

# Timber Overlay Flooring System Design Guide

FOR USE WITH GLUE DOWN PREFINISHED ENGINEERED PLANK FLOORING



Cover image:  
Eastbourne House  
Stevens Lawson Architects  
Ultra Marbled Oak  
Millboard Limed Oak

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<b>1</b>	<b>PRODUCT OVERVIEW</b>	<b>02</b>
	1.1-1.6 CURRENT COLLECTIONS	04
	1.7 GRADE, COLOUR VARIATION AND MARKINGS	10
<b>2</b>	<b>APPROVED SUBSTRATES</b>	<b>12</b>
	2.1 STANDARD SUBSTRATES SCOPE & LIMITATIONS OF USE	12
	2.2 OTHER SUBSTRATES SCOPE & LIMITATIONS OF USE	13
	2.3 GLUE & ADHESIVE SYSTEMS	14
<b>3</b>	<b>INTERTENANCY FLOORS &amp; ACOUSTIC RATINGS (G6)</b>	<b>17</b>
	3.1 IIC REQUIREMENTS	18
	3.2 CONCRETE SUBFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS	18
	3.3 TIMBER SUBFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS	19
<b>4</b>	<b>UNDERFLOOR HEATING</b>	<b>22</b>
	4.1 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS	23
	4.2 UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEM COMPATIBILITY	23
	4.3 ADDITIONAL CARE & MAINTENANCE WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING	25
<b>5</b>	<b>WET AREAS (E3)</b>	<b>27</b>
	5.1 SHOULD I SPECIFY AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION OR E3/AS2?	28
	5.2 ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION (INSTALL WITH D3 PVA/CAULKING IN JOINTS)	31
	5.3 INSTALL OVER A WET AREA MEMBRANE (E3/AS2)	32
<b>6</b>	<b>STAIRWAY DESIGN AND ACCESS (D1)</b>	<b>36</b>
	6.1 STAIRWAY DESIGN OVERVIEW	36
	6.2 FORTÉ STANDARD NOSING DESIGN & APPLICATIONS	36
	6.3 FORTÉ PREMIUM NOSING DESIGN & APPLICATIONS	38
	6.4 FORTÉ ACCESSIBLE NOSING DESIGN & APPLICATIONS	38
	6.5 STAIR SLIP RESISTANCE	42
	6.6 COMMERCIAL ENTRANCES	43
<b>7</b>	<b>FLOORING HEIGHTS &amp; FINISHINGS</b>	<b>45</b>
	7.1 FLOORING HEIGHTS	45
	7.2 TIMBER TO CARPET	49
	7.3 TIMBER TO TIMBER	50
	7.4 TIMBER TO TILE	51
	7.5 TIMBER TO POLISHED CONCRETE / GARAGE FLOOR	52
	7.6 TIMBER TO JOINERY	52
	7.7 TIMBER TO FRONT DOOR	53
	7.8 SKIRTINGS	54
<b>8</b>	<b>ENERGY EFFICIENCY (H1)</b>	<b>57</b>
	8.1 UNDERFLOOR HEATING CONSIDERATIONS	57
	8.2 LRV	58
<b>9</b>	<b>MAINTAINING A STABLE CLIMATE</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>HISTORIC PRODUCTS</b>	<b>64</b>

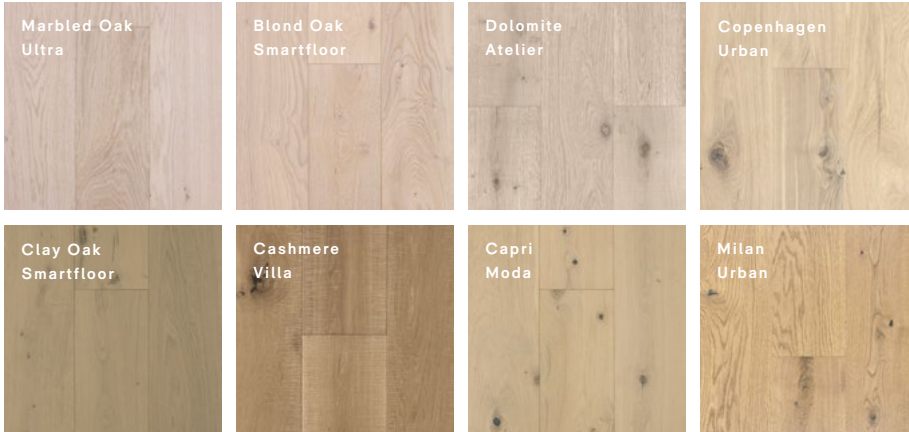
# 1. Product Overview | Current

Collection	Scope	Construction	Certifications
<b>/loft</b>	Budget-friendly and durable, ideal for commercial spaces, large-scale projects, and busy homes, providing affordability without compromising quality.	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Eucalypt Plywood Base	CodeMark FSC certified E0 Low Voc
<b>/urban</b>	Combines affordability with the beauty of real timber, suitable for renovations and new builds, offering an authentic timber aesthetic at an affordable pricepoint.	3-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Hevea Core Spruce Backing	CodeMark PEFC Certified E0 Low Voc
<b>/moda</b>	Versatile collection for a range of residential and commercial projects, with customisable options including different plank widths and herringbone patterns, offering flexibility in design.	3-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Eucalypt Plywood Core Birch Backing	CodeMark Pending Sustainably Sourced E0 Low Voc
<b>/smartfloor</b>	Reliable choice for residential settings, providing a traditional aesthetic with low maintenance, complementing classic interior styles and offering a timeless look.	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Eucalypt Plywood Base	CodeMark FSC on request E0 Low Voc
<b>/indus</b>	Premium choice for design-oriented projects, suited for high-end residential and commercial spaces, enhancing the luxurious feel with modern hues and wide planks.	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Meranti Plywood Base	CodeMark FSC on request E0 Low Voc
<b>/atelier</b>	Versatile and sophisticated colours, suitable for high-end residential spaces, offering custom options for unique rustic charm and contemporary elegance.	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Eucalypt Plywood Base	CodeMark FSC on request E0 Low Voc
<b>/ultra</b>	Robust collection for residential and commercial spaces requiring top-quality flooring, featuring a 6mm veneer for luxury and longevity.	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Eucalypt Plywood Base	CodeMark FSC on request E0 Low Voc
<b>/artefact</b>	A luxury collection for residential projects, featuring rustic grade engineered timber that encompasses a plethora of natural colour and grain variation.	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Birch Plywood Base	FSC on request E0 Low Voc
<b>/villa</b>	Provides a bold, rustic aesthetic, making it a premium choice for high-end residential and commercial projects, showcasing a 'distinct rough sawn texture and character-filled look.	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Meranti Plywood Base	CodeMark FSC on request E0 Low Voc
<b>/artiste GRANDE</b>	A luxurious collection for those seeking the authentic texture of natural timber, featuring rustic aged wide planks for a vintage aesthetic in high-end residential projects.	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Birch Plywood Base	FSC on request E0 Low Voc

