

DETAILED INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

These installation instructions complement the instructions supplied with each floor. They contain clarifications, details, and examples. The installation instructions apply to Golvabia's floors Lightwood, Maxwood, and Maxwear.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE INSTALLATION

General

The relative humidity should be between 30–60% and the temperature at least 18°C before, during, and after installation. If construction moisture is present, the building must be heated and ventilated well in advance so that the correct indoor climate is achieved.

Storage of the Flooring

Before installation, the flooring must reach a temperature of 18°C. Packaging should be opened only as needed during installation.

Material Inspection

Before and during installation, check that all boards are free from visible defects and damage, including colour, appearance, and fit. Ensure that the lighting conditions match those intended for the final environment. We will of course replace defective products, but costs for replacing boards already installed are the responsibility of the installer.

Subfloor

The subfloor must be dry, clean, and level. The finished floor will only be as good as the subfloor allows. Deflection is generally caused by unevenness in the subfloor.

The following requirements on the subfloor apply, generally recommended by all flooring manufacturers:

Over a measurement length of 2 m: tolerance ± 3 mm

Over a measurement length of 0.25 m: tolerance ± 1.2 mm

Evaluate case-by-case how critical a deviation is. Unevenness in frequently used areas is more problematic than deviations near walls or corners.

Underlay

We recommend grey felt paper, cork, or 2 mm foam ($C_s > 20$ kPa) beneath our floors. For a premium result, a higher-grade underlay such as 2 mm cork is recommended due to better acoustic and structural properties.

Other underlay materials should be tested according to SS-EN16354 and meet the following compression strength (C_s) requirements:

Thickness ≤ 2 mm: $C_s \geq 60$ kPa ($C_s \geq 20$ kPa in residential use)

Thickness > 2 mm: $C_s \geq 200$ kPa

Moisture Barrier

A moisture barrier must always be used if there is any risk of moisture coming from the subfloor. It must be installed over concrete slabs on ground level, lightweight concrete, floors above damp/warm rooms (boiler rooms, laundry rooms, etc.), above underfloor heating, and over crawlspaces.

The barrier must comply with IQD128 or SINTEF requirements and be 0.1–0.2 mm PE or equivalent.

Underfloor Heating

Golvabia floors are compatible with underfloor heating. The maximum allowed surface temperature is 27°C, including under rugs and furniture. The heating system must provide an even surface temperature across the entire floor.

Electric underfloor heating can be difficult to regulate and may overheat certain areas, so it is not generally recommended.

Be cautious with rugs, poufs, and objects that insulate and cause excessive heat buildup.

A moisture barrier must always be used above underfloor heating, placed directly beneath the floor.

Floors with a top layer of beech or maple must not be installed over underfloor heating.

Refer to separate guidelines under "Frequently Asked Questions" on our website.

Fixed Furnishings and Installations

No furnishings, kitchen islands, walls, trims, or similar may be attached to the flooring when installed as a floating floor. Install all fixed furnishings first, then lay the floor with sufficient expansion gaps around them.

Heavy furnishings can also affect how the floor moves and must be considered.

Wood-burning stoves should not be placed on top of the floor, as their weight can restrict movement. If installed afterwards, a movement gap must be routed beneath the hearth plate to allow free movement.

Expansion Gaps

Seasonal humidity changes cause natural movement in wood flooring. Dry air (winter): the floor shrinks. Humid air (summer): the floor expands

Expansion gaps must be installed around walls, door frames, thresholds, radiator pipes, stairs, adjoining floors, etc. The winter shrinkage must be covered by the skirting.

Recommended expansion gap: 1.0 mm per meter of flooring, and never less than 8 mm.

Skirting boards should be at least 1.5 × the expansion gap in width to cover floor movement.

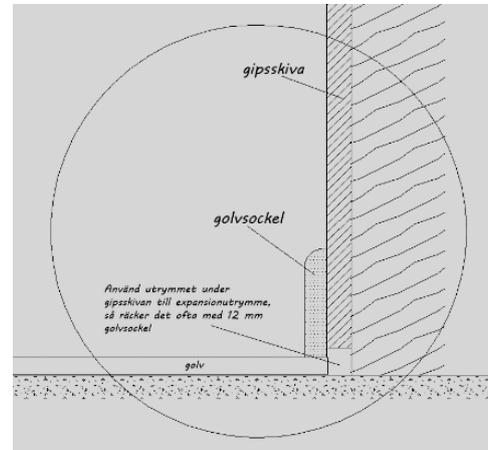
Tip: In large rooms, let the plasterboard end approx. 15 mm above the subfloor so the floor can move underneath. This allows for a large expansion gap without needing a wide skirting board.

We normally recommend a maximum floor area of 12 x 8 metres (L x W). Larger areas, up to 20 x 20 metres, may be accepted provided that the floor is rectangular and that sufficient freedom of movement can be ensured.

When installing floating floors in non-rectangular or more complex spaces, there is a risk that the floor's movement may be restricted, which can lead to cracking or other issues. This applies particularly in:

- Multiple connected rooms with door openings or arches
- Open-plan layouts with interconnected areas
- L-, T-, or U-shaped rooms
- Long corridors with adjoining side areas

To avoid problems, it is recommended that expansion joints be installed between rooms and in strategic locations. Please consult a professional if in doubt



THINGS TO CONSIDER DURING INSTALLATION

Joining the Click System

Golvabia floors use a modern 5G click system that should snap together easily without force.

Avoid striking or using strong pressure, as this may damage the floor.

If boards are difficult to join, check for debris in the joint or other obstructions.

The floor must not be installed while standing up and pushed together with the foot.

Doorways and Arches

When installing through doorways or arches, the floor must be provided with an expansion gap in the opening.

Staggering End Joints

Always stagger end joints by 300–400 mm between rows.

This strengthens the joints and reduces the risk of the floor lifting during high humidity.

Last Row

Plan the installation so the last row is at least 50 mm wide.

Use glue on the end joints of narrow pieces where the click system cannot fully function.

The same applies to the first row if it is also narrowed.

THINGS TO CONSIDER AFTER INSTALLATION

Installation of Skirting Boards and Trims

Skirting boards must not be pressed tightly against the floor, as this can restrict movement.

They must be adapted to the size of the expansion gap.

Do not screw trims so tightly that they restrict movement. Ensure no screws penetrate the flooring and that sufficient expansion space remains under the trim. If skirting boards, mouldings, or architraves are painted or wallpapered and cannot be removed without being damaged or affecting the wall, Golvia will not cover any additional costs for labour or materials in connection with a warranty claim relating to the floor.

Floor Protection

If the floor is covered for protection after installation, use breathable material that will not discolour the surface. Do not use tape directly on the floor, as it may damage the finish.

Kitchen appliances often have small hard wheels that can leave marks through simple protection paper. Use stronger protection such as masonite when rolling appliances in or out.

Doormats

Dirt causes wear and damage to wood floors.

By placing a scraper mat outside the entrance and an absorbent mat inside, you reduce dirt and grit that cause scratches and damage.

Other Considerations

Pets, such as dogs, may cause scratches on wood floors. Sharp objects may also cause damage.

The color of wood flooring changes when exposed to daylight—this is a natural characteristic of wood.