direction as the longest dimension of the room.

Acoustic Matting

Acoustic Matting is often used to absorb and disperse sound energy in multi-level buildings. It is recommended to check the product's compatibility to ensure it is suitable underlay for direct fixed engineered floors. Always adhere to the manufacturer's installation guide.

Prior to the installing Frevini's European engineered oak floor, ensure matting is level and securely glued to the substrate. The use of acoustic matting does not negate the need for correct sub-floor preparation.

Underfloor Heating

Ensure the underfloor heating system is compatible with a direct fix engineered timber floor.

To guarantee optimal performance, complete the steps in the Frevini Underfloor Heating Guide before commencing installation.

Expansion

Due to the expansion of and contraction of timber, Frevini, recommends allowing a minimum of 5-10 mm expansion gap around the perimeter of the timber flooring area.

If tighter margins are required due to design constraints, the risk must be understood and managed. These are installer-level decisions, not to be made by default.

Ideally, all skirting boards will be removed pre-installation. If the skirting boards are unable to be removed, an allowance needs to be made to undercut them.

Other fixed items such as door jambs and existing floor coverings will need to be undercut with the expansion gap filled with flexible silicon or alternative. The timber can be finished with a C-chanel trim.

Step-by-step installation guide

1. Check subfloor compliance

Ensure the subfloor meets all Frevini preparation criteria:

- Flat within 3 mm over 3 m
- Clean, dry (less than 70% RH), and free from contaminants
- Structurally sound with no movement or deflection

2. Confirm layout direction

Establish the board direction based on room layout, light source, or design intent. Mark a reference line with chalk or laser against your starting wall.

3. Set expansion allowance

Install spacers to maintain a 4–10 mm expansion gap at all perimeters—walls, columns, and fixed joinery. Design details may call for tighter tolerances, which should be assessed by experienced installers.

4. Prepare adhesive and trowel

Use a single-component polyurethane or silane-based adhesive, depending on substrate and compatibility with sealers, primers, moisture barriers, or levelling compounds.

Select the appropriate trowel notch per adhesive specs – commonly V6 or B11 with a consumption of approximately 1000 grams per m^2. Replace worn trowels frequently.

5. Spread adhesive

Hold the trowel at 45° and spread adhesive evenly. Only cover what can be laid within the manufacturer's adhesive open time. Maintain clean, full ridges to avoid hollow spots.

6. Lay the first row

Install the first row with the tongue facing away from the wall, tightly aligned to your reference line. This row anchors the floor - check straightness and pressure carefully. Use spacers to hold expansion gaps. Ensure no gaps between boards are present.

Where the substrate is timber, a floor stapler or nailer may be used as needed to secure boards during the initial rows. This can reduce downtime while adhesive sets, particularly in long or open spaces.

7. Optional: glue tongue & groove

Where added stability is needed or where E3 requirements need to be met apply a continuous bead of PVA D3 cross-linked glue to the upper inside edge of the groove, including head joints. Ensure to:

- Avoid gaps or dotted lines—this can cause squeaking
- Wipe any excess glue immediately with a damp then dry cloth.

8. Install subsequent rows

- Stagger end joints by a minimum of 300 mm.
- Avoid repeating 'H-joints' and staircase pattern. Stagger boards naturally and vary placement.
- Use a tapping block to gently tighten joins. Never hit boards directly.

9. Ensure bond and stability

While not always required if the subfloor is properly prepared and the adhesive is used correctly, it is considered good practice to use weights or packs to hold down sections of flooring during curing, especially at ends, edges, or transition points.

10. Maintain alignment

Check rows regularly. Adjust before adhesive sets. Straight lines and tight joins are critical.

11. Allow adhesive to cure

No foot traffic or furniture for 12–24 hours, depending on adhesive used and site conditions.

12. Finishing touches

- Remove all expansion spacers/wedges
- Clean off any excess glue
- Fill any visible gaps with colour-matched filler (test first)
- Fix skirtings or trims to the wall only- never to the flooring
- Where cabinetry or fixed joinery is being installed, flooring can be run underneath if a full glue-down method has been used and movement allowances have been considered elsewhere in the room.

Floor protection & final checks

Once your Frevini floor is installed, it's essential to protect it until the project is complete. While engineered timber is designed to perform, it's still vulnerable during construction—especially from plaster dust, tool drops, and trades with no spatial awareness.

Protection during construction

- Use breathable floor protection such as foam underlay covered by MDF sheeting or protective board.
- Do not tape directly to the timber surface—use low-tack tape only on protective layers.
- Avoid using plastic films that can trap moisture or sweat the floor.
- If using scaffolding or ladders, ensure additional protection under pressure points.

