

Suggested Flooring

General Recommendations for All Flooring Jobs

Specie Selection

Careful consideration should be given to the various criteria that may be relevant to the project concerned, namely;

- Width of board. The wider the board the greater the cost per square metre.
- Specie which also obviously includes colour.
- Hardness or Janka rating. Some products such as Tas Oak are only half as hard as Blackbutt.
- Method of fixing, ie; secret or face fixed.
- Cost factors. The only true cost barometer is per square metre.

Pre Installation Suggestions

- Ensure there is adequate sub floor ventilation. There are precise regulations set out by the Building Code of Australia. (BCA)
- Ensure the substrate is level and to industry regulations. This applies to sheet flooring and concrete slabs. The appropriate parameters are set out by Building Commission.
- Ensure all external drainage will not impact on the internal floor, e.g; water ponding under the house for conventional timber floor.
- If sub floor heating ducts are to be installed they should be tied up from the bearers, they should not be left laying on the ground.
- Do not install flooring until all wet trades are finished, such as the plastering.
- Walls and fixings can be painted except the final coat of the skirtings.
- If the floor is to be installed on floor joists, the trades involved with the 2 points above more than likely will have done after the floor is laid, preferably between sanding and polishing.
- Ensure the substrate is dry. If not a waterproof membrane should be applied. (see below)
- Obtain the approximate moisture content of the flooring.
- Acclimatising needs to be understood. What the process is trying to achieve is emulate the service conditions the floor will experience. This can be difficult to achieve particularly in new houses because the air conditioning is not installed when the flooring is installed. (see below)

Installation Guidelines

- Secret fixing. The Australian Standard does state boards over 85mm shall be face fixed. However, some manufacturers are now producing wide boards (greater than 85mm) that can be secret fixed. If you choose to use this method, please do so in accordance with their instructions.
- Use a recognised flooring adhesive that is specifically made for the installation of strip flooring. These adhesives should allow the boards to reasonably move.
- Expansion Joints; The Australian Standard AS 1684.2 states; "For continuous floor widths over 6 metres, measured at right angles to flooring, intermediate expansion joints shall be provided in addition to the perimeter gaps. This joint shall be either a single 10mm wide gap, under a wall or across a hallway and the like, or smaller gaps with closer spacings to give an equivalent space (for example, 1mm gaps at 1 metre spacing or loose cramping)."

Suggested Guidelines For Flooring Laid Over A Concrete Slab

Flooring can be laid by using;

- A plywood substrate, preferably at least 15mm thick with a waterproof membrane between the slab and plywood substrate. The membrane can be 200UM plastic or an epoxy 2 part paint on moisture seal.
- Direct stick, but not thicker than 13mm thick flooring with an epoxy 2 part paint on moisture seal. It helps if the flooring is dead straight.
- Laid on battens preferably at least hardwood 35mm thick. Again there should be a membrane (as described above) between the battens and the slab.
- Where the flooring is to be laid on a flat substrate, the flooring adhesive should be screeded on with vee trowel. An appropriate staple shell be used to fix the flooring in place till the adhesive goes off. Care should be taken to ensure the staple does not puncture the waterproof membrane.
- When laid over battens apply a flooring adhesive on the battens. Use a nail or staple as long as possible without breaking the waterproof membrane seal.
- Ensure external gardens are kept below the level of the slab.