

4. It is imperative that the site is kept as close to natural living conditions as possible and the temperature and humidity should be monitored and controlled. Plaster work, paint and tiling can greatly increase the humidity within the fitting area and the installation of the floor should commence only after all all trades are completed. . Humidity levels in the air should be monitored and kept within 40%-60%RH and the room temperature should be kept within 16-24°. Portable heaters and dehumidifiers can be used to achieve these figures. Skirting boards should only be pinned in place for easy removal and can be final fixed after the floor has been installed. When fitting onto a sub floor with under floor heating, the system should be turned off at least 3 days prior to installation. The flooring should be delivered a minimum of 14 days before fitting (some manufacturers may recommend a longer period). The packs should be spread out in the room in which it is to be installed and laid on top of small batons to prevent contact with the sub-floor. Care should be taken not to leave the packs beside any strong heat sources such as heaters or direct sunlight.
5. Sub floor preparation can normally be carried out in 1 day including the application of DPM's and self leveling screeds. Areas to be treated must be cleared of all debris and declared off limits for 24 hours.
6. In order to achieve the best possible finish it would be beneficial for other trades to keep away from the installation area until the completed floor has been covered with a protective sheet.
7. After the installation, the under floor heating can be gradually brought back up to operating temperature. Room thermostats should be set at an initial temperature of 16° and increased by 0.5° - 1° per day until the correct temperature is achieved. Thermostats should never be set below 16° and above 24° and humidity levels should not be allowed to drop below 40%RH and above 60%RH (relative humidity) for longer than 48 hours as this will cause the wood to dry out and shrink or swell rapidly causing permanent damaged. Only ever make gradual adjustments to the room thermostat as rapid changes in temperature will damage the floor. If the property is to be left unoccupied for more than 48hrs the heating system should be kept running and set no lower than 16°. The timer should be set for normal daily variations acceptable in an occupied environment.

For further information, please contact Mark Sainsbury on 07757 635397.