



V4 Flooring – Underfloor Heating

These guidelines are designed to complement our flooring installation guide.

Underfloor Heating Guidelines (UFH)

All V4 flooring ranges are compatible with underfloor heating (UFH) systems when installed and managed correctly. These comprehensive guidelines outline the essential steps, precautions, and technical details required to ensure optimal performance, warranty compliance, and long-term comfort across engineered wood, cork, and SPC flooring.

Key Principles for all flooring types:

- The maximum surface temperature must not exceed 27°C, including under rugs and furniture.
- UFH systems must be fully embedded in concrete or covered with a minimum 5 mm fibre-reinforced smoothing compound (particularly important for electric systems).
- Commission UFH systems at least 2 weeks before installation to remove latent moisture.
- Use dual thermostats and floor sensors to regulate both air and floor temperatures.
- Temperature increases must be gradual (no more than 1°C per day).
- Never jump directly to high heat settings, gradual temperature changes are essential.

Environmental Conditions:

- **Room temperature:** Maintain 15–25°C year-round.
- **Relative Humidity (RH):** Keep consistent between 45%–65%.
- **Surface Temperature (including under rugs/furniture):** Must not exceed 27°C.
- Maintain conditions before, during, and after installation.
- Avoid sharp fluctuations, especially during seasonal changes.

Warning:

- Rugs or thick furniture can trap heat, causing localised overheating.
- Rapid heating or poor acclimatisation can cause shrinkage, gapping, or adhesive failure.
- Always confirm UFH compatibility with flooring and heating system manufacturers.

Pre-Installation Procedures (All Floors)

- Run UFH system for minimum 2 weeks before flooring delivery to release latent moisture.
- Turn off heating 48 hours before installation, and keep it off 48 hours after.
- Ensure site is weather-tight, heated, and ventilated.
- Moisture content limits:
 - Screeds:
 - Floating: ≤ 75% RH
 - Bonded: ≤ 65% RH
 - Timber Substrates: ≤ 11% MC
 - Apply a surface-applied DPM where required.

Post-Installation Heat-Up Schedule

- Do not restart UFH for at least 48 hours after installation.
- Increase temperature gradually by 1°C per day until reaching your desired setting.
- Never set the thermostat directly to maximum, this may cause cracking, warping, or adhesive failure.
- Monitor performance with a floor probe thermostat.

General Recommendations & Warnings

- Avoid thick or insulating rugs, these trap heat and cause surface damage.





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- Pre-handover checks: Ensure stable temperature/RH and a functional UFH system before handover.
- Thermostat control: Use programmable systems with floor sensors.
- Always follow BS 8201 (wood/cork) or BS 8203 (SPC/resilient floors) and relevant manufacturer specs.





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Electric Underfloor Heating Systems (All Floors)

- **Do not install flooring directly onto electric heating mats.**
- Mats must be:
 - Fully embedded in a fibre-reinforced smoothing compound
 - Minimum thickness: 5 mm
- Always confirm that the UFH system is:
 - Compatible with wood/SPC/cork floors
 - Approved for use under floating or bonded flooring
 - Installed according to manufacturer's recommendations





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Engineered Wood Flooring over UFH – Fully Bonded

Fully bonding with UFH is our preferred method of installation.

Fully bonded installation only.

- Use a flexible adhesive such as a Mapei S948, suitable for UFH.

Subfloor Moisture Requirements:

- Screeds: $\leq 65\%$ RH
- Timber substrates: $\leq 11\%$ MC
- If moisture levels are high, apply a surface-applied damp proof membrane (DPM).

Subfloor Preparation:

- Level: Max 3 mm variation over 2 m.
- Clean, dry, and sound surface.
- Use compatible primers and levelling compounds, per adhesive manufacturer's specification.

Expansion Gap:

- 12–15 mm around all walls, fixed objects, kitchen units, pipework, and transitions.





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Floated Installation (Over UFH-Rated Underlay)

Floated installation only.

- Float over a UFH-compatible underlay with low thermal resistance ($\leq 0.15 \text{ m}^2\text{K/W}$).
 - Underlay must be specifically rated for UFH use.
 - Include DPM where necessary.
- **Subfloor Moisture Requirements:**
 - Screed: $\leq 75\%$ RH
 - Timber: $\leq 11\%$ MC
 - If moisture levels are high, apply a surface-applied damp proof membrane (DPM).
- **Expansion Gap:**
 - 12–15 mm around all perimeters and fixed items.
- **Not suitable** over electric mats unless fully embedded.





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Cork Flooring over UFH

Installation Method:

- Use a flexible adhesive such as a Mapei S948, suitable for UFH.

Subfloor Moisture Requirements:

- Screeds: $\leq 65\%$ RH
- Timber: $\leq 11\%$ MC
- Apply a surface DPM where required.

Subfloor Prep:

- Level: Max 3 mm variation over 2 m.
- Clean, dry, and sound surface.
- Use compatible primers and levelling compounds, per adhesive manufacturer's specification.

Expansion Gap:

- 12–15 mm around all perimeters and fixed objects.





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SPC Flooring over UFH

Installation Method:

- Floating click-lock installation only.
- Must be laid over:
 - Integrated underlay

Subfloor Moisture Requirements:

- Screeds: $\leq 75\%$ RH
- Timber substrates: $\leq 11\%$ MC

Subfloor Prep:

- Level: Max 3 mm over 2 m.
- Clean, dry, and free from any contaminants.

Expansion Gap:

- 6–10 mm around all perimeters, pipework, thresholds, and fixed units.
- Do not install SPC under kitchen units or fixed furniture. Lay up to plinth line, allowing full movement of the floor.





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Expansion Gaps & Layout

Engineered Wood & Cork Flooring	12-15mm	Around all walls, units, pipework and transitions
SPC Flooring	6-10mm	Do not fix under kitchen units.

- In rooms over 12 linear metres in any direction, use expansion profiles or T-bars.
- Always break at door thresholds and between rooms.

IMPORTANT: Always consult both the flooring and UFH manufacturers to confirm compatibility. These guidelines must be followed in conjunction with:

- BS 8201 (Wood/Cork Flooring)
- BS 8203 (SPC/Resilient Flooring)
- Manufacturer-specific instructions

