

Wooden floor adviser

Guidelines for parquet and planks



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You can find more information about us, our quality and design standards and our current product range on the Internet at **www.solidparkiet.pl**

We are happy to answer any questions you may have personally.

Please note: The information and advices in this document have been compiled and worked out by us to the best of our knowledge and belief. This service is for informational purposes only. A legal obligation can not be derived and any liability for the content is expressly rejected.

Parquet - a floor for centuries

Wood is strong, resistant, easy to work with and gives every room a cozy warmth. This is the reason why already hundreds of years ago parquet floors found its way into castles, palaces and other magnificent buildings.

But not only this is in favour of a real wooden floor. There is no floor covering as sustainable as a real wood floor, especially in the ecological balance. Whoever chooses parquet, brings therefore a natural, environmentally friendly flooring into the house making it healthy and giving a positive effect on the indoor climate.

This guide should not only show you the little differences, but also help you to find the wooden floor which suits you best.

The type of wood

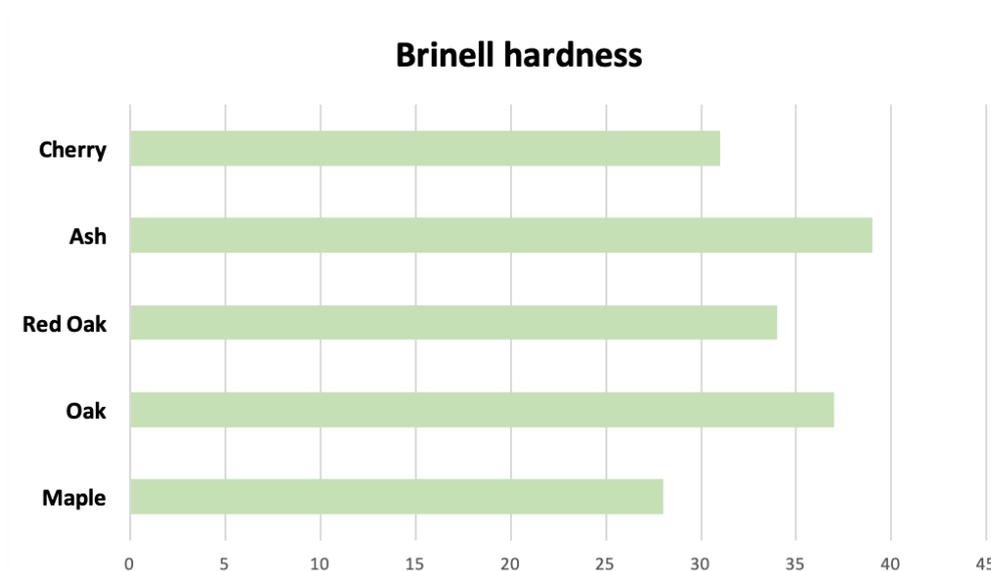
Especially in our solid parquet range, we offer a variety of different wood species such as maple, oak, ash, cherry, smoked oak and red oak.

The choice of the wood species does not only depend on the color and grain. The wood hardness plays also an important role in connection with the area of application.

The resistance of a parquet floor can be determined using a measuring method developed by the Swedish engineer Johan August Brinell. The higher the wood density and thus the calculated Brinell value of a wood, the higher the wood hardness.

For heavily frequented rooms, woods with a high Brinell value, such as oak or ash are recommended, whereas in less crowded rooms such as the bedroom, a softer type of wood such as maple can be used.

The following diagram shows the average Brinell hardness of our woods.



The classification

The classification tells us about the visual appearance of the wooden floor.

In the plank segment, we cover everything with our calm **Nature**, our slightly knotty and characterful **Rustic** as well as our very lively **Country** classification.

In the parquet segment, there can even be up to five classifications, so there is something for every taste.

