

### **Fitting instructions Finesse Floor (RCB Flooring)**

**Please read the installation instructions carefully. The guarantee will not be valid if the instructions are not followed exactly.** All information is provided in good faith and reflects our current knowledge. Consequently, it may not be used against us.

#### **Acclimatisation, preparation and checks**

- Boxes must be stored 48 hours prior to installation under the same climatic conditions (temperature and humidity) as on the moment of installation [Fig. 1]. Important pre-condition for proper fitting and long-term durability of the RCB flooring is a room temperature of ca. 20°C (70°F) and a relative humidity of around 50 – 70%.
- Necessary materials and tools: polyethylene-foil (if no underlay included on the product), separation shims, knife or saw, hammer, wood block (short sides) [Fig. 2]. If necessary: joint sealing mass.
- The sub-surface that the RCB flooring will be applied to must be furnished in such a way that the RCB flooring can be installed as required by the manufacturer's instructions. Appropriate sub-surfaces are, among others, mineral substrate (such as floor screed, concrete), particle-board sheets and timber floor boards. The sub-surface must be absolutely even, dry, clean and stable. Floor irregularities measuring more than 2 mm per 1 meter (3 ¼ ft) length must be evened out by a professional [Fig. 3]. The evenness of the sub-surface can be best ascertained by means of a straight edge or a spirit level. For already-fitted or previously-worked panels, claims are not acceptable. Check the material thoroughly before fitting [Fig. 4].
- RCB flooring is installed under "floating" conditions and may not be glued, screwed, nailed, or in any other fashion fixed (e.g. by using a doorstopper) to the floor [Fig. 5]!
- Carpet flooring must be removed and is not suitable as a sub-surface for the RCB flooring. Due to the carpeting lying under the RCB flooring, problems arise when the RCB flooring is walked on because considerable pressure is exerted on the short edges. Carpet also makes installation more complicated and sometimes assembly becomes impossible. The carpet flooring must also be removed for hygienic reasons [Fig. 6].
- In the case of a wooden subfloor such as installed sheets or floorboards, no polyethylene foil may be installed.
- Prior to installing an RCB flooring without integrated subfloor, on a mineral-based substrate (concrete, screed, etc.), it is preferable that a PE-foil is put down in order to assure a better sound performance. The strips are installed about 20 cm (8 inch) overlapping one another and fixed with special adhesive tape.
- This RCB flooring is suitable for wet-rooms (e.g. bathroom or kitchen).
- Use of low temperature floor heating is only possible if the temperature at the underside of the flooring does not exceed 27°C (81°F) at any time or in any place [Fig. 7]. Any complaints and claims related to the running or installation of underfloor heating will not be accepted. Claims can be made only within the scope of our general Warranty and Guarantee Terms.
- It is recommended that the panels be sorted according to the desired pattern lines and (if necessary) colour nuances prior to installation. You should start working with packages of RCB flooring immediately after opening!

