

SUMMIT FLOORING

Alternative Solution for E3 (Introduced November 2021)

This document applies to the Summit Flooring Oak engineered flooring for installation in single dwellings. More specifically, the use of engineered Oak flooring in wet areas, including kitchens, laundries, powder rooms and toilets.

When installed and maintained in accordance with the Summit Flooring Installation Guidelines, Summit Flooring confirm that their engineered Oak flooring range will comply with the revised E3 New Zealand Building Code clauses, introduced in November 2021.

Although no longer an Acceptable Solution, the revised E3 clauses (E3.3.3 and E3.3.5) state that ...

“Other floor finishes may also be capable of satisfying the performance for impervious and easily cleaned, if installed in a manner that prevents gaps or cracks within the finish and at any parts of its perimeter that are exposed to water splash, and/or if the surface is sealed with a suitable durable coating.” (cl 3.1.1) of E3/AS1.

Breaking this down, to achieve these requirements, Summit Flooring confirm the following:

1. ...prevents gaps or cracks **with the finish**
 - Summit Flooring require All boards must be direct stuck to the substrate (floating installation is not acceptable). The flooring adhesive must be applied to the substrate (not the boards) using a trowel, providing continuous floor coverage.
 - A liquid applied vapour barrier must be used on the substrate prior to any laying of flooring.
2. ...prevents gaps or cracks within the finish and **at any parts of its perimeter that are exposed to water splash**
 - All board joins within a wet area or within 1.5m of a service penetration within a wet area must be continuous glued with a minimum D3 durability class PVA glue.
 - A flexible acrylic timber flooring joint sealer must be applied to all perimeters and penetrations in wet areas or areas within 1.5m of service penetrations.
3. and/or if the surface is **sealed with a suitable durable coating.**
 - Summit Flooring confirm that all their engineered Oak flooring is factory pre-finished with 7 coats of UV polyurethane-based lacquer, providing a long lasting, durable, and impervious finish.
 - Summit Flooring have been providing engineered Oak flooring to New Zealand customers since 2014, including for laundries, kitchens, powder rooms and toilets (Wet Areas) without issue in relation to durability.

- All Summit Flooring engineered Oak boards are manufactured and factory prefinished and carry a manufacturer's warranty which is available to view on our website.
- E3 also requires that flooring in 'wet areas' must be easily cleaned. With the polyurethane based UV lacquer factory applied, this leaves a sealed surface making the cleaning of a finished engineered Oak floor very straightforward with either a mop or vacuum cleaner. The process is highlighted in the Summit Flooring Installation Guidelines in more detail.