

WISA®-SPRUCEFLOOR

A guide to on-site storage, handling and installation

Recommendations for best performance and maximum service life.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

Joisted floors – suspended timber joisted floors must be laid using treated 'dry' timber or proprietary 'I' beams. Adequate ventilation must be provided to the underside of the floor. Solid timber joists should be regularised prior to installation, to ensure a flat even surface.

Continuously supported floors – All concrete screed or beam and block type floors must be level and free from nibs and any projections likely to distort the floor or puncture the vapour barrier. Concrete screed subfloors must be fully dried out prior to commencement of floor laying.

Conditioning – Irrespective of the subfloor type or the condition of the building, the WISA-Sprucefloor should be loose laid in the area it is to be fixed for at least 24 hours prior to fixing. This will partially acclimatise the boards to the ambient atmospheric conditions.

FIXING – JOISTED FLOORS

'I' Beams – When using proprietary 'I' beams rather than solid wood joists, follow the manufacturers instructions in respect of fixing.

Floor layout – All boards must be laid with the long edges parallel to the direction of the span. All short edges must be fully supported on joists and the end joints must be staggered. Noggings must be provided to continuously support the perimeter of the floor.

Nailing – WISA-Sprucefloor should be fixed to the joists using annular ring shank nails or screws at least 2 ½ times the thickness of the board in length.

Traps – Any access traps for under floor services should be preplanned and support provided to all sides of the trap.

FIXING – BATTEN FLOORS

Instructions for using WISA-Sprucefloor in connection with a battened floor are principally the same as those given for joisted floors (above). When using a proprietary system of battens e.g. for sound insulation, the manufacturer's instructions must be followed carefully. Care must also be taken to ensure that any fixings used do not penetrate right through the batten into the subfloor.

Batten spacings/board thicknesses should be the same as those used in joisted floors.



Storage WISA-Sprucefloor

- Keep board dry – ideally in an enclosed building
- When storage outside is unavoidable choose a clean space on level ground away from machinery



Handling

- Always handle with care to avoid damage to the tongue and groove edge profile
- Do not move opened pallets with mechanical handling equipment
- Wear gloves to avoid splinters

FIXING – THERMALLY INSULATED

These floors are not fixed to the subfloor but are held in position by their own weight and by the perimeter skirting.

Vapour check – An improved liquid vapour barrier applied to the surface of the subfloor or a vapour check of 1,000 gauge polythene with joints overlapped and taped with a waterproof tape should cover the subfloor. Care should be taken to avoid puncturing the membrane during installation. A damp proof membrane incorporated into the slab is not sufficient to prevent migration of moisture from the concrete slab into the floor.

Insulating underlay – Depending on the degree of thermal insulation required an insulating underlay of probably not less than 25 mm thickness should be placed on the subfloor butting the joints tightly together and carefully fitting it around any pipes, under floor services etc. Closed cell extruded polystyrene foam is recommended. Batten support must be provided at thresholds and access traps.

Installation – The boards should be laid with all the short end joints staggered. Ensure the board joints do not coincide with the joint in the insulating underlay. The tongued and grooved joints should be glued using a waterproof PVA adhesive. Joints should be tight fitting.

Expansion/air gaps – It is important to leave an expansion/air gap around the perimeter of the floor. This gap must be a minimum of 10 mm wide or 2 mm per metre run of floor, whichever is the greater. When large single runs of floors (over 15 m) are being laid, it may be necessary to incorporate intermediate expansion gaps depending on the nature of the sub floor and the environment in which the boards are being laid/are likely to be used.



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