

WOOD FLOORS WITH UNDER-FLOOR HEATING

V4 Wood Flooring favours the full stick-down method of installation for wood floors over under-floor heating.

Do

- Avoid accelerated drying of new concrete/screeds over UFH as this may lead to poor cohesive strength.
- Check the cohesive strength of screeds before adhering.
- Ensure that screeds, concrete, etc are < 60% RH before installation commences.
- Employ a suitable surface applied moisture barrier (e.g. moisture suppressant primer) where necessary.
- If levelling is required above a suitable primer moisture barrier, apply a purpose-made fine graded aggregate over the second coat of wet primer, allow to cure then vacuum off all loose aggregate; (This will aid adhesion between primer and levelling compound). Then use 'rapid dry formulae' water-mix (i.e. instead of latex mix) levelling compound, as these are typically stronger and develop strength quicker.
- Ensure that levelling compounds are fully cured and dry before installation commences (see manufacturers technical data-sheets).
- Use a purpose made, permanently flexible adhesive such as 1-part polyurethane, or Silicon Modified Polymer, when adhesive fixing.
- Fully-bond, rather than use 'liquid battens' type adhesive systems with UFH.
- Ensure full contact between the underside of the flooring element and adhesive.
- Maintain suitable ambient humidity 40 to 60% RH. (Monitor with a domestic hygrometer).
- Employ a floor temperature sensor.

Provision for expansion

- As a guide only allow a minimum 15mm expansion wherever the floor meets obstacles including perimeters walls, structural supports, hearths etc.
- Create additional expansion breaks in doorways using suitable profiles such as T-section thresholds or transition strips.
- Create additional expansion breaks in large floors.
- Where practical install flooring parallel to the longest walls so that the direction of greatest potential expansion (i.e. across the grain) does not coincide with the direction of greatest dimension, esp. in large floors.
- The precise combined provision for expansion must be judged by the installer taking into account environmental humidity, moisture content of wood at time of installation, timber specie and size of the floor.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Always check the mutual compatibility of moisture barriers, primers, aggregates, levelling compounds and adhesives before installation.

Don't

- V4 Flooring do not recommend solid wood floorings for UFH applications, or high movement hardwood species such as Beech.
- Don't allow humidity below 45% RH, or above 65% RH. (A small domestic humidification unit can be employed to avoid low humidity if necessary).

- Don't allow the floor temperature to exceed 27 Celsius, (including under rugs).
- Do not use thick insulating rugs. (Note: as this will lead to high floor temperatures).