Formats Available	Status	Lead Time	Plank Dimensions	RRP per m <sup>2</sup>	Trade Price per m <sup>2</sup>
193mm Plank	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	12/2 x 193 x 1830mm	\$122.00	\$98.00
190mm Plank	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	14/3 x 190 x 1830mm	\$157.00 - \$197.00	\$126.00 - \$158.00
220mm Plank	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	15/4 x 220 x 2200mm	\$194.00 - \$249.00	\$156.00 - \$200.00
Herringbone	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	15/4 x 125 x 625mm		
190mm Plank	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	15/4 x 190 x 2200mm	\$194.00 - \$285.00	\$156.00 - \$229.00
Herringbone	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	15/4 x 120 x 600mm		
Chevron	Custom Order	16 Weeks	15/4 x 120 x 600mm		
240mm Plank	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	18/4 x 240 x 2400mm	\$272.00 - \$446.00	\$218.00 - \$358.00
Herringbone	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	18/4 x 120 x 600mm		
220mm Plank	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	15/4 x 220 x 2200mm	\$278.00 - \$337.00	\$223.00 - \$271.00
260mm Plank	Stocked	16 Weeks	21/6 x 260 x 2200mm		
Herringbone	Custom Order	16 Weeks	15/4 x 120 x 600mm		
Chevron	Custom Order	16 Weeks	15/4 x 120 x 600mm		
190mm Plank	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	21/6 x 190 x 1900mm	\$296.00 - \$345.00	\$238.00 - \$277.00
220mm Plank	Stocked	1-8 Weeks	15/4 x 220 x 2200mm	\$316.00	\$254.00
240mm Plank	Stocked	16 Weeks	18/4 x 240 x 2400mm	\$310.00	\$249.00
Herringbone	Stocked	16 Weeks	18/4 x 120 x 600mm		
250mm Plank	Custom Order	16 Weeks	19/5 x 250 x 2500mm	\$331.00 - \$446.00	\$266.00 - \$358.00
Herringbone	Custom Order	16 Weeks	19/5 x 120 x 720mm		
Chevron	Custom Order	16 Weeks	19/5 x 120 x 600mm		

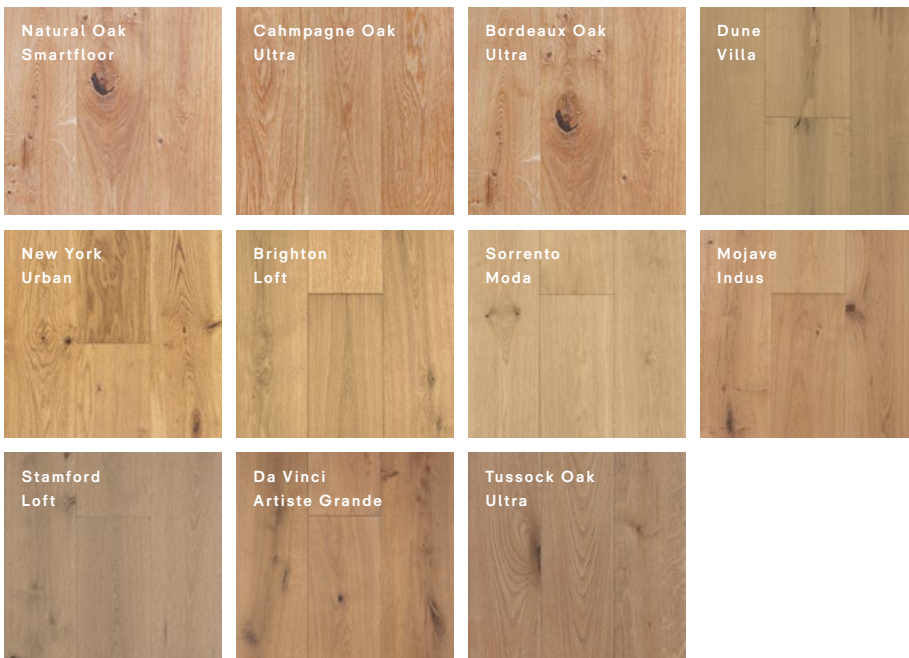
## 1.1 LIGHT/BLOND

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## 1.2 GOLDEN

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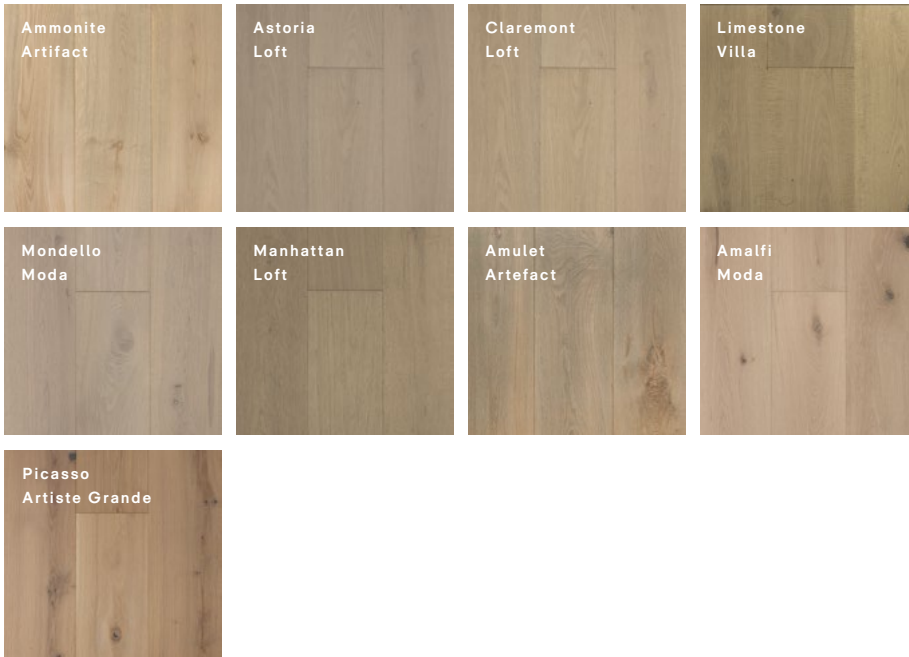


Collection	Colour	Format	Grade	Code	Dimensions
<b>Light/Blond</b>					
Urban	Copenhagen	Plank	Feature	UR-CFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
		Plank	Prime	UR-CPP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
	Milan	Plank	Feature	UR-MFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
Moda	Capri	Plank	Feature	MOD-CAFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Plank	Light Feature	MOD-CALFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	MOD-CALFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
Smartfloor	Blond Oak	Plank	Feature	SBOF190	15 T x 190 W x 2200mm L
		Plank	Light Feature	SBO190	15 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	SBO190	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
	Clay Oak	Plank	Feature	SCOF220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Plank	Light Feature	SCO220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	SCOHB120	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
		Chevron	Light Feature	SCOC120	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Atelier	Dolomite	Plank 220	Rustic	AT-DRP15	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Plank 260	Rustic	AT-DRP21	21 T x 260 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AT-DRH15	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Ultra	Marbled Oak	Plank	Prime	UL-MPP	21 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
Villa	Cashmere	Plank	Rustic	VI-CRSP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	VI-CRSH	18 T x 120 W x 600mm L
<b>Golden</b>					
Loft	Brighton	Plank	Feature	LO-BTFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
	Stamford	Plank	Feature	LO-SFFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
Urban	New York	Plank	Feature	UR-NYFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
		Plank	Prime	UR-NYPP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
Moda	Sorrento	Plank	Feature	MOD-SFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Plank	Light Feature	MOD-SLFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	MOD-SLFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
Smartfloor	Natural Oak	Plank	Feature	SNOF190	15 T x 190 W x 2200mm L
		Plank	Light Feature	SNO190	15 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	SNOHB120	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Indus	Mojave	Plank	Feature	IN-MFP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Plank	Prime	IN-MPP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
Ultra	Champagne Oak	Plank	Prime	UL-CPP-190	21 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
	Bordeaux Oak	Plank	Feature	UL-BFP-190	21 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
	Tussock Oak	Plank	Feature	UL-TFP-190	21 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
Villa	Dune	Plank	Rustic	VI-DRSP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	VI-DRSH	18 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Artiste Grande	Da Vinci	Plank	Rustic	AG-DVRP	19 T x 250 W x 2500mm L
		Chevron	Rustic	AG-DVRC	19 T x 120 W x 600mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AG-DVRH	19 T x 120 W x 720mm L