The type of wooden floor

At the beginning, we should consider which type of wooden floor we are interested in. A distinction is made between the following types:



Solid parquet and planks

Classically we offer our parquet and our planks as a solid product. Each element is made out of a single piece of wood. The available thicknesses are 16 and 22 mm.

Pro:

- Longevity
- Often renewable

Con:

- Not recommended for underfloor heating

Engineered planks

Our engineered planks consist of a 4 mm Oak upper layer and an underlying 10 mm plywood base layer. Due to this construction, the planks are particularly dimensionally stable and the expansion of the wood is reduced to a minimum.

The available thickness is 14 mm.



Pro:

- Low installation height (14mm)
- Suitable for underfloor heating

Con:

- Not as often renewable as solid parquet

3-layer planks

Our 3-layer planks consist of a 4 mm Oak upper layer, a crosswise lying middle layer made of softwood sticks and a backing layer underneath. This structure ensures that the planks are dimensionally stable, the expansion of the wood is reduced to a minimum and the warmth of underfloor heating comes through very well.

The available thickness is 16 mm.



Pro:

- Low installation height (16mm)
- Suitable for underfloor heating
- Very low thermal resistance

Con:

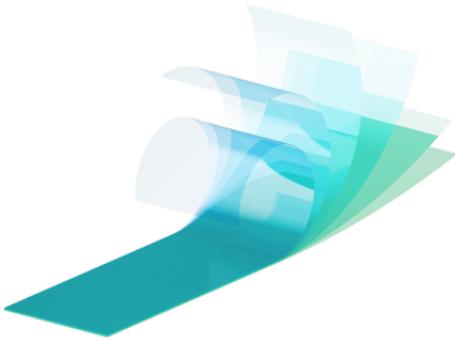
- Not as often renewable as solid parquet

The surface

It depends on your personal preferences and needs whether you choose a wooden floor that has been lacquered or oiled by us or an untreated one which has to be sealed after the installation.

We offer a variety of different oil surfaces which, like our lacquer surfaces, are hardened with the help of ultraviolet radiation.

Whether you decide for a lacquered or oiled wooden floor surface is (almost) just a matter of taste. Here is an overview about the pros and cons.



UV Lacquer

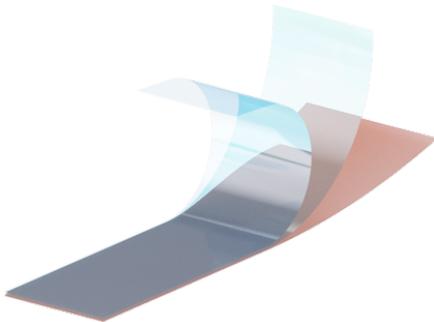
Thanks to the curing under Ultraviolet radiation, our factory lacquer surfaces are particularly resistant and durable.

Pro:

- Very durable
- Highly scratching resistant
- Easy care

Con:

- No color choice



UV Oil

Our oiled floors combine the advantages of a hard-wearing, robust surface such as lacquer with the natural look of oiled floors thanks to curing under ultraviolet radiation. Both the scratch resistance and the chemical resistance are higher than these of an oxidative oil surface.

Pro:

- In high degree durable
- Breathes more than lacquered surfaces
- Easy care

Con:

- Not as resistant as lacquer

Our surfaces

UV Lacquer



Jaune



Aurelia

UV Oil



Chirone



Mirage



Sheena



Alicia



Francesca



Saffina



Irisa



Gabriella



Ariana



Valeria



Bianca



Mirage Light



Morena



Isabella



Silvia



Camilla



Melina



Sofia

Surface structures

We offer a variety of different surface structures. From finely smooth sanded over characteristically brushed surfaces to surfaces with saw marks which gives them a retro look, everything is possible. All surface structures can be connected to each other, so the choice is purely a matter of taste.



Sharp edged

The long and short sides are cut sharp edged. This results in a flat appearance.



2 or 4-sided bevel

The edges are beveled on the long sides or on both the long and short sides, creating a genuine look.