**Installation:**

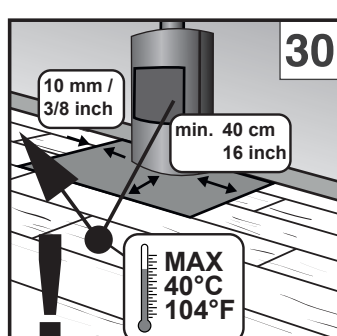
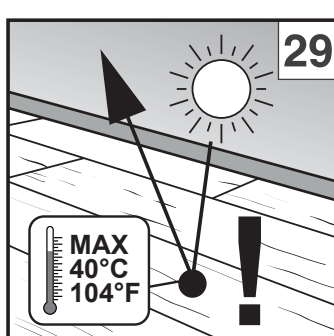
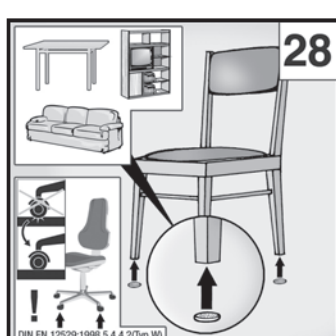
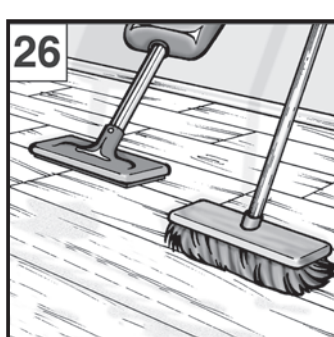
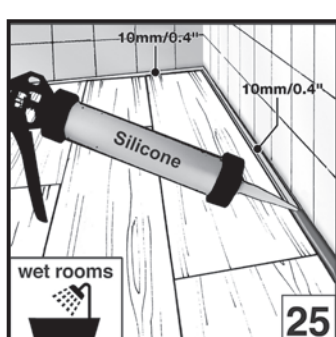
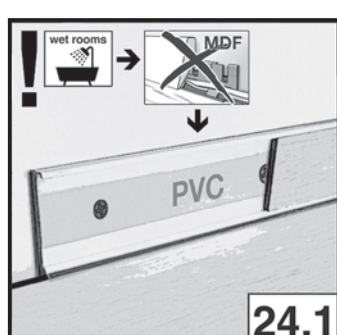
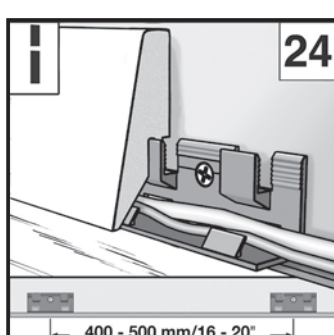
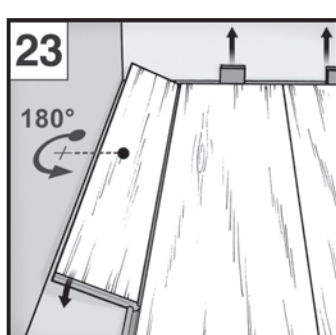
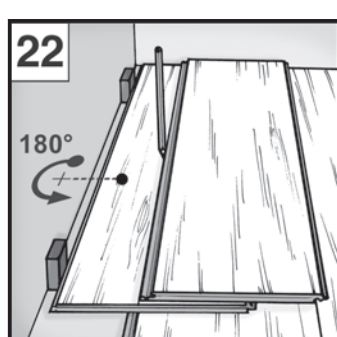
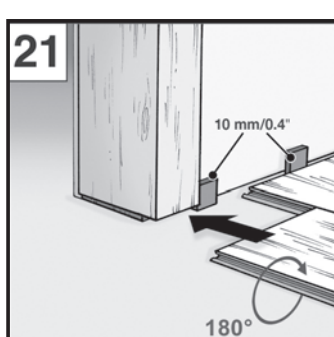
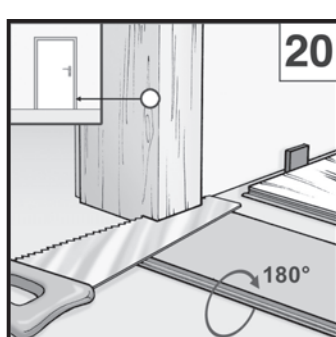
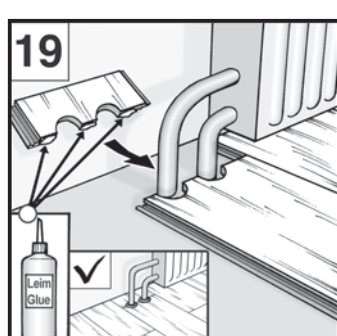
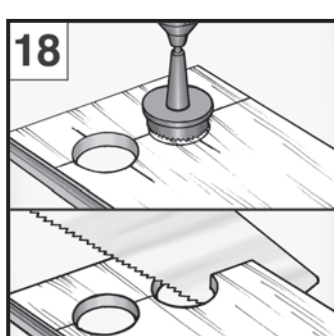
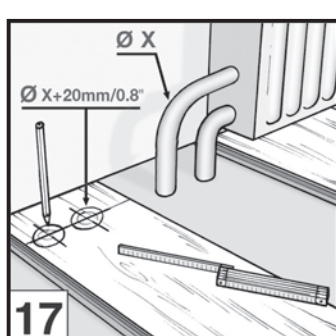
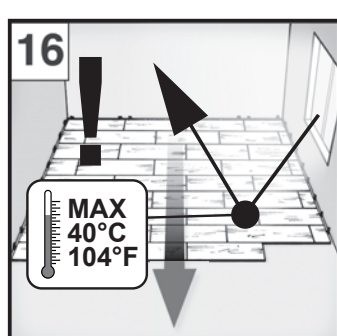
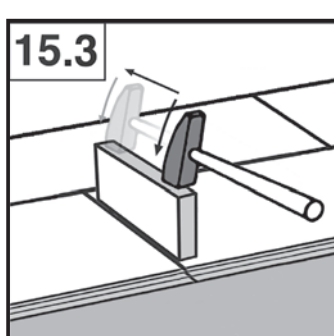
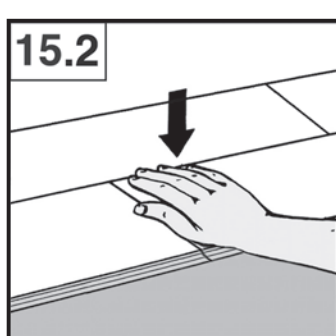
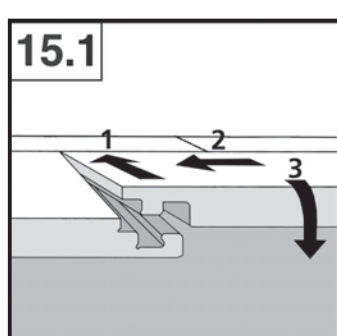
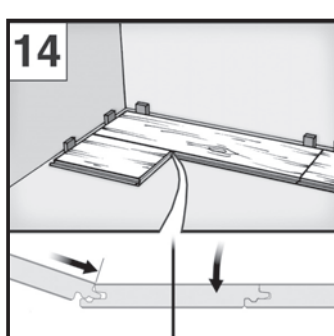
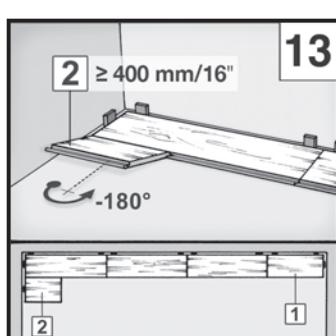
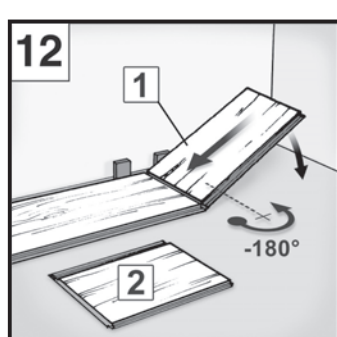
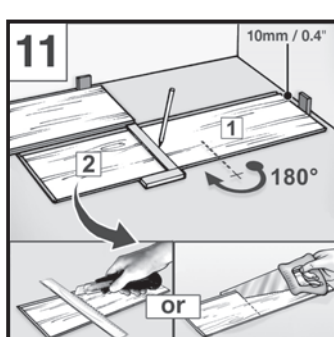
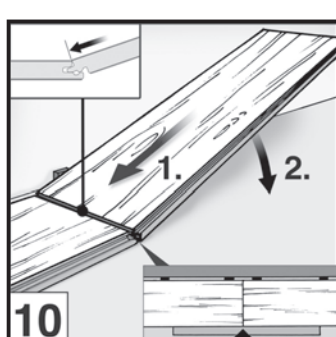
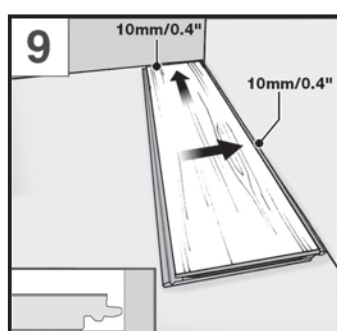
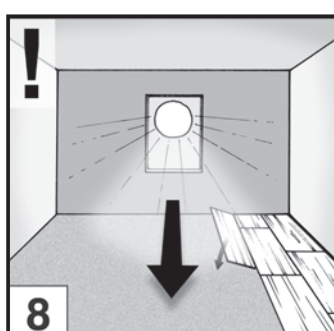
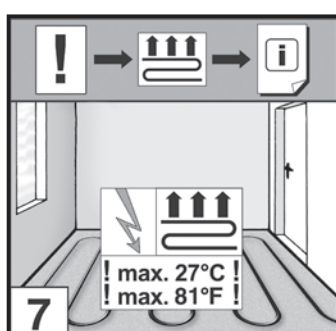
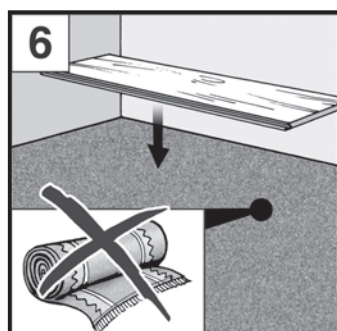
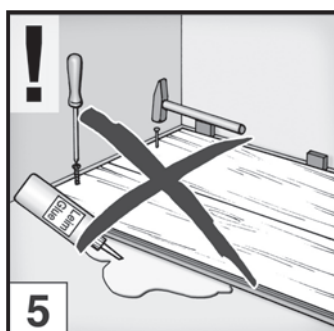
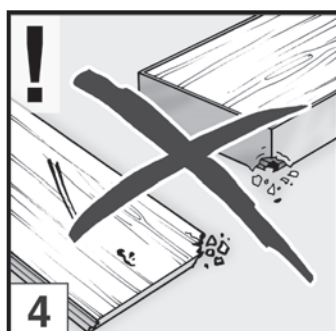
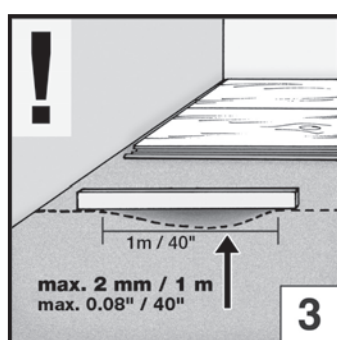
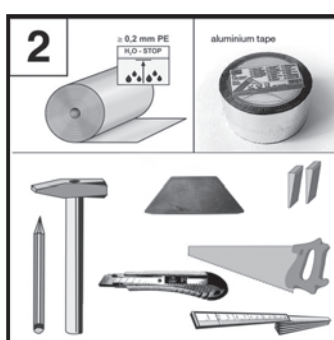
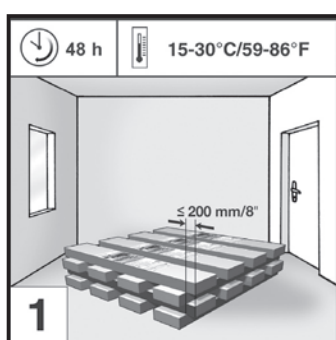
- It is recommended that you lay out the panels in the direction of the length and the source of light [Fig. 8 + 16]. For non-straight walls, you must first transfer the profile of the wall-line to the first row of panels and saw the panels accordingly. Measure, prior to installation, the spatial dimensions of the room as well. In the event that the first row of panels proves to have a width of less than 5 cm (2 inch), you must then evenly partition the remaining length (excess length) among the first and last row of panels in such a manner that both rows are cut to size with the same (symmetrical) panel-width.