### 1.3

#### NEUTRAL WARM

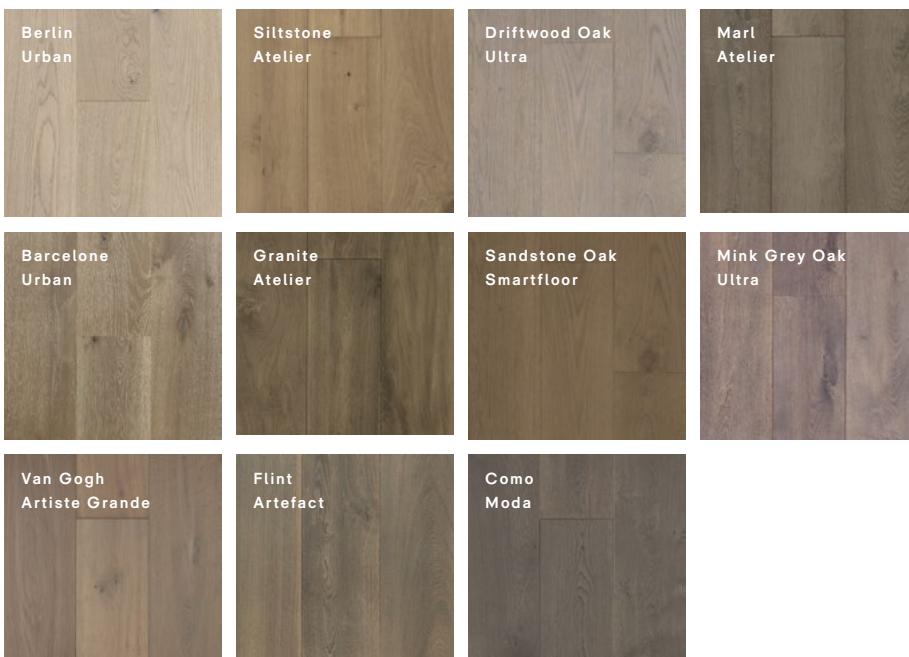
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### 1.4

#### NEUTRAL COOL

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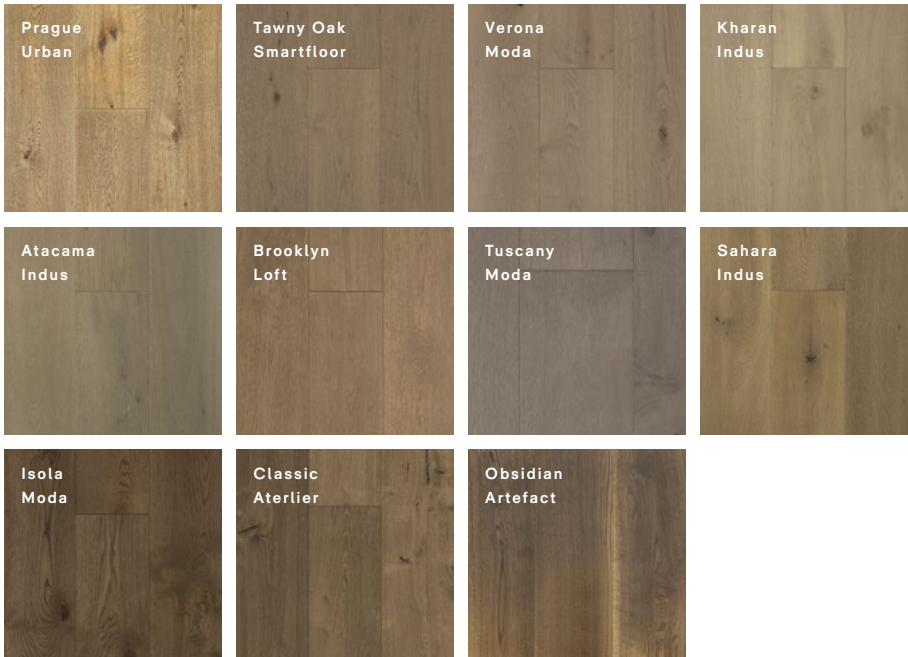


Collection	Colour	Format	Grade	Code	Dimensions
<b>Neutral Warm</b>					
Loft	Astoria	Plank	Feature	LO-AFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
	Claremont	Plank	Feature	LO-CFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
	Manhattan	Plank	Feature	LO-MFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
Moda	Amalfi	Plank	Feature	MOD-AFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Feature	MOD-ALFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
	Mondello	Plank	Feature	MOD-MFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Feature	MOD-MLFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
Artefact	Ammonite	Plank	Rustic	ART-AMMRP	15 T x 220 W x 1800-2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	ART-AMMRH	15 T x 135 W x 600mm L
	Amulet	Plank	Rustic	ART-AMURP	15 T x 220 W x 1800-2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	ART-AMURH	15 T x 135 W x 600mm L
Villa	Limestone	Plank	Rustic	VI-LRSP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	VI-LRSH	18 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Artiste Grande	Picasso	Plank	Rustic	AG-PRP	19 T x 250 W x 2500mm L
		Chevron	Rustic	AG-PRC	19 T x 120 W x 600mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AG-PRH	19 T x 120 W x 720mm L
<b>Neutral Cool</b>					
Urban	Berlin	Plank	Feature	UR-BEFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
	Barcelona	Plank	Feature	UR-BAFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
Moda	Como	Plank	Feature	MOD-CFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Feature	MOD-CLFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
Smartfloor	Sandstone Oak	Plank	Feature	SBOF190	15 T x 190 W x 2200mm L
Atelier	Granite	Plank 220	Rustic	AT-GRP15	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Plank 260	Rustic	AT-GRP21	21 T x 260 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AT-GRH15	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
	Siltstone	Plank 220	Rustic	AT-SRP15	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Plank 260	Rustic	AT-SRP21	21 T x 260 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AT-SRH15	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
	Marl	Plank 220	Rustic	AT-MRP15	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Plank 260	Rustic	AT-MRP21	21 T x 260 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AT-MRH15	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Ultra	Driftwood Oak	Plank	Feature	UL-DFP-190	21 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
	Mink Grey Oak	Plank	Feature	UL-MGFP-190	21 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
Artefact	Flint	Plank	Rustic	ART-FLRP	15 T x 220 W x 1800-2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	ART-FLRH	15 T x 135 W x 600mm L
Artiste Grande	Van Gogh	Plank	Rustic	AG-VGRP	19 T x 250 W x 2500mm L
		Chevron	Rustic	AG-VGRC	19 T x 120 W x 600mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AG-VGRH	19 T x 120 W x 720mm L

