



TECHNICAL BULLETIN #18

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A WOOD FLOOR CONTRACTOR

When consumers engage contractors, who hold themselves out to be a “**wood floor contractor**” it is entirely reasonable for them to expect, that such a contractor is knowledgeable about the industry and aware of his responsibilities.

WOOD FLOOR CONTRACTORS

Wood floor contractors must be aware that in contracting the installation of wood floor works, they are **responsible**, to ensure the following:-

1. That the products that they are installing are “fit for purpose”. (A quality product that will deliver what is “claimed”).
2. That the site upon which products are being installed, is a “**suitable site**” to be installing wood floors (drainage / sub floor ventilation / below grade installation.
3. Own and know how to operate and record all necessary site information **before** commencement of works.
 - Concrete Moisture Meter
 - Timber Moisture Meter
 - Specie correction tables (both “corrected and “uncorrected meter readings) should be record.
 - Know and be able to identify timber species
 - Understand and be able to advise on “**hardness ratings**” of timber species
 - Know, understand, and be able to advise on potential sanding and coating **problems** “typically” inherent in certain timber species, (oils, rejection etc.,)
 - Own and use a 3 metre **straight-edge** to “check” the **acceptability** of a sub floor for “*planeness and tolerance*” prior to commencement of floor installation works.

Test the surface of the sub floor for “**friability**” with 50 cent coin or similar.

- Know and undertake “**water drop testing**” for permeability of the sub floor prior to commencement of works.
- **Consider** use of Epoxy Moisture Seal to “bind” the surface of sub floors that are found to be “questionable” from a “friability” or permeability aspect.
- Consider if “**dry**” **grinding** with diamond grinder is appropriate to “prepare” the slab.

Apart from the use of such products as a **liquid membrane** (minimum 2 coat application) on any work contemplated in below grade installations ??????????

4. **Consider** all “environmental” circumstances relevant to **this site**, geographically. (Close to coast / high humidity / very “dry” area large body of water - dam or lake / massive areas of glass - radiant heat).
5. **Consider** what **additional** expansion must be constructed **within** the establishment of this floor, that is “*greater than*” the **minimum** requirements of the Building Code of Australia and published by **NWFAA** “**good trade practice**”.
6. **Consider**, that it is **not** considered wisdom to be installing any **glue-down** wood floor system over **old magnesite** as movement of wood floors will cause magnesite bond to fail, and hence floor installation will “fail”
7. **Consider**, that your use of **any** type of polyurethane coating over **any** mechanically jointed (T&G) floor, may be held responsible for “**edge bond**” failure that could see you held responsible for complete floor replacement.
8. **Consider**, if you install any board floor in excess of **85** mm wide as a “secret nailed” floor and it **fails**, you will have installed contrary to the Building Code of Australia.

Remember, a little extra time and care at every stage of the process, makes all the difference between a “professional” and a “cowboy”.

Take “**pride**” in everything that you do today to enhance the professionalism of the Specialised Wood Floor Industry.