- Begin your installation in the left corner of the room. Lay out the first panels with the tongue-spring side facing the wall and secure the edge separation (gap) with shims. It is important to retain a 8 – 12 mm ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) edge distance (expansion gap) from the wall, heating pipes, posts, doorstops, etc. [Fig. 9].
- Place a second panel flatly [Fig. 10] on its face in the groove profiling of the first panel from the wall and then press from above until you hear an audible click [Fig. 13, 14].
- Ensure that the facing profiles are parallel and that the longitudinal edges are in a row, not offset, and forming a straight line. This is necessary in order to be able to place the second row of panels in the longitudinal profiling without gaps. Attach the remaining panels to the end of the first row. Turn the last panel in the row [Fig. 11] by 180° for adjustment/trimming; place the decorated side up next to the existing row (groove cheek to groove cheek) on the right side of the wall.
- Take an edge distance of 8-12 mm ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) on the facing side into account. Mark and cut the panel lengths. Cut down from the top of the panel. Begin each new row with the remnants (at least 30 cm (1 ft) in length) of the previous row.
- Begin the second row with a half panel (length < 95 cm (3 1/8 ft)) or with this remnant (length > 30 cm (1 ft)) [Fig. 12, 13]. Insert the panel section length-wise in the groove profiling in the first row and lock it in place. [Fig. 14]. The transverse joint offset must be at least 30 cm (1 ft) from row to row.
