
top **10** KILLER FLOORING
MISTAKES

mistake

#1

Ordering floors from internet companies

Today's internet driven, get it tomorrow, pile high sell it cheap mentality has no place in the flooring industry. Internet sales are purely price driven, focusing little on quality.

We often see , when we are asked to install a customer sourced flooring, poor quality products, we see bad grading in rustic oak boards i.e. very knotty with lots of colour variation, badly machined tongues and grooves, poorly applied lacquer or oil, not enough oil etc.

As a company Floorcraft now have a policy that we will only fit flooring that we have supplied, knowing the source and quality of the products be at the highest of standards. Flooring in any guise will be the finishing touches of your home so why take a risk by saving a few pounds.

mistake

#2

Not knowing your grading

Wood floors are graded in the following way, not knowing your grading may end up with you getting a wood floor that does not suit your taste.

- A) Prime grade, no knots or pin knots only, uniform appearance, minimal sap wood, knots and colour variation.
- B) Nature grade contains sound knots, dead knots occasional sap, sound heart, quarter-sawn medullary rays (white opaque stripes) and some colour variation.
- C/D) Rustic grade as nature with filled knots some very large, shakes and splits (all filled and sound unless detailed otherwise) large colour variations and pattern variation, larger quantity of sap wood.
- E) Rustic/barn grade really an anything goes board, unfilled knots and shakes, heartwood, sap wood splits and burrs.

mistake

#3

Not damp testing before installation

Even the most resilient floor coverings can be affected by damp, the latex levelling compound under your floor can craze and crack and eventually blow, causing deviations in your floor covering. Tile adhesive can become detached from the sub floor, water based adhesives can emulsify and wood floors can bow and distort out of shape, all due to damp.

This can easily be avoided if a damp test is carried out before any floor coverings are fitted. A reading under 75% RH is considered as a pass, but be aware that most floor companies will not damp test prior to install. Floorcraft always damp test every sub floor prior to an installation of a floor covering.

DAMP TESTING METERS TO TRUST

- Tramex CME concrete encounter
- Protimeter Survey master or similar

Remember a floor does not need to look damp to be damp

mistake

#4

Failing to prepare your sub floor

Failure to prepare a sub floor properly can result in a failure of any chosen floor covering

Uneven sub floors are the biggest cause of floor failure. A simple levelling compound applied correctly can solve this problem. For a floating wood floor install levels are particularly important and need to be plus or minus 2mm over 2 meters. Bigger deviations than this will cause the floor to bounce and ultimately the tongues and grooves of the boards will eventually break off.

mistake

#5

Failing to allow time for furniture removal

Perhaps something that you wouldn't consider normally but moving furniture can be a very time consuming and tiring exercise.

Rooms need to be fully clear before carpets can be fitted, it's impossible to stretch a carpet properly with furniture present. Floorcraft always send a two man team so can therefore take care of all furniture removals for you.

We will move everything out and replace it after we have finished, we are fully insured to do this.

mistake

#6

Not factoring in space for expansion

When installing a wood floor expansion gaps need to be maintained at 10 mm at every point the floor encounters a solid surface this is particularly important where underfloor heating is present.

Failure to maintain this can result in the floor buckling up or the boards cupping or crowning (bowing though their shortest width).

All door frames need to be fully undercut to allow the expansion in this area also.

mistake

#7

Incorrect flooring selection

As much as we would all like to select exactly what suit our taste and make 'heart decisions' in reality flooring choices have to be 'head decisions'.

The wrong floor covering for your circumstance can result with premature failure or the floor not performing as well as you would have expected. Examples of this would be a wood floor installed in busy room with two small children and dogs or cats. Expecting this floor to stand the rigours of this daily abuse would be folly, the floor will pick dents and scratches in its life so may not be the most suitable decision.

The best flooring solution for this family would be an LVT wood strip or tile like Amtico or Karndean, both of these are far more resilient to daily traffic abuse.

Carpets also need careful selection, man-made carpets are more suitable for families with small children as stains are more easily removed. They are also better for those with allergies as they are resistant to carpet moths and tend to collect less in the way of dust.

mistake

#8

Not considering acclimatisation

Wood floors and vinyl's need to be acclimatised inside the room to which they are going to fitted.

Solid wood requires a full 7 to 10 days before it can be fitted (this is the same for solid herringbone blocks in any species of wood). Engineered floors require 48 hours before they are ready to fit.

Believe it or not LVT (luxury vinyl tiles) also require 24 hours to acclimatise before fitting can commence. Acclimatisation allows the product to naturally expand to the width which suits its environment.

Failure to carry this out results in vinyl tiles either separating from each other or buckling up against one another and wood floors cupping or crowning. Both will result in the floor covering failing and having to be removed and replaced

mistake

#9

Poor choice of Adhesive

There are many types available on the market for wood floors, unfortunately some flooring companies have a 'one for all policy'.

Wide oak boards cannot be stuck using a dispersion parquet adhesive as it's simply not strong enough or flexible enough.

Vinyl floors that are subject to underfloor heating or perhaps have areas that are exposed lots of sunlight (the latter is often missed by some flooring companies) need to be stuck using High Temperature adhesive.

When using HT a primer needs to be applied first as otherwise it cures very quickly resulting in a poor bond (again often not carried out by most) Glues also need to spread using the correct gauge trowel, too much glue is as bad as not enough.

Worn trowels are biggest culprit for floor de bonding, so ask to see your fitter gluing trowel before work commences

mistake # 10

Incorrect storing of materials

All wood floors are hygroscopic i.e. they absorb water from their surroundings.

If wood floors are stored in damp conditions i.e. in a garage with a leaky roof they will twist and warp out of shape. This happens even more so if the packaging is torn or ripped.

Boxes of wood flooring must be stored flat and not propped up on their end or they will distort out of shape, causing all the boards to bow. Vinyl floors are more resistant to moisture, they are however very susceptible to distortion if not stored completely flat.

Reject any boxes that are damp or torn and any that look to be bowed, if you are unsure ask to see the contents before any installation takes place.

Advice, enquiries and free estimates

Let's talk flooring **01252 763 787**

www.floorcraft.uk.com

Floorcraft is a family run business with more than 50 years' experience installing hardwood floors, vinyl floors and carpets in commercial and residential premises.

We also have a large and popular showroom with a unique atmosphere, a charming log burning stove, a TV to entertain the children and friendly staff to advise you on the best flooring solution for your needs.