

**B.J. Parquet**  
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## PRODUCTINFORMATION **END GRAIN PARQUET**

### Aspect

In traditional parquet planks are sawn in the lengthwise. By end-grain parquet on the other end wooden blocks are sawn crosswise the grain. At the surface you see straight on the annual rings, which gives a totally different aspect than lengthwise sawn planks. Moreover end-grain parquet consists of many small square or rectangle blocs, and not of long boards.

### Characteristics

The wooden grain stands perpendicular upright, and this gives very distinguishing properties the floor. In a microscopic scale the wooden grains can be seen as bundles of upstanding stakes. It is easy to understand that the resistance to pressure is higher on the top than on the side. In the same way the surface of end-grain parquet is many times more resistant to pressure and wear than lengthwise cut parquet. This makes end-grain parquet suitable for intensify used rooms.

Another nice property of end-grain is the noise reducing capability. Sound vibrations are absorbed in the grain, instead of being reflected. This is an advantage against between others against the stone flooring, especially in (semi-) industrial environment.

However a consequence of the open pores is the easy adaptation from the wood humidity to the environmental humidity, what will result in shrinking and expanding of the wood. Consequently it is very important that the sub floor is and will remain dry. Also the finishing of the surface shall provide an good protection against moisture.

### Wood species

B.J. Parquet suggests the following wood species:

- guatambu: also called ivory wood, light crème colour
- iroko: yellow to dark Brown, important variation in colour
- merbau: reddish brown, important variation in colour
- larch: light yellow with brown annual rings, cracks can occur
- oak: light coloured
- wenge: very dark wood, with crème colour annual rings

Blocks in tropical wood are 7 cm x 7 cm, en the thickness is usually 12 mm, 15 mm of 20 mm.

Blocks in oak are 2,3 x 6,9 cm of 3,5 x 7 cm; larch is 5,5 x 9,0 cm

The end-grain blocks are deburred, mixed and packed in plastic bags containing 1,5 m<sup>2</sup> à 2,5 m<sup>2</sup>, depending on the thickness of the blocs.

On demand, and with supplement, blocks can be provided assembled. In that case they are kept together with a transparent foil on the top side to form plates of  $\pm 0,1$  m<sup>2</sup>.

### Instructions for installation

By processing the two specific properties mentioned above have to be taken into consideration: the strength and the susceptibility to moisture.

The end-grain blocks should be glued directly onto the screed, without sub parquet, and without nails. The blocks are pushed against the former row by hand, and not pressed with a lever. This way there is still some room to set.

Make sure that under the screed an adequate moisture screen has been installed, and that the moisture content of the screed is less than 2 %, even in depth. A slow but continuous absorption of humidity from the underside will irrevocably lead to expansion and uplifting of the parquet. In case of doubt about possible moisture problems it is better to apply a water resistant epoxy primer. Sikafloor MB Primer gives good protection against moisture, and will reinforce the screed. This primer is compatible with the Sikabond T52 polyurethane glue. The quality of the screed is very important, so that the top cannot break loose due to the forces created by the small blocks. When an equalisation has to take place, the attachment to the floor should be perfect..

Very suitable for gluing end-grain parquet is the Sikabond T 52. This is a one component polyurethane glu with very powerful adhesive strength and extreme flexibility: up to 200 %.

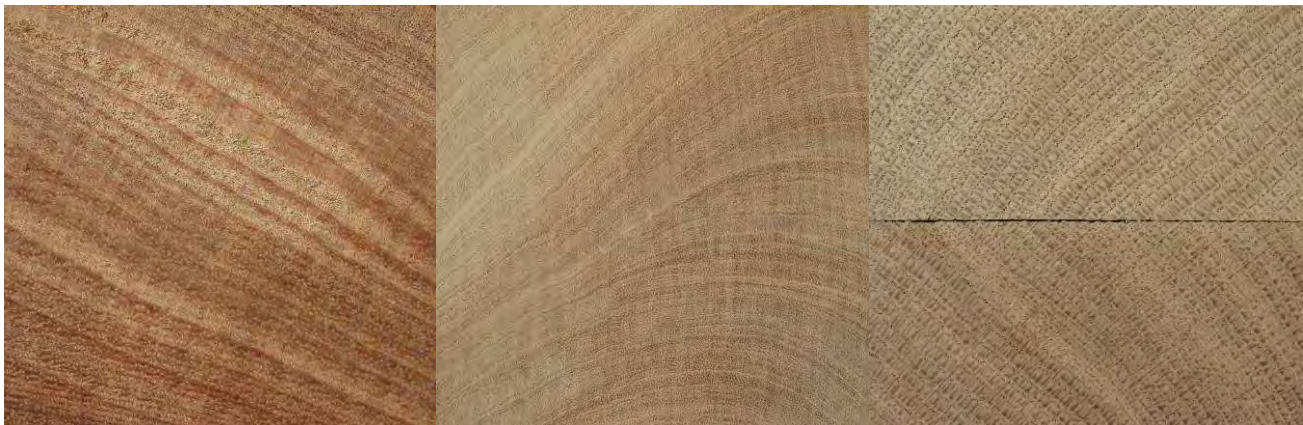
Do not install end-grain parquet in extreme dryness or high temperature. Ideal is an air humidity of 60 % to 70 %, and a temperature from 18°C to 20°C.

The thickness of the parquet blocks is sawn with great precision by BJ Parquet. A uniform installation on a flat surface is important to reduce the sanding afterwards to a minimum. Because of the hardness of this parquet, sanding off 1 mm can be a very tough job. Sanding is done with a belt sanding machine; the granule to start with will depend on the irregularity of the floor. Then sanding goes on with increasing fineness of the granule, but do not try to skip more then two steps: not from n° 40 to n° 80. In the end the parquet will be polished with a disk sanding machine with a gauze disk n° 120.

### Finishing

The protection against humidity is very important. A treatment with furniture wax without a sealer is out of the question. On the other hand is the hardness of end-grain parquet not compatible with very hard but brittle varnishes like ureum formaldehyde varnish. When varnishing an elastic primer (Bona Primer Classic) should be used, and a finish with a strong waterborne varnish (Bona Traffic)

A other possibility is a hardwax oil finish. The oil penetrates in the wood and provides a longwearing finish. Moreover an oiled parquet is quite easy to maintain, and can be repaired locally. However oil will have more influence on the colour of the wood than varnish.



Teak

Guatambu

Oak



Sipo

Wengé

Hornbeam