- Place a second panel length-wise in the groove profiling of the panel area and push it down, then tap it in with a hammer and wooden block [Fig. 15.1, 15.2, 15.3] until you hear an audible click. In doing so, ensure that the panel is inserted and guided cleanly through the longitudinal profile.
- For installation surfaces with more than 8 meter (26 ft) length or width, and for considerably angled rooms, expansion joints (at least 2 cm (3/4 inch) wide) are necessary. This allows the floor to respectively expand or contract during climatic changes. Keep this in mind also when making overlapping installations from one room to another. In this case, the surfaces in the area of the door frame must be interrupted. Expansion joints can be properly masked with corresponding profiles.
- For heating-radiator pipes, holes that are drilled 3cm larger than the pipe diameter must be avoided. A “fitting piece” should be cut out, glued, fitted in and fixed in place with a wedge until the glue has dried [Fig. 17, 18, 19].
- Wooden doorframes should be shortened enough so that a panel with footfall sound insulation including 2 – 3 mm gap can fit underneath [Fig. 20, 21].
- After installation, remove the separation wedges.
- Then, for a perfect completion of your project, attach the baseboard onto the wall [Fig. 24, 24.1].
- For installation in a shower area, around a bath or other very damp places, a line of silicone must always be provided in the edge between the boards and the walls [Fig. 25]. The manufacturer may only guarantee that the boards themselves are waterproof. Waterproofing each joint is the installer’s responsibility and consequently the manufacturer cannot be held liable for any damage resulting from this.