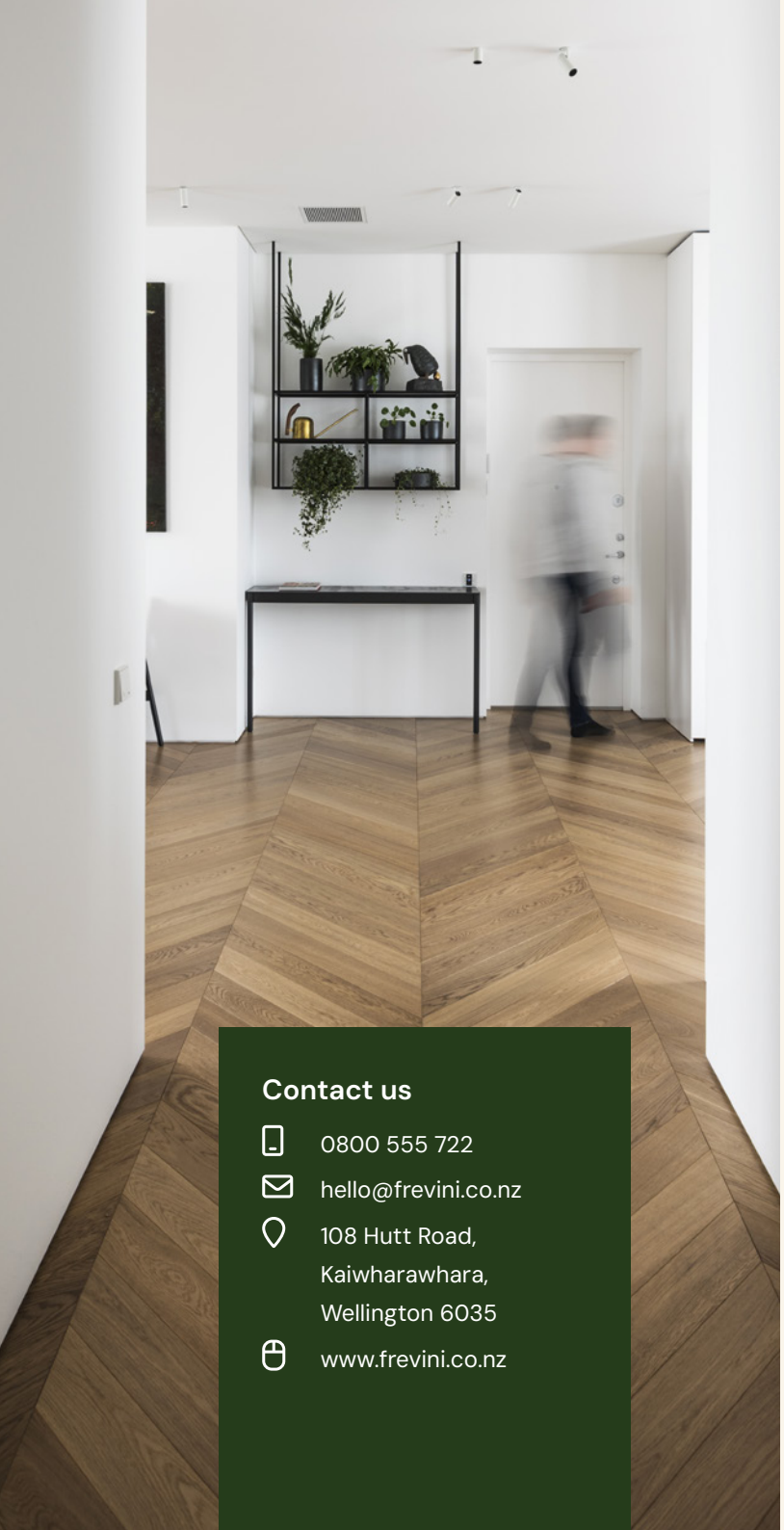
Final inspection is not optional

Before handover, carry out a detailed check of the floor. This is your best (and easiest) opportunity to catch and address small imperfections before furniture or rugs go down.

Frevini floors are made to last—but the finish and detailing matter just as much. A proper walk-through at the end makes all the difference between a good install and a great one.

Things to look for

- Minor chips or knocks from installation
- Visible pin holes or open knots that may need filler or a touch-up
- Aluminium trims still to be installed at exterior joinery or between flooring and carpet
- Expansion gaps still requiring covers or scotia
- Glue residue or marks that may have been missed.



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Final word

This guide has been created to ensure Frevini floors are installed to the highest possible standard. While much of the information may be familiar to experienced installers, we believe that clarity and consistency help achieve the best results, both for the floor and for the people who will live with it for years to come.

We're proud of the product we manufacture, but we also understand that a great floor comes down to the details - how it's handled, prepared, laid, and finished on site. That's why your role as the installer matters so much to us.

If you come across anything you think we should improve - either in this guide or in the product itself - we're always open to feedback. It's how we continue to refine what we do and remain one of the most trusted names in timber flooring.

If you have any questions, need technical support, or just want to talk through a detail—please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for choosing Frevini

frevini.co.nz