Caution: Solid planks which are lacquered or oiled by us always have a four-sided bevel.



Brushed

By treating the surface with special brushes, the soft annual rings are brushed out. This creates a natural surface structure.



Planed

By treating the surface with a special plane, wavelike grooves are made lengthwise. The clearly visible grooves provide an interesting play of light.



Saw marks

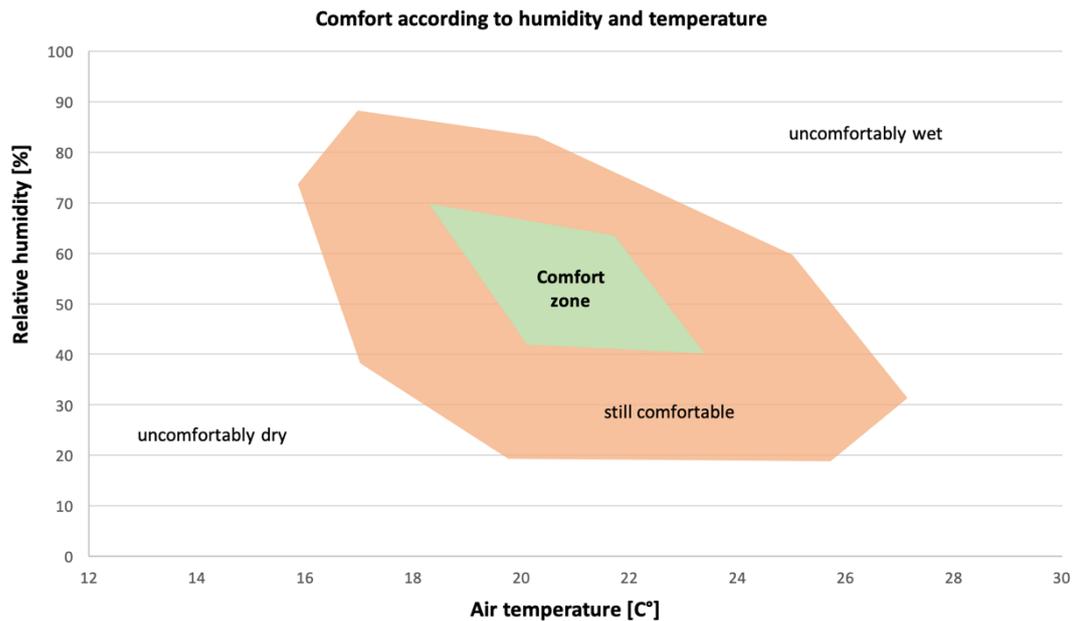
By treating the surface with a special saw intentionally marks are made during the production. This creates a natural retro surface structure.

The indoor climate

The optimum indoor climate and the associated relative humidity are not only important for our general wellbeing, but also for our wooden floors.