### **Cleaning and Maintenance**

- Remove non-sticking dirt by sweeping or with a vacuum suitable for hard floors [Fig. 26].
- For the on-going care, use only the wiping materials recommended by the manufacturer of the RCB flooring. The following are not suitable for the treatment of RCB flooring surfaces: polish and cleanser with treatment additives such as wax, oil, etc.
- The RCB flooring may not be polished. Wipe up foot-prints and dirt with water and conventional cleaning product. Stubborn spots should be selectively cleaned and removed with a suitable cleanser spray. Do not apply additional sealant onto the RCB flooring surface.
- Attention! Protect the flooring from scratches or indentations! Use a sufficiently large dirt-magnet around the entry areas. Furniture feet made of wood, metal or plastic must be furnished with felt protectors [Fig. 28]. Office chairs with soft rollers (DIN 12529) only are to be used, or lay down a commercial quality protective matt.
- With consideration of these instructions, you will extend the longevity of your RCB flooring and be able to retain complete claim to the guarantee particulars.

### **General important information**

- The design floor is designed for use in a normal living room climate. A room temperature of 20°C (70° F) with a 40-60% relative humidity is ideal.
- The floor is not suitable for outdoor use and summer houses, nor for installation in shower cubicles, sanitary facilities with floor drains, saunas and conservatories/verandas/porches.
- Avoid direct sunlight and any possible related overheating of the surface, since there is a risk of warping. Do not install the floor near panoramic windows, sliding doors, French doors and similar in case of direct sunlight and/or ensure sufficient floor shade on hot sunny days, e.g. by means of blinds or an awning to avoid excessive floor temperatures [Fig. 29].
- Intensive sunlight can also discolour the surface in the long term [Fig. 29].
- Wood burners must not be placed on the floor. Provide a fire protection floor area (e.g. ceramic) of around 40 cm (16 inch) around the stove. Generally avoid excessive floor temperatures of more than 40°C (104°F) from heat sources (Fig. 16 + 30). If in doubt, ask your chimney sweep for details.
- Interactions with other materials (e.g. discolouration under floor mats or rugs) cannot be ruled out and are not a reason to file a complaint.



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## Disassembly:

