

NASH TIMBERS NEWSLETTER

Nash Timbers Regular feature.

1) F.A.Q

2) PROBLEMS THAT ARISE

Send your question and test our knowledge!!!!

F.A.Q

Does a timber floor need control joints? YES.

Control joints should be installed at least every metres, if flooring is wider expansion joints are closer.

A 12mm control joints under skirting board, if there is no skirting board used an control joints is to be installed to architect specification.

Control joint allows for the timber to grow and shrink, remembering it is a natural product.

If control joints are not installed timber cups due to not having any room to grow.

You have only two choices when it comes to installing control joints, a level floor or a cupped floor.

OOPS!

No control joints.

Again and again David is called into look at flooring that is cupped. There can be many causes but quite often no control joints have been installed. Why, you must ask are the control joints not installed. The main response is because the client or Architect does not like the look but on the other hand a cupped floor looks worse and does nothing for the cause of timber. Just last week David saw four floors that had cupped due to no control joints

WHEN INSTALLING A FLOOR THE NASH TIMBERS RECOMMENDED CHECKLIST

1. Correct species for location. (Eg: High Janka Rating timber in high traffic area).
2. Correct timber profile for site. (Eg. 14mm T & G Board towel glue on ply in preference to 19mm T & G board)
3. Correct width and thickness for site. (Eg, Recommend not to install a board over 200mm wide in damp conditions and full air condition environment.)
4. Ensure under floor ventilation is correct if not on concrete slab. (Eg. There must be a good cross flow ventilation under the floor.
5. If installing onto slab ensure correct moisture content.(Recommend a moisture barrier is used on top of slab)
6. If using ply slab must be level (Eg Unable to put packing under ply)

7. Battens must be Kiln Dried Hardwood (Eg Pine battens will flex when the floor is sanded causing corrugations in the floor)
8. A high quality glue must be used. (Eg. if cheaper glue is used floor will cup or the floor may squeak)
9. Timber not to be installed until site is sealed. (Eg. Floor will not acclimatise correctly)
10. When acclimatising flooring, different rules apply depending on site, species, width and thickness of board. (Eg Some species need to be nailed and glued immediately as the timber cells take on moisture and expand from the end grain)
11. If acclimatising, floor cut in on site, and turn if cupping. (Strip stacking on site not recommended)
12. No secret nailing over 80 x 19mm but can secret nail 14mm thick board up to 180 x 14.
13. Ensure the correct nail and application is used to minimise the puncture mark in the surface of the floorboard and ensure correct adherence to substrate.
14. Nash Timbers recommends that you always check the milling and moisture content of the board. (eg, Sometimes the milling process may cause a problem with the floorboard)
15. Control joints must be installed.
16. Finally be aware of climate condition that will affect you floorboard. (Eg, Direct sunlight, air condition vents, wind and water)

When organising to have a job to be quoted it is very important to ensure that you are comparing apples with apples, not apples with lemons. Cost can be reduced by using inferior timber ply, battens and glue and installing expansion joints. Concerning timber, clients can be sold a different species which is a lower grade but similar colour. (Eg, Blackbutt replaced with Mixed creams)

Nash Timbers prefers to collect data, which requires taking & recording temperature and Relative Humidity readings over a period of time within the house once it is enclosed.

This then allows us to calculate an average temperature that the floor board will be living within the house.

Then using an EMC Calculator we can determine if there is going to be any growth in the floor board.

This formula will calculate the control joints that will be needed within your floor.

There is a variation with each species and width of board.

If a floor board grows by 1% that can relate to 1mm across the board.