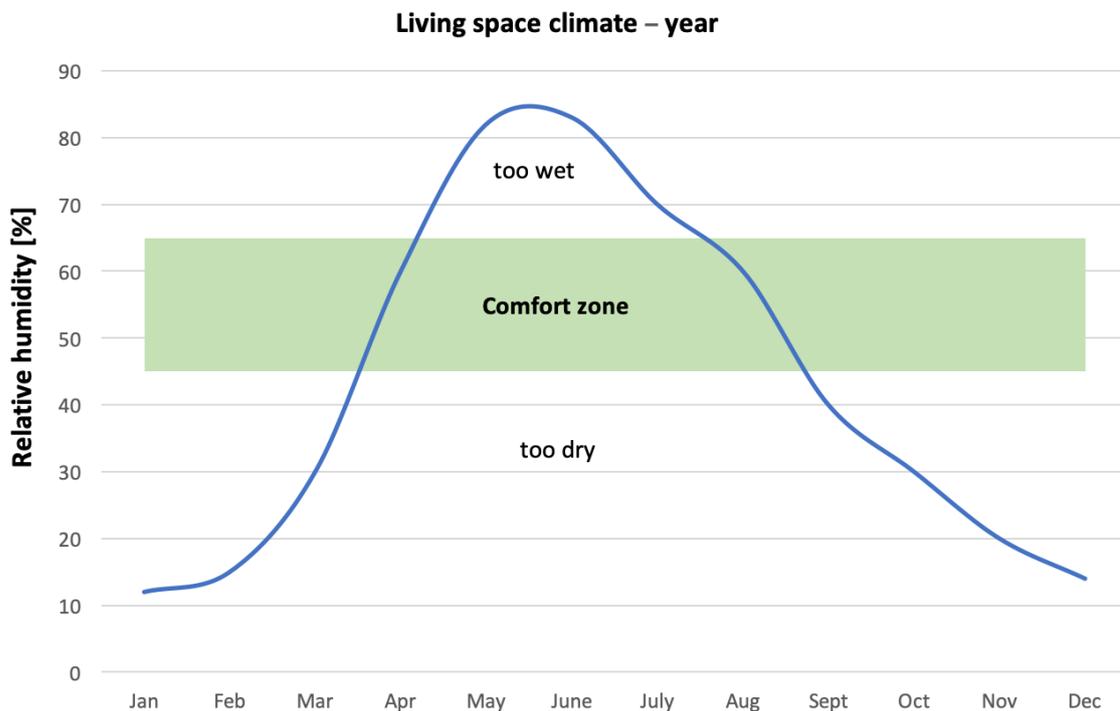
Wood is a hygroscopic material, which means that it can absorb and release moisture. These properties are climate regulating, but can also lead to swelling, shrinking or warping under the influence of moisture. Strong changes in the moisture content of the wood can lead to cracks, bends and individual planks / strips flaking off. Therefore, try to create the best possible climatic conditions in your home.

The optimal ranges for room temperature are between **18-21°C** and for air humidity between **40-65%**. For this reason, you should serve the following comfort diagram as a guide for a healthy indoor temperature.



The indoor climate during the year

It is therefore imperative to observe some guidelines, in order to be able to guarantee an optimal comfort in the apartment. The following diagram shows the humidity changes through the months. Therefore, make sure there is a good air circulation indoors and use humidifiers or air dryers if necessary.



The underfloor heating

Choice of the wooden floor

Some of our wooden floors are highly suitable for laying on underfloor heating, others are not. Since wood is a hygroscopic material which is sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity, it is important to choose one that does not swell or shrink a lot.

Solid parquet / planks

The use of our solid floors on underfloor heating is possible, but we do **not** recommend this as they can easily change their geometry due to the influence of heat.

Engineered planks

Our entire range of engineered planks is **suitable** for use on underfloor heating systems due to the low thermal resistance.

Choice of underfloor heating

When choosing underfloor heating, make sure that it is a hot water operated underfloor heating. Electrical underfloor heating systems must be avoided as they heat up too quickly and would destroy the wooden floor. The same applies to underfloor heating systems that have been installed before the year 1990, as they develop mostly to high temperatures.

Guidelines for laying on underfloor heating

Basically, all requirements to a heated screed apply such as those for an unheated screed. In addition, the screed must be heated up according to a specific scheme (see heating protocol) before laying the wooden floor, which in addition must be documented. See the laying instructions for more detailed information.

5 Rules for the use of underfloor heating

- Basically, the narrower and thinner the parquet strips / planks are, the more suitable they are.
- Use only water powered underfloor heating systems, never electrically operated.
- Woods with lower shrinkage behavior are more suitable than others, e.g. Oak, Ash, Acacia.
- Install the underfloor heating professionally and observe the heating protocol.
- Make sure the room temperature is between 18-22°C and the humidity between 45-60%.

Preservation of value

A wooden floor requires regular cleaning and maintenance but it pays back immediately with a new shining. For tips and tricks in maintaining read our care instructions.

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