RAVELLE

FORMA

INSTALLATION GUIDE

ENGINEERED EUROPEAN OAK

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INSTALLATION GUIDE

Before the first board is cut, stand in the entrance with your installer. Look at the longest sightline, where the floor meets the next room and how the grain carries through the doorway. Every floor in the FORMA collection uses a professional glue-down installation. The layout, subfloor and adhesive instructions all need to be settled before work begins.

IDENTIFY THE FLOOR AND CHECK THE ORDER

FORMA has a 4 mm European oak wear layer over a eucalyptus plywood core, a wire-brushed face and a matte UV lacquer finish. All three formats are nominally 5/8" (15 mm) thick, with micro-beveled, tongue-and-groove edges.

- **Wide plank.** Each board measures 9.5" (240 mm) by 86.6" (2200 mm). A carton covers 34.1 sq ft.
- **Herringbone.** Rectangular pieces measure 5" (125 mm) by 23.6" (600 mm). Their square ends meet the sides of neighboring boards at right angles.
- **Chevron.** Pieces measure 5" (125 mm) by 27.2" (690 mm). Angled ends meet tip to tip along a continuous centerline.

Match the color, grade, format and quantity on the carton labels to the order. NATURAL, SAND, DUNE, AMBER and ESPRESSO come in both patterns. A NATURAL herringbone carton and a NATURAL plank carton share a color name but lay out differently. Allow for cuts at walls, doorways and pattern borders when calculating the order.

At delivery, note visible damage or missing cartons on the freight receipt and photograph the labels and packaging. Before cutting, inspect the boards in good light. Set aside anything with a visible defect or an unexpected appearance and contact RAVELLE. Once installed, a board’s appearance is accepted.

PREPARE THE SITE AND ACCLIMATE THE MATERIALS

Bring the cartons into an enclosed, dry building with the heating or cooling system operating at the room’s normal service conditions. Finish wet work first. Store the cartons flat, supported and protected from site moisture. Record the room temperature and relative humidity alongside the flooring and subfloor readings.

Keep the room at **60 to 80°F and 35 to 55% RH** for FORMA. For installations using Taylor ALPINE or TIMBERLINE, Taylor requires the flooring, adhesive and substrate to acclimate in the conditioned building for at least 72 hrs before work and calls for stable conditions during and after installation. Taylor’s published adhesive range is 60 to 95°F and 30 to 65% RH. Maintain the narrower FORMA range and have the installer confirm the wood and substrate are ready before laying the floor.

TEST THE SUBFLOOR AND RECORD THE RESULTS

1. **Check the surface.** Inspect and record flatness and moisture before spreading adhesive. Correct high spots and low areas and allow compatible repairs to cure. Record test locations as well as readings so they can be found again.

2. **For wood underlayment,** Taylor specifies moisture content below 12% using a Tramex or Delmhorst meter. Check that panels are sound and secure.

3. **For concrete,** Taylor requires at least 45 days of cure, a clean, dry, sound surface prepared to ASTM F710, and an intact vapor retarder beneath the slab. Resolve hydrostatic pressure, pressurized water and salt deposits before installation. When using the adhesive as a moisture-vapor barrier, verify concrete porosity under ASTM F3191.

4. **Match testing to the adhesive.** TIMBERLINE lists a limit of 90% in-slab relative humidity under ASTM F2170 and 10 lb of moisture-vapor emissions per 1,000 sq ft in 24 hrs under ASTM F1869. ALPINE's moisture-vapor application has different testing provisions. Follow the data sheet for the product on site and retain the moisture and flatness records FORMA requires.

If the slab is wet, a test result is outside the specified limits, or the assembly includes radiant heat, resolve the condition and confirm the assembly with RAVELLE and the adhesive manufacturer before proceeding.

SET THE LAYOUT AND EXPANSION SPACE

For wide plank, mark a straight starting line and check the width of the last row and the cuts at doorways. For herringbone flooring, check how the staggered zigzag reads from the entrance. For chevron flooring, sight along the line where the points meet and check it at adjoining openings.

Agree on the starting line, pattern direction and perimeter cuts with the owner. Mark the expansion space at every wall, column and other fixed object. Confirm the required gap for the project before cutting the perimeter pieces. Trim should conceal the space and leave the boards free to move.

CHOOSE THE ADHESIVE AND TROWEL FOR THIS ASSEMBLY

For Taylor ALPINE or Taylor TIMBERLINE, select the trowel and spread rate for the substrate, format and purpose. Bond-only and moisture-barrier applications use different specifications. Moisture-barrier applications require the specified barrier trowel and complete adhesive transfer.

For wide plank, call Taylor Technical Services at (706) 712-5823 before estimating adhesive or starting work. Taylor requests project instructions for wood wider than 5" or longer than 6'. FORMA wide plank exceeds both dimensions. Herringbone and chevron sit at the nominal 5" boundary. Ask Taylor which trowel row applies to the exact piece and assembly.

If the project calls for cork, confirm the assembly and thickness before ordering. Confirm the adhesive application, work trapped air out from the center with a hand roller, and observe Taylor's initial 60-minute restriction on walking, kneeling or working directly on the cork without knee boards.

SET THE BOARDS AND CHECK THE BOND

1. Read the adhesive's current technical and safety data sheets, including required gloves and eye protection. Spread only the area the installer can cover within the product's working time. Under its stated conditions, Taylor specifies a 10-minute wait after spreading and about 45 to 60 minutes of working time.

2. Align the first row to the reference line and keep the pattern true as the work advances. Follow the product instructions for securing the row. With either listed Taylor adhesive, leave perimeter wedges in place for 2 hrs before removing them.

3. Lift a board periodically to check the transfer to its back. A moisture-barrier application requires 100% transfer. If adhesive has dried without transferring, remove it and reapply. Taylor directs the installer to roll the floor in both directions with a 75 to 100 lb roller within 2 hrs.

4. Remove fresh adhesive from the face immediately with a method approved for the adhesive and the factory finish. Test compatibility on a spare piece first. Keep the boards clean as the work advances.

RELEASE THE ROOM AND HAND IT OVER

Mark the time the last area was laid. Taylor lists 24 hrs for cure and for light or heavy foot traffic under the stated conditions for ALPINE and TIMBERLINE. Ask the installer when people, furniture, mats and temporary protection can return. They may be allowed at different times. If other trades will follow, use clean, breathable protection compatible with the floor. Keep tape off the finished oak.

Walk the room together in daylight. Leave the owner the invoice, carton labels and any spare boards, along with the installer's details, moisture and flatness records, adhesive information and first cleaning instructions. Keep these with the FORMA limited warranty for future reference.

The downloadable guide ends with a printable installation record. Use it on site to capture the readings, trowel, cure instructions and handover while the installer and owner are together.

INSTALLATION RECORD

RECORD	ENTRY, WRITTEN ON SITE BY THE INSTALLER
Project address	
Installer and company	
Date installed	
Format and color	
Room temperature and RH	
Subfloor type	
Moisture readings and locations	
Flatness checks	
Adhesive and trowel	
Time last area was laid	
Owner handover notes	