

CLOSE FITTING IN THE SUMMER... AND GAPS ALL WINTER LONG...

But what would your valued customer think of that if he knew ahead of time? Yet that is the consequence when flooring elements are laid on the subfloor without any provision to hold them tightly against one another. Consequently each element can swell and –even worse– shrink independently of its neighbours.

The ELASTILON system is completely unsusceptible to this disadvantage, however, because it establishes a firm bond with, and elastic cohesion between, those elements. Furthermore, ELASTILON –as a dry adhesive– is entirely VOS-free and produces virtually no emissions of any kind. That also means it's immediately safe to walk on floors installed with this system – to perform sanding, for instance. There's no waiting!

Tests on two floors, one a two-layer prefabricated pattern floor and the other made of 9 mm French oak strips, conducted by WTH of Dordrecht have provided some interesting and enlightening results. Both of these are advanced, high-tech products with a wide range of applications that have been misunderstood by the sector for far too long. So long, as chance would have it, that they were lying in the builders' market. Two-layer prefabricated pattern flooring has a host of attractive benefits. Here are just a few:

- It is ideal for condominiums and apartments, where it can be used in combination with ELASTILON to achieve as much as 13 dB of impact noise reduction without any additional provisions.
- Two-layer prefabricated pattern flooring used in combination with the renowned ELASTILON systems over heated floors results in optimal conditions for the floor, virtually eliminating the possibility of fissures in the wood.
- Air humidifiers are completely superfluous with this system, and we therefore neither sell nor recommend them.
- An additional but not inconsequential advantage is that the parquet and floor heating system form a unified and fully integrated whole.
- In comparison to traditional systems, ELASTILON involves no complicated installation techniques, is absolutely risk free, and makes floor installation much, much faster.
- Lastly, contact noise is reduced to a whisper.

And are those gaps that develop during the heating season –on floors in which the elements are individually affixed to the subfloor– really as inconsequential as they may seem? Particularly in the case of floors that are cleaned with a damp cloth, those are the openings in which dust and dirt accumulate. It may be hardly noticeable after the first heating season, but after several years the problem will surely develop: black lines between the elements. What's worse, the accumulations of dirt will eventually prevent the gaps from closing during the summer months.

Special mention should also be made of 'floor cooling', which is significantly different from floor heating. While warm air generally rises and distributes itself well –depending on the temperature differential– the opposite is true for cold air. You see, cold air pools above the floor, because it is heavier than the warmer ambient air, and doesn't combine with the warmer ambient air at all without the assistance of mechanical provisions such as blowers. Despite the fact that floor cooling is hardly necessary in our climate zone, it is a fundamental fact of physics that the cold air forms a layer at floor level and has a very limited effect on the air temperature in the room as a whole.

What's more, one can ask oneself whether such a somewhat decadent cooling system, doesn't draw moisture out of the warmer, moister air above, resulting in condensation that remains unnoticed because it is immediately absorbed by the wood. The result: excessive swelling of the elements that form the wooden floor. And if the provisions necessary to prevent this are installed, such as mechanical air humidifiers and blowers, isn't the living room transformed into a sort of laboratory? That's certainly not the comfortable environment that the customer had in mind.

By now we have accumulated years of experience with the combination ELASTILON–parquet–floor heating. Here are some examples of projects we have completed:

- Very large, monumental house in Oud Turnhout: solid oak, 22 mm thick, 140 mm wide, approx. 270 m²
- Spacious mansion in Best: solid bamboo elements (Moso), 15 mm thick, 90 mm wide, approx. 200 m²
- Apartment building de Elzent in Eindhoven: oak two-layer prefab pattern flooring, 10 mm thick, approx. 90 m²
- Large apartment in Eindhoven: two-layer oak floor, 11 mm thick, 120 mm wide, approx. 80 m²
- Residence in Eindhoven (Blikxembosch): two-layer oak floor, 11 mm thick, 120 mm wide, approx. 70 m²
- Tilburg University: solid oak, 22 mm thick, 140 mm wide, approx. 300 m²
- Bungalow in Best: two-layer Jatoba (Decora), 10 mm thick, 68 mm wide, approx. 80 m²

OSBE PARKET BV
ELASTILON BV
F.J. van Bers