## 1.5

### MID BROWN

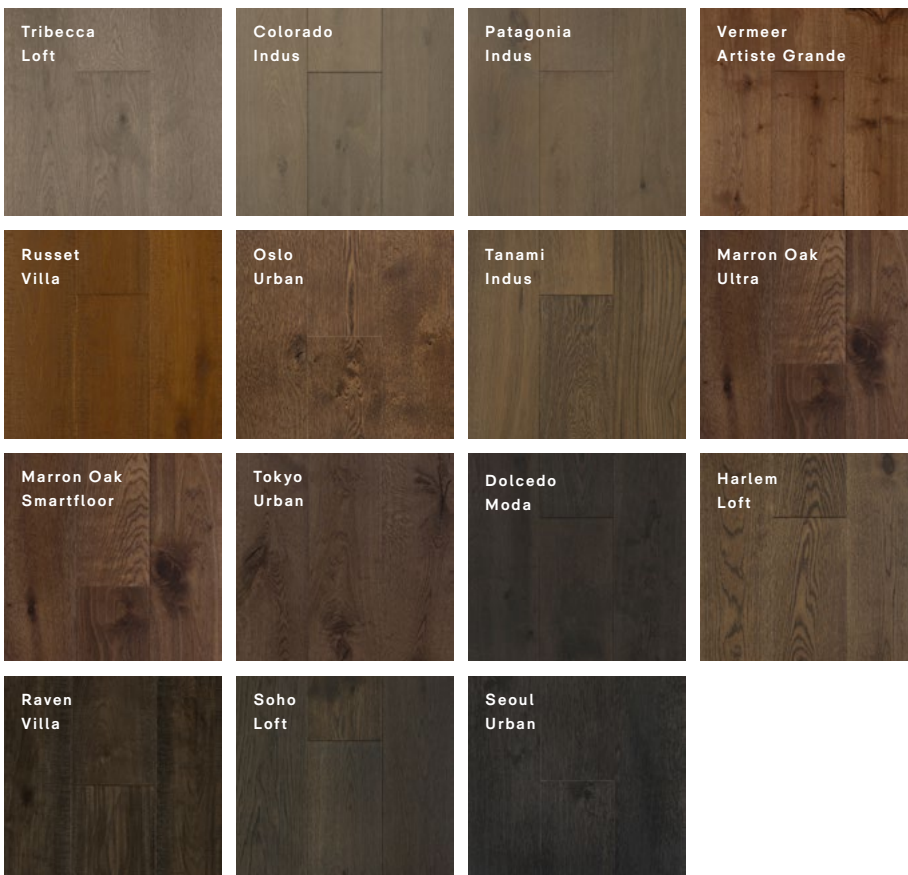
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## 1.6

### DARK BROWN/BLACK

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Collection	Colour	Format	Grade	Code	Dimensions
<b>Mid Brown</b>					
Loft	Brooklyn	Plank	Feature	LO-BFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
Urban	Prague	Plank	Feature	UR-PFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
Moda	Isola	Plank	Feature	MOD-IFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	MOD-ILFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
	Tuscany	Plank	Feature	MOD-TFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	MOD-TLFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
	Verona	Plank	Feature	MOD-VFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	MOD-VLFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
Smartfloor	Tawny Oak	Plank	Feature	STO220	15 T x 190 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	STOHB120	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
		Chevron	Light Feature	STOC120	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Indus	Atacama	Plank	Feature	IN-AFP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Plank	Prime	IN-APP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	IN-AFH	18 T x 120 W x 600mm L
	Kharan	Plank	Feature	IN-KFP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
	Sahara	Plank	Feature	IN-SFP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	IN-SFH	18 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Atelier	Classic	Plank 220	Rustic	AT-CRP15	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Plank 260	Rustic	AT-CRP21	21 T x 260 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AT-CRH15	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Artefact	Obsidian	Plank	Rustic	ART-ORP	15 T x 220 W x 1800-2200mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	ART-ORH	15 T x 135 W x 600mm L
<b>Dark Brown/Black</b>					
Loft	Harlem	Plank	Feature	LO-HFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
	Soho	Plank	Feature	LO-SFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
	Tribeca	Plank	Feature	LO-TFP	12 T x 193 W x 1830mm L
Urban	Oslo	Plank	Feature	UR-OFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
	Tokyo	Plank	Feature	UR-TFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
	Seoul	Plank	Feature	UR-SFP	14 T x 190 W x 1830mm L
Moda	Dolcedo	Plank	Feature	MOD-DFP220	15 T x 220 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	MOD-DLFH	15 T x 125 W x 625mm L
Smartfloor	Marron Oak	Plank	Feature	SMO190	15 T x 190 W x 2200mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	SMOHB120	15 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Indus	Colorado	Plank	Feature	IN-CFP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
	Patagonia	Plank	Feature	IN-PFP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Herringbone	Light Feature	IN-PFH	18 T x 120 W x 600mm L
	Tanami	Plank	Feature	IN-TFP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
Ultra	Marron Oak	Plank	Feature	UL-MFP-190	21 T x 190 W x 1900mm L
Villa	Raven	Plank	Rustic	VI-RRSP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	VI-RRSH	18 T x 120 W x 600mm L
	Russet	Plank	Rustic	VI-RURSP	18 T x 240 W x 2400mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	VI-RURSH	18 T x 120 W x 600mm L
Artiste Grande	Vermeer	Plank	Rustic	AG-VRP	19 T x 250 W x 2500mm L
		Chevron	Rustic	AG-VRC	19 T x 120 W x 600mm L
		Herringbone	Rustic	AG-VRH	19 T x 120 W x 720mm L

## 1.7

### GRADE, COLOUR VARIATION AND MARKINGS

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You will notice that some wood floors are full of knots and cracks and have varying colours between planks, and others are quite clear with little to no markings. This is due to the grade of the wood and the colour variation.

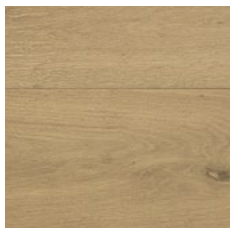
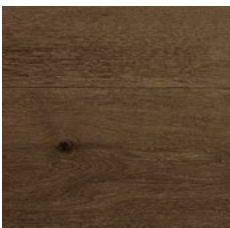
Markings in timber add to the appearance of wood and how it is graded. They do not affect the strength or integrity of the wood.



#### CLEAR GRADE

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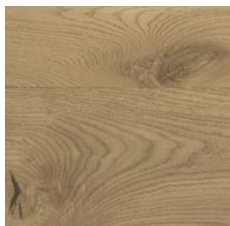
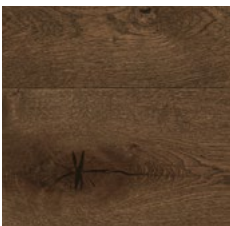
Clear grade timber offers a premium, flawless finish with no visible knots, cracks, or imperfections. Its surface is smooth and consistent, with minimal color and grain variation. There will be some minor imperfections, this makes it the ideal choice for projects where a sleek, sophisticated aesthetic is essential. The clean, uninterrupted appearance of Clear grade timber brings an understated elegance to any space.



