



**tilo**

macht den Boden.

**powerFIX**  
floating installation,  
suitable for dry areas



**INSTALLATION  
GUIDELINES**

[www.tilo.com](http://www.tilo.com)





# Preface

Thank you for choosing high-quality flooring products from tilo. All of our products undergo thorough quality control checks and meet high standards of quality.

These installation guidelines provide important information and tips to ensure that the floor is installed correctly. Read each step carefully. tilo can only honour the relevant warranties if the flooring has been installed correctly.

## **Differences between tilo installation guidelines**

tilo installation guidelines differ depending on the installation system they describe (powerFIX, tiloFIX, simpleFIX, tongue and groove), the type of installation (floating or full-spread gluing) and the area of application (dry locations or damp locations). Please check whether these installation guidelines are correct for your floor as well as the installation system, the type of installation and the area of application. More information can be found on our website [www.tilo.com](http://www.tilo.com).

## **Rooms with large windows**

Please note that in rooms large windows in particular, changes in colour caused by UV light cannot be ruled out completely and are therefore product-specific. Shading may be necessary

# Before you start

These guidelines describe a floating installation of the powerFIX installation system. Products installed in this manner are laid on top of the subfloor without being affixed to it. A gap is left along each edge of the floor to allow for expansion and shrinkage caused by the climatic conditions. Heavy furniture and fixed installations must not impede floor's ability to "float".

## Area of application

Suitable for living spaces with an average indoor climate with 40 to 60 % relative humidity and between 16 and 24° C. Not suitable for damp locations and wet locations.

## Points to note before installation

We recommend that installation is carried out by an appropriately trained professional. Only a professional is able to sufficiently assess the readiness for installation of the subsurface and, in particular, the physical structure of the construction and its environment. Professional installers are familiar with the rules of the trade and the standards that must be complied with for successful installation.

Prior to installation, the product should be inspected for possible defects in adequate light conditions. Any subsequent damage caused by installing a product with errors that could have been identified beforehand will not qualify for compensation. Small variations in colour and texture are a characteristic feature of the wood and are unavoidable.

Installation requires a small amount of force. Connections may be damaged if installation is not performed properly.

## Points to note before installation 2

We recommend that the product is stored, unopened, in the rooms in which it will be installed (at a temperature between 18 and 24° C) for as long as possible, until complete acclimatisation has taken place. 48 hours is usually sufficient for temperature equalisation. Humidity equalisation can take considerably longer, however.

The product should only be installed in rooms in which floor surface temperatures are maintained at between 18° C and 29° C and relative air humidity is maintained at between 40 to 60 % in order to avoid excessive swelling and shrinkage of the materials. The ideal climate is 20° C with 50 % relative air humidity.

Please ensure that all structural tasks have been completed before the installation. Dust and construction waste may damage the product. In particular, ensure that all work that could introduce moisture (e.g. painting) is completed.

## Humidity

The relative air humidity should be between 40 % and 60 %. During the heating period, particularly in the event of excessive surface temperature or insufficient relative air humidity, gaps may appear between the individual elements.

## Polyethylene foil

Always install at least 0.2 mm thick polyethylene foil, with vapour barrier properties, under the flooring elements. This foil not only protects against moisture but also, most importantly, creates a smooth surface to enable unimpeded floating of the floor. The strips must overlap by at least 20 cm. Better still, seal the edges against moisture with an adhesive tape. Pull the foil approx. 3 cm up the walls.

## Cork roll, Duogard

When using products without integrated impact sound insulation, appropriate impact sound insulation must be installed. We recommend tilo cork roll (2 mm) or tilo Duogard+ (2.2 mm). tilo Duogard+ combines impact sound insulation with an integrated moisture barrier - installing a polyethylene foil is therefore not necessary in this case. Underlay that is too soft must not be used.

## Expansion joints

We recommend discussing the need for and the positioning of the required expansion joints (large surface areas, oddly shaped rooms, unusual construction conditions, etc.) with an appropriately trained professional. Any expansion joints can be covered using suitable coverings.

Expansion joints determined by the on-site subsurface (e.g. where screeds from different rooms meet) must be reflected in the flooring too.

## Installation size

An expansion joint must be installed in rooms that are bigger than 10 m in the lengthways direction of the planks and bigger than 8 m in the transverse direction of the planks.

## Underfloor heating

tilo flooring elements can be installed over subsurfaces with underfloor heating. It is vital that the customer properly heats and cools the underfloor heating before the installation of the flooring elements. The presentation of the heating process protocol is absolutely essential (for further information, especially for installation over electric underfloor heating systems, see TI\_025\_Richtlinien\_Verlegung auf Fußbodenheizung). Please note that the temperature of the surface of the tilo flooring elements must not exceed 29°C, even in border areas and underneath furniture or carpets (heat accumulation).

## Readiness for installation

The readiness for installation of the subsurface must be tested in accordance with DIN 18365 "Flooring work" or ÖNORM B2236 and finished accordingly. This means, for example, that the subsurface must be clean, free from cracks, sturdy, flat and dry. Small areas of unevenness (drops of paint, plaster residues, etc.) and textile floor coverings (carpets, needle felt, etc) must be removed.

