

Parquet means wood – wood lives and breathes

Parquet – the most natural flooring

Parquet stood the test of time for hundreds of years, being used in the most various fields, starting from living quarters down to objects. Parquet has never been as popular as it is today. Its unique beauty, its warmth and esthetic features fascinate more and more people. Real parquet becomes even more beautiful in time and it can be easily renovated. There is no other flooring that offers so many advantages related to design factors, hygiene, construction physics, as well as environmental physiology.

Room Air

The natural material wood breathes. That means nothing other than the fact that the wood, depending on the indoor climate, absorbs or emits humidity from the air, thus adjusting the wood humidity to the prevailing air humidity (equilibrium moisture content). This results in a swelling and shrinkage of the floor, which in turn may lead to caulking due to shrinkage and cuppings. This process is also called the "working" of the wood. Fundamentally, it shouldn't be seen as something negative but as a natural attribute of a natural material! To minimize the unavoidable changes in dimensions as far as possible, we recommend maintaining an ideal indoor climate of 20°C and a relative air humidity of 50%. The wood humidity of our parquet at delivery is meant for a humidity of around 50%. Moreover, selection of types of wood with a swell and shrink behavior and with a speed of acclimation of the wood humidity that are both as low as possible are of great advantage (see table 2, page 2). The proper indoor climate is particularly important in the heating period, since the drying of the parquet by overly dry air leads to caulking. Here is where a humidifier being put into action at the onset of the heating period can be of invaluable service. Please pay heed to the fact that in doing so, you can also save precious heating energy, since with higher air humidity, a lower room temperature is felt as comfortable.

Colour Behaviour

Color variations are likewise a typical feature of the natural material wood, which may vary from one tree to the next or according to the growing area. For that reason, differences in color may turn up between different production batches as well as within one batch. That is especially true for color surfaces, since staining and pigments can result in different shades due to the wood structure. After the laying, there will be typical color changes of the wood due to solar radiation, depending on the intensity of the exposure to light and various ingredients. Different woods react in different ways in terms of the extent, speed and type of change (yellowing, darkening or fading).

Choice of material

For the manufacture of its parquet, the Company Weitzer Parkett guarantees only the use of wood cut in winter time. The raw material used by Weitzer Parkett is air dried for several months. By using the most recent computer aided drying systems Weitzer Parkett guarantees the adequate wood humidity. Three independent control mechanisms of wood humidity observance, proved by a simultaneous minutes drawn up for each checkup, offers our clients the assurance required.

Important Information

Bevor installation

Reduce high humidity by heating and airing (possibly by using an air dehumidifier).
Examine subground for dryness (possibly by inserting moisture barrier, humidity retarder).
Open foil package immediately before installation.

For installation

Please use the adhesives recommended by Weitzer Parkett for adhesion. Holehedral adhesion will considerably reduce the swell and shrink behavior by dint of the fixation to the subground. For floating installation, starting from a laying width of 8m upward, an additional expansion joint has to be fitted in. Expansion joints have to be left at 10mm to 15mm to the wall on all four sides.

Laying patterns like herringbone, twin herringbone, plait or dice minimize the appearance of the joints with shrinkage by as much as 50%. The swell and shrink behavior is distributed evenly over all parquet elements with these laying patterns.

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The timing of installation should be planned so that the room is moved into as soon as possible upon completion. This way a regulated indoor climate can be ensured.

After installation

Avoid extreme variations of the indoor climate. The ideal room temperature is approx. 20 °C, with a relative air humidity of approx. 50 %. During the heating period, the room must be often ventilated for short periods. Ventilation for longer periods during winter drastically reduces air humidity. Provide as many moisture sources as possible in the room during the heating period, e.g., by using a humidifier (vaporizer), by growing plants etc. During the summer periods, avoid any unnecessary sources of humidity.

Closing instructions

The effectiveness of any cleaning/maintenance process must be closely monitored in the early stages and adjustments made to the frequency and type of cleaning to ensure that the floor is being maintained properly.

This data sheet is based on extensive experience and has been published to give best advice. Limiting information and warnings are also included to minimize the risk of errors. Naturally, instruction guidelines do not contain any possible present and future application cases and peculiarities, which is also due to the versatile material of „wood“. Thus, it does not release the expert from making a query when in doubt, from testing in his own authority on location as well as from his critical attention during processing. These guidelines also spare information which is regarded as known by experts. The information given in these guidelines is supplied without liability, therefore no claims of warranty or liability can be deduced from them.

The WEITZER PARKETT team would be glad to give any further information.

Table 1: Absorption humidity at an indoor temperature at 20°C.

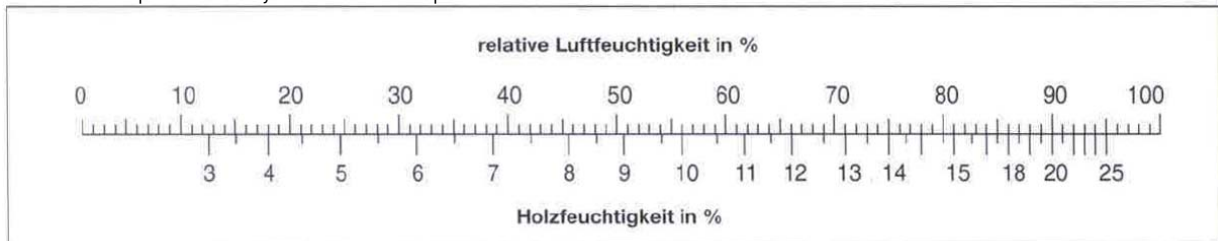


Table 2 Species – reference numbers

Species	Hardness	Volume density at normal humidity kg/m ³	Average shrinkage degree upon humidity modification by 1%	Assimilation speed of wood humidity
Oak	Strong	690	0,22%	Low
Beech	Strong	720	0,31%	High
Maple (European)	Medium	630	0,25%	Medium
Maple (Canadian)	Strong	710	0,23%	Medium
Ash	Strong	690	0,27%	Medium
Birch	Medium	650	0,25%	Medium
Acacia	Very strong	770	0,30%	Low
Pear	Strong	740	0,24%	Very low
Cherry	Strong	630	0,23%	Medium
Nut	Strong	680	0,24%	Low
Afzelia (Doussie)	Very strong	830	0,18%	Very low
Merbau	Very strong	840	0,21%	Very low
Kambala (Iroko)	Strong	680	0,23%	Low
Spruce	Soft	430	0,24%	Medium
Larch	Medium	590	0,22%	Medium