#### PRIME GRADE

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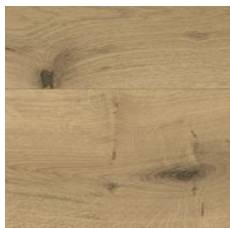
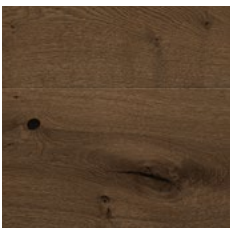
Prime grade timber delivers a refined, natural look with subtle character. While predominantly uniform, it may feature small knots and gentle variations in colour, adding a touch of texture and authenticity. This grade strikes a balance between clean lines and the organic charm of natural wood, making it perfect for spaces that demand both elegance and warmth.



#### LIGHT FEATURE GRADE

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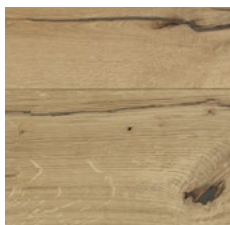
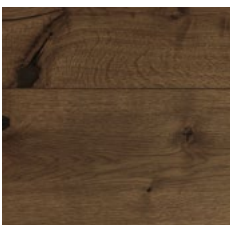
Light Feature grade timber introduces a balance between clean aesthetics and natural character. It showcases small to medium knots, gentle colour variation, and some natural imperfections, bringing a touch more texture and interest. These features offer an authentic reflection of the timber's natural origins without dominating the design. Knots and cracks are often filled with coloured wood filler, providing a smooth finish while retaining the timber's unique charm.



#### FEATURE GRADE

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Feature grade timber offers a more expressive display of natural character. Larger knots, some visible cracks, and colour and grain variation bring a sense of warmth and texture to any space. This grade celebrates the timber's natural beauty, making it perfect for adding a statement of organic charm. Features like knots and cracks may be filled with coloured wood filler to create a balanced, polished appearance.



#### RUSTIC GRADE

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Rustic grade timber embraces the raw beauty of wood, featuring large knots, open cracks, and significant colour and grain variation. This grade captures the timber's natural essence, offering a more rugged texture and bold, organic aesthetic. Knots and cracks may be filled, creating a strong, character-driven look that brings depth and authenticity to any environment.



### KNOTS

Knots are unique circular or oval-shaped imperfections in the wood grain, with a darker coloured centre, occurring naturally in trees where the base of a branch grows out of the main trunk. These markings vary in size and can extend deep into the core of the tree. There are two types of knots:

1. Dead knots - where the core has fallen out or been removed and is filled with a coloured wood 'filler'.
2. Live knots - where the core is intact and does not require filling.

Knots give a unique, natural character to wood and are more commonly seen in light feature, feature and rustic grades.



### SAPWOOD

Sapwood is a distinct, lighter-coloured streak in the outermost portion of a tree trunk that acts as a 'pipeline' through which water passes from the roots to the leaves, making it a natural occurrence rather than a defect. Sapwood is the younger wood of the tree that grows around the older, darker centre of the tree (the heartwood) and darkens as the tree grows. Sapwood in wood becomes more prominent over time when exposed to sunlight/UV.

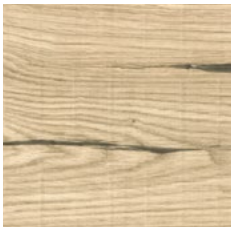
Staining the planks can help blend the natural characteristics and may lessen the appearance of sapwood. However, it will not eliminate them. Roasted or fumed wood has distinctive sapwood as the heating process causes an even greater colour contrast, making the sapwood even more prominent, especially over time.



### MEDULLARY RAYS

These are 'tiger-stripe' looking distinct rays, waves or flecks against the grain extending radially from the tree's centre outwards. They have a pale-coloured, natural appearance in wood and indicate that your timber has been crafted from quality quarter-sawn Oak. Medullary Rays can appear to have a shine to them, gleaming under direct sunlight.

Before a tree is sawn, it has a network of vein-like cells inside the trunk that transport nutrients from the heart of the tree to the extremities. When the tree is milled, specific cuts (usually those made to the top and bottom of the log) run across the tree's vein-like cell structure at an angle, resulting in these unique vein-like markings known as medullary rays.



### CRACKS

Cracks (also called shakes) are a natural-occurring split across the grain of the wood. There are many causes for cracks, such as uneven wood drying, high winds, frost, or felling trees past maturity.

These cracks are usually filled with a coloured wood 'filler', but in some cases, particularly with a Rustic Grade wood, they may be part-filled to add to the character or feature of the wood. The number and size of the shakes in your timber are again, affected by the grade you choose.



### PINHOLE

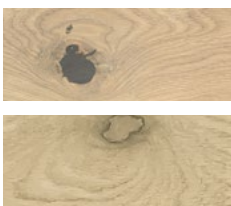
Pinholes are a series of tiny black holes caused by an Oak pinhole borer and are found in wood in any grade below clear grade. The borer lays its eggs, and the larvae bore deep into the heartwood of stressed Oak. Borer cannot survive once the wood has been dried out and are gone before the wood is crafted into planks.



### FIGURING

Figuring (or cats paw) refers to the markings found on longitudinal surfaces of wood. The figure of a piece of wood can be linked to factors such as its grain and the way it was cut, or it may be due to the unique properties of the timber.

Figuring can also occur due to a burr (or burl) where a tree growth has grown deformed, extending far into the trunk, and has affected the grain.



### WOOD FILLER

Wood may contain 'knots' or 'cracks' which are typically filled with a coloured wood filler during the manufacturing process. The filler colour is carefully chosen to complement rather than precisely match the wood, and it may change from batch to batch. Please refer to the specification sheet of your selected product to understand which wood filler will be used.

# 2. Approved Substrates

## 2.1

### STANDARD SUBSTRATES SCOPE & LIMITATIONS OF USE

Substrate	Scope	Limitations of Use
<b>Concrete</b> Slab-on-grade or suspended	<b>Acoustic and IIC Ratings</b> If IIC 55 Rating required for Multi-Storey Building	Refer to 3.2
	<b>Underfloor Heating</b> Hydronic or In-Screed Systems	Refer to 4.3
	<b>Wet Areas (E3)</b> Recommended to follow Forté Alternative Solution	Refer to 5.1
	<b>Stairway Design &amp; Access (D1)</b> Additional requirements for Accessible stairways	Refer to 6.1-6.5
	<b>Maintaining a Stable Climate</b>	Refer to 9
	<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The flooring is suitable for all areas other than garages and commercial kitchens.</li> <li>— The flooring should be separated from fuel-burning appliances, flues, and chimneys in accordance with NZBC Section C AS/1.</li> <li>— For installations where a single length/run of the timber flooring will be over 15 meters, please contact Forté to ensure suitability for installation.</li> </ul>
<b>Timber - Plywood</b> Structural (minimum 18mm) or Overlay, but not timber joists	<b>Acoustic and IIC Ratings</b> If IIC 55 Rating required for Multi-Storey Building	Refer to 3.3
	<b>Underfloor Heating</b> In-Screed Systems	Refer to 4.3
	<b>Wet Areas (E3)</b> Recommended to follow Forté Alternative Solution if using H3 Plywood	Refer to 5.1
	<b>Stairway Design &amp; Access (D1)</b> Additional requirements for Accessible stairways	Refer to 6.1-6.5
	<b>Maintaining a Stable Climate</b>	Refer to 9
	<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The flooring is suitable for all areas other than garages and commercial kitchens.</li> <li>— The flooring should be separated from fuel-burning appliances, flues, and chimneys in accordance with NZBC Section C AS/1.</li> <li>— For installations where a single length/run of the timber flooring will be over 15 meters, please contact Forté to ensure suitability for installation.</li> </ul>
<b>Timber - Other</b> Structural (18mm+) or Overlay, but not timber joists  (Particleboard, Oriented Strand board, or Existing solid timber)	<b>Acoustic and IIC Ratings</b> If IIC 55 Rating required for Multi-Storey Building	Refer to 3.3
	<b>Underfloor Heating</b> In-Screed Systems	Refer to 4.3
	<b>Wet Areas (E3)</b> E3/AS2 Membrane required if the subfloor is not H3 Plywood	Refer to 5.1
	<b>Stairway Design &amp; Access (D1)</b> Additional requirements for Accessible stairways	Refer to 6.1-6.5
	<b>Maintaining a Stable Climate</b>	Refer to 9
	<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The flooring is suitable for all areas other than garages and commercial kitchens.</li> <li>— The flooring should be separated from fuel-burning appliances, flues, and chimneys in accordance with NZBC Section C AS/1.</li> <li>— For installations where a single length/run of the timber flooring will be over 15 meters, please contact Forté to ensure suitability for installation.</li> </ul>