Permissible screed moisture according to the CM method (only valid for unmodified standard screeds):

- For cement screed: <2.0 % CM (with underfloor heating 1.8 % CM)
- For anhydrite screed <0.3 % CM (with underfloor heating 0.3 % CM)  
Please ensure compliance with the relevant national standards. Alternatively the ERH method (=Equilibrium Relative Humidity) can be applied for measuring the screed moisture.
- For cement screed according to ERH method: without underfloor heating ≤65 % rLF; with underfloor heating ≤60 % rLF  
Screeds that are not standard (e.g. rapid screed, unknown equilibrium moisture content or modified in any other way), must be measured using the ERH method. In that case or if both CM and ERH methods are used, the measurement of the ERH method is deciding if the screed ist sufficiently dry. (For further Information see „TI\_255\_Messung\_Untergrundfeuchte\_KRL-Methode\_en.pdf“)

The unevenness of the subsurface may not exceed the values shown in Line 4 of Table 3 of the latest version of DIN 18202 "Flatness tolerances". As a rule of thumb, at a measuring length of 1 m, the unevenness of the floor may not exceed 3 mm.

Flatness tolerances at measuring lengths of more or less than 1 m can be found in the diagram contained in the standard.

# Installation guidelines

powerFIX

Installation wedges, tapping block, pull bar (we recommend the tilo installation set, order number Z1043), hammer, bracket, hand or electric saw (jigsaw, circular saw or chop saw).

## **Polyethylene foil and impact sound insulation**

Lay the 0.2 mm polyethylene foil (see above) and check whether impact sound insulation is required.

## **Determining the direction of installation**

Determine the direction of installation with your client and measure the room. If the last row will be less than 5 cm wide, cut the first row narrower. Make sure to take into account any unevenness in the wall.

**Step 1: First plank**

Work from left to right. Lay the first plank in the left corner of the room with the tongue side facing the wall. Use the wedge spacers to make sure there is an expansion joint of approx. 1 cm between the planks and the wall.

**Step 2: Second plank**

Line up the second plank precisely with the first plank, laying it flush against the short end of the first plank. To lock the powerFIX connection, gently tap on the short end connection from above using the tilo tapping block. We recommend gluing the short end joint using 3D PVAC glue, especially when installing over underfloor heating.

Ensure that the lengthwise edges are flush. If correction is required, either lift up the planks or lightly tap them with the tapping block until they are flush.

**Step 3: Completing the first row**

Continue in this manner until the last plank of the first row. Cut this plank to the appropriate size. Make sure to leave an expansion joint between the plank and the wall.

**Step 4: Second row**

The second row can be started off using the offcut from the first row, if the short end offset is at least 30 cm. If not, cut the first plank of the second row as appropriate. Make sure to maintain a short end offset of at least 30 cm.

**Step 5: First plank of the second row**

Lever the offcut into the longitudinal groove of the first row. To lever the plank in, tilt it to approx. 20° and insert the longitudinal tongue into the longitudinal groove. Lower the plank by gently tapping it with the tilo wooden block along the entire length of the lower locking element on the long side. The gentle tapping encourages the positive locking of the glueless connection. This helps the joint to seal as tightly as possible. The connection along the long side can be damaged if the plank is not lowered carefully enough.

**Step 6: Second plank of the second row**

Lever the second plank of the second row into the longitudinal groove of the first row. At the same time, press the short end of the second plank tightly up against the short end of the first plank. Lower the plank by gently tapping it with the tilo tapping block.

**Step 7: Locking the powerFIX connection**

To lock the short end powerFIX connection, gently tap on the short end connection from above using the tilo wooden block. In order to seal the short end powerFIX connection as tightly as possible, after locking the connection into place, tap again on the exposed short end using the tilo wooden block.

**Step 8: Continuing the installation**

Continue to install the rest of the rows of planks as described.

**Step 9: Last row of planks**

When cutting the last row of planks, make sure to take into consideration the necessary distance from the wall and install them as described. Use a pull bar to ensure that the longitudinal connection seals as tightly as possible. Close the short end connection as described above.

**Step 10: Finishing touches**

The floor can be walked on immediately after installation. Remove the wedges and the excess polyethylene sheeting. Fix the skirting boards to the wall using tilo Clipstar or screws; never secure them to the flooring.

# Tips and Tricks

## **Sawing direction for wood material**

In order to achieve a clean cut, saw from the top side to the underside using a handsaw, or if using an electric jigsaw or circular hand saw, cut from the underside to the top side.

## **Cut-outs for heating pipes or similar**

Drill a hole with a diameter approx. 2 cm larger than the diameter of the pipe. Working from the hole outwards, cut out a V-shape towards the edge of the plank. Install the plank and glue the V-shaped plank piece back in. Attach a pipe sleeve.

## **Installation of floorboards under door frames**

Lay a loose plank face-down against the door frame and saw the door frame off along the length of the plank using a backsaw.

## **Removing the locking mechanism**

If the planks cannot be levered in due to on-site conditions (sliding under door frames or runners etc.), remove the protruding "bulge" of the lower locking element. The connection is now equivalent to a tongue and groove system and must be glued. The planks can now be simply pushed into the connecting groove without the need to lever them in.

This information is provided with the intention of offering you advice based on the best of our knowledge, on the basis of our trials, experiences, tests carried out, applicable standards and the rules of the trade. Should you require any additional information, our technical and commercial advisors will be happy to assist you. Always consult our advisors for advice before starting any large-scale projects. We assume no liability for any errors and reserve the right to carry out technical modifications.

Please visit [www.tilo.com](http://www.tilo.com) for further information and updates.