## 2.2

### OTHER SUBSTRATES SCOPE & LIMITATIONS OF USE

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Substrate	Scope & Limitations of Use
Fibre Cement e.g James Hardie Secura	
Magnesium Oxide Board e.g. Maglok Dragonboard	<b>The substrate product supplier must also state their product is suitable for use under Glue-Down Timber Flooring</b> The substrate should be structurally sound, level, and free from contaminants.
Tile Board (extruded polystyrene) e.g. Marmox Multiboard	Specific primers, screeds, and adhesives may be required depending on buildup for these substrates. Please enquire with Forté Technical Support for specific advice.
Ceramic Tiles, Stone, Terazzo	

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## 2.3

### GLUE & ADHESIVE SYSTEMS

All our timber flooring is suitable and recommended for glue-down installation. The exact installation application system will depend on the adhesive brand's guidelines, considering the substrate and any additional treatments necessary to meet building code standards or client specifications.

We recommend Mapei, Ardex, or other reputable adhesive brands with solutions for engineered timber flooring, ensuring they can provide compliance documentation and offer aftercare service.

We suggest the following systems for generic applications; however, always refer to your approved plans or the solution provider's recommendations for the specific requirements of your project.

[Mapei Systems Guide](#)

[Ardex Systems Guide](#)

Solutions	Substrate	Example System - Mapei
<b>Intertency &amp; Acoustic (G6)</b>	Concrete	<b>ET04</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Concrete Substrates with Vapour Barrier, Self-levelling and Acoustic Underlay
	Timber	<b>T06</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber Flooring and Acoustic Soundproof Matting Over a Difficult Substrate
<b>Underfloor Heating</b>	Concrete - In screed hydronic	<b>ET06</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Concrete Substrates with Vapour Barrier and Encapsulation of Over-wire heating Cables
	Concrete - In screed	<b>ET06</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Concrete Substrates with Vapour Barrier and Encapsulation of Over-wire heating Cables
	Timber	<b>ET07</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Composite Timber or Fibre Cement Substrates with Self-levelling
<b>Wet Areas (E3)</b>	Concrete - (Alternative Solution)	<b>ET01</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Concrete Substrates with Mapei 3 in 1 Adhesive System with additional D3 PVA Joints / Caulk Perimetre
	Concrete - (E3/AS2)	<b>ET01</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Concrete Substrates with Mapei 3 in 1 Adhesive System with additional Wet Area Membrane Surface Preparation
	Timber - (E3/AS2)	<b>ET07</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Composite Timber or Fibre Cement Substrates with Self-levelling with additional Wet Area Membrane Surface Preparation
<b>General Construction - Residential</b>	Concrete	<b>ET01</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Concrete Substrates with Mapei 3 in 1 Adhesive System
	Timber	<b>ET07</b> - System for the Installation of Engineered Timber over Composite Timber or Fibre Cement Substrates with Self-levelling









Pacifica Penthouse  
Plus Architecture  
Coco Republic  
Artefact Flint

# 3. Intertenancy Floors & Acoustic Ratings (G6)

Flooring acoustics are an important consideration in multi-residential building design and construction. The Impact Insulation Class (IIC) is a measure of a flooring system's ability to reduce impact sound. There are specific requirements for acoustics specified in the New Zealand Building Code (NZBC).

Please note that the NZBC requirements only apply to residential uses. Engineered timber installed over a timber subfloor has different requirements to that of concrete subfloor build-ups as an acoustic underlay isn't enough to achieve the required IIC rating.

There are three ways to specify timber flooring over intertenancy floors – Direct-fix Toppings, Floating Toppings such as Batten & Cradle, and Vibration Damping Floor Toppings.

The only way to achieve an IIC 55 rating or greater is by installing a soft floor covering such as carpet on a foam overlay. In kitchens, for example where this is not acceptable, an additional floor topping (or floating floor) system will be required on top of the basic timber-framed floor in order to achieve the desired IIC rating of 55.

It is important to note that when relying on a soft floor covering to obtain the acceptable IIC rating, it prevents future occupiers from replacing carpets with hard surfaces such as timber flooring.

We recommend working with an Acoustic Engineer and obtaining product testing for specific build-ups from the flooring supplier when specifying these systems.

It is important to note that glue and adhesive systems can positively influence the acoustic performance. Please refer to section 2.3 of Approved Substrates.

### 3.1

## IIC REQUIREMENTS

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Building elements which are common between occupancies, shall be constructed to prevent undue noise transmission from other occupancies or common spaces, to the habitable spaces of household units.

Under G6.3.2 the IIC requirement for the Impact Insulation Class of floors shall be no less than 55.

### 3.2

## CONCRETE SUBFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS

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All our flooring Collections exceed the minimum requirement of IIC 55 when installed with an Accoustick-Mat Underlay. All acoustic test reports are available in the links below.

When installing engineered timber flooring over a concrete subfloor, the Impact Insulation Class (IIC) rating can vary depending on several factors. General design considerations are as follows:

Install engineered timber flooring with an acoustic underlay between the timber and the concrete subfloor to improve the IIC rating.

Forté Collection	Result*	Test Report
Loft 12mm	IIC 60	Rp 001 20230465
Urban 14mm		
Moda 15mm		
Smartfloor 15mm	IIC 56	Rp 007 2016596A
Artefact 15mm		
Atelier 15mm		
Artiste Grande 19mm		
Atelier 21mm		
Indus 18mm	IIC 55	Rp 008 2016596A
Ultra 21mm		
Villa 18mm		

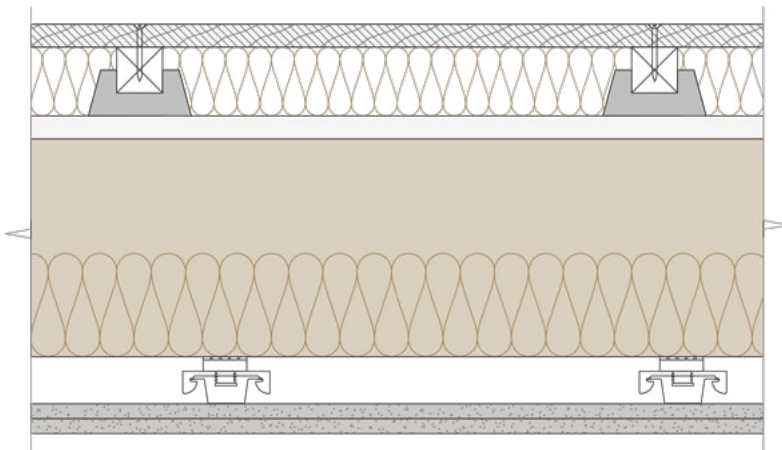
\*120mm Concrete Slab with Cavity Insulation and Minimum 13mm Plasterboard Ceiling

### 3.3 TIMBER SUBFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS

#### 3.3.1 FLOATING TOPPINGS – LIGHTWEIGHT (BATTEN & CRADLE)

The second option is specifying a floating topping. This system consists of a rigid, heavy flooring layer lying on top of soft, resilient layers or connectors. They are used to create floor systems that achieve good impact sound insulation performance, regardless of the surface finish of the floor. They also reduce flanking sound problems for horizontal airborne sound transfer, enabling the use of continuous floor diaphragms. Increasing the mass of the flooring surface upper layers and increasing the resilience of the connections to the floor underneath will result in better performance.

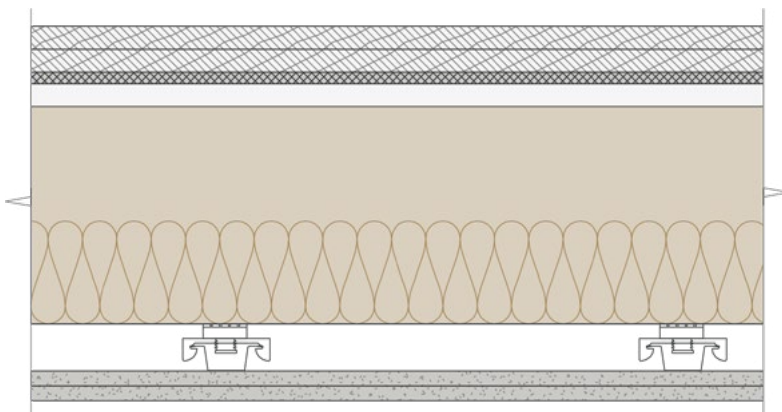
The perimeter of the floating floor must be surrounded with a foam layer to prevent the floating floor upper surface from directly contacting the perimeter walls. Lightweight floating floor systems such as the Batten & Cradle system, creates a floating floor and uses rubber cradles to support the timber floor battens, which when combined with the substrate, achieves an IIC rating of 56 or more for hard flooring finishes such as timber.



#### 3.3.2 FLOATING TOPPING – HEAVYWEIGHT

Lightweight floating floors can also be fabricated by fixing one or more layers of particleboard or fibre cement board together and laying them on a resilient foam or fibreglass board layer. Thick concrete flags or screeds at least 35mm thick laid on

resilient mats can be used to create a heavyweight floating floor. This improves the IIC rating and reduces low-frequency impact and airborne sound transfer.

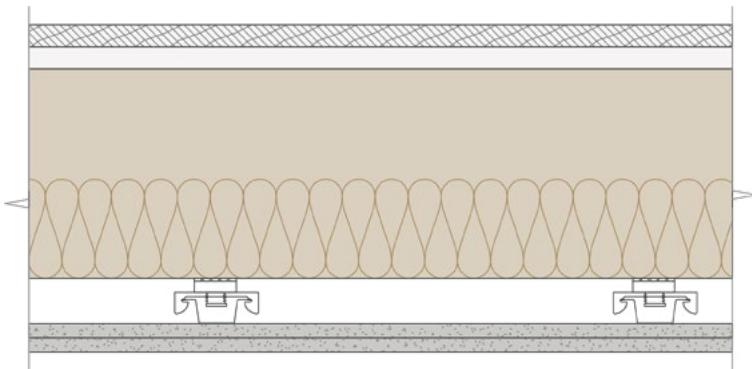


### 3.3.3

#### DIRECT FIX TOPPING

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One of the simplest ways to achieve the acceptable IIC rating is by specifying the direct-fix topping system. This involved directly fixing more panels to the existing structural board to increase the mass and stiffness of the upper floor panel. These extra layers increase acoustic performance both for direct vertical sound transfer and for flanking sound of horizontal sound insulation.

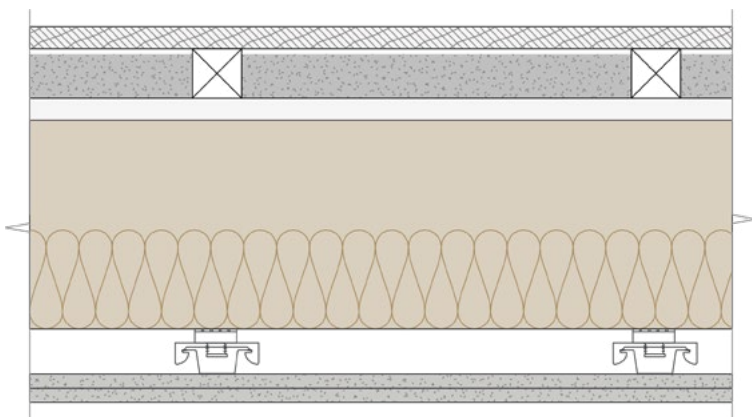


### 3.3.4

#### VIBRATION DAMPING FLOOR TOPPING

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Lastly, instead of using concrete screeds or resilient layers, the sound and vibration damping qualities of sand or other heavy granular materials can be used in the floor upper surface layers to achieve the highest IIC rating. For example, A system using 45mm deep battens with the cavities filled with a 60% sand / 40% sawdust mix can achieve an IIC rating of 63 for a bare floor.



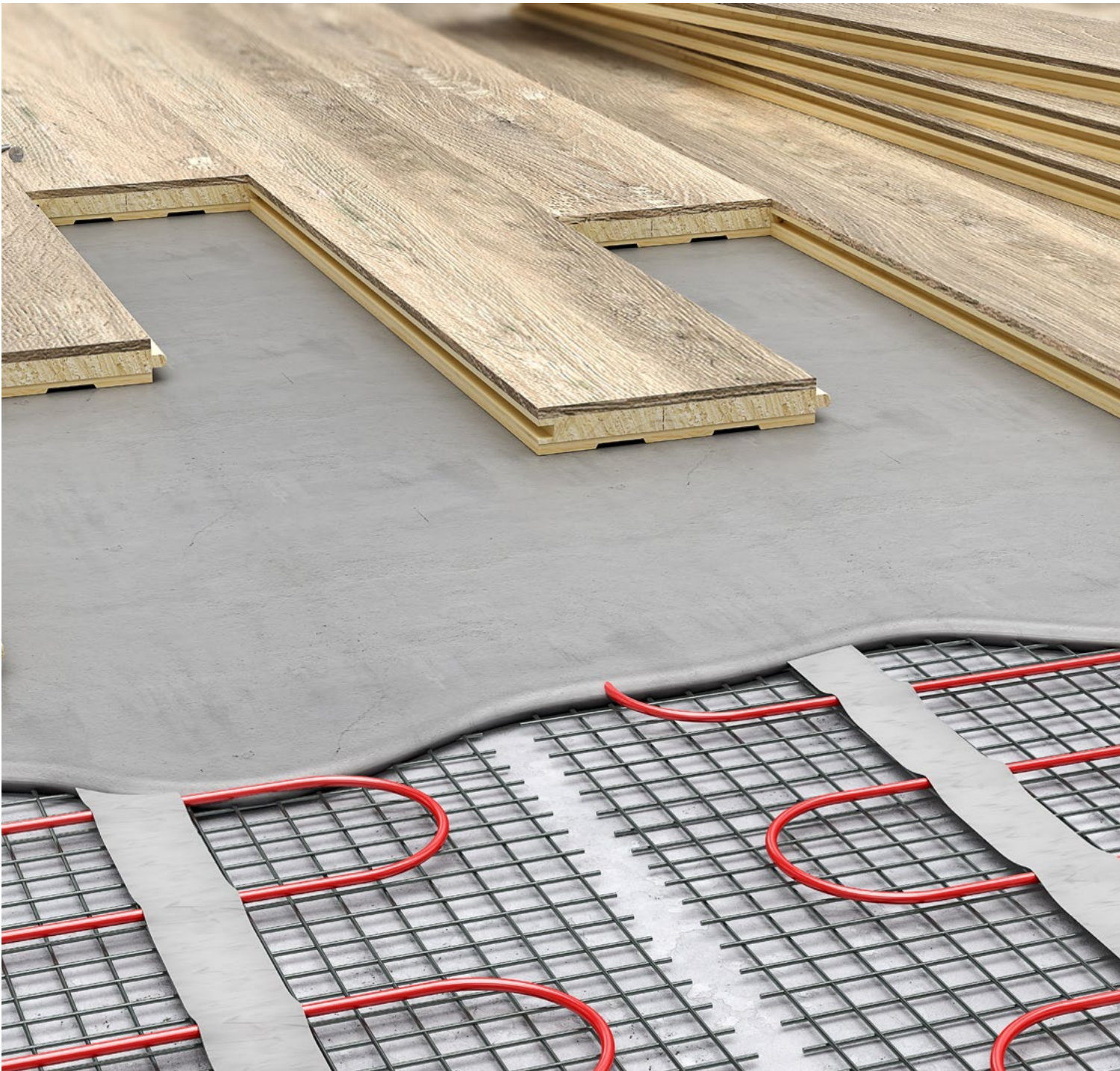


30 Madden  
Studio Pacific Architects  
Smartfloor Blond Oak



# 4. Underfloor Heating

When installing timber flooring over underfloor heating, additional requirements for both the underfloor heating system and the flooring being installed must be adhered to so risk is minimised and to ensure the warranty is not voided.





## 4.1

### DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

- The underfloor heating system must be laid throughout the entire area that the timber flooring is to be installed (even if the heat demand does not justify it). If this is not possible, then it may be possible to separate the area while allowing for expansion. Contact Forté Customer Care for more information.
- Ensure the system is designed to minimise 'hot spots' by consistent spacing and height positioning of pipework/wires in the slab/screed of the entire underfloor heating system.
- There should be a probe located in each zone/room where there is underfloor heating to ensure accurate temperature readings and to regulate the surface temperature and that the probe is set so that it cannot exceed 27°C.
- When specifying electric underfloor heating systems set into screed, it is important that the subfloor beneath the heating system is prepared correctly for glue-down timber flooring. Please ensure that the underfloor heating contractor talks to the timber flooring installer prior to installation of the heating system.



## 4.2

### UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEM COMPATIBILITY

Always ensure that the chosen underfloor heating system installer has proven experience of installation with timber flooring, and that the company supplying the system recommends installing under timber flooring with glue-down installation method.

The underfloor heating should be working at least 3 weeks before flooring is to be installed to allow enough time for commissioning and substrate preparation.

Systems	Approved	Max Temperature
Concrete floors with Hydronic Underfloor Heating system	✓	27
In-Screed Electric Underfloor Heating	✓	27
Electric Blanket Systems	✗	N/A
Hydronic with exposed water pipes	✗	N/A

#### 4.2.1

### CONCRETE FLOORS AND IN-SCREED WITH HYDRONIC UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEM

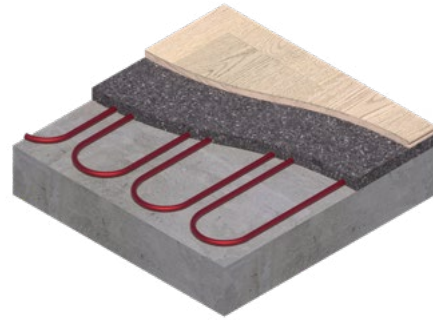
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The surface temperature of the timber flooring installed over a Hydronic Underfloor Heating System should never exceed 27°C.

The underfloor heating contractor should be engaged early on to ensure the system is setup to achieve this.

When commissioning the underfloor heating, increase the system in increments of 5°C until the system reaches 27°C, keep the system at 27°C for at least 48 hours, then cool in increments of 5°C until the system reaches its lowest level.

- When installing a Hydronic system, the spacing (width) between the heating tubes should not be more than 150mm.
- The concrete slab surface is recommended to be 60mm above the heating tubes, with a minimum of 30mm.



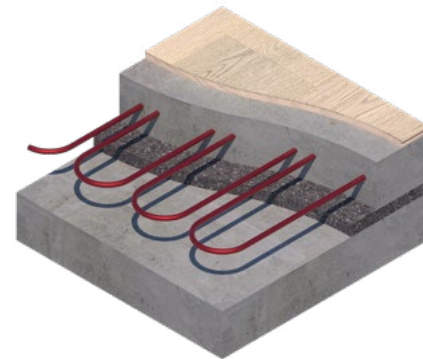
#### 4.2.2

### IN-SCREED UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEM

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Once the flooring is installed, the concrete slab temperature when using an in-screed electric underfloor heating system, should never exceed 27 °C, and should ideally sit around 24-25°C. When commissioning the underfloor heating, increase the system in increments of 5°C until the system reaches 27°C, keep the system at 27°C for at least 48 hours, then cool in increments of 5°C until the system reaches its lowest level.

The screed must be structurally sound and free from laitance, with the surface of the screed at least 8mm above the cables. Ensure the screed used is suitable for use with timber flooring.

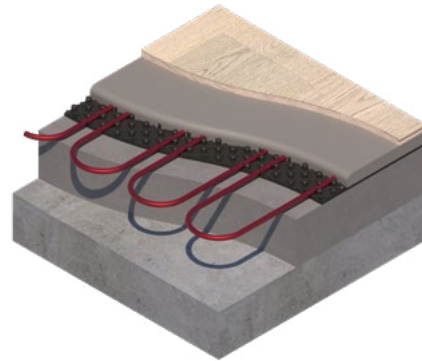


### 4.2.3

#### OTHER UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS

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These systems are not designed to cope with the movement of a timber floor that is glued down, and the speed of sudden temperature changes with these systems can cause stability issues with your timber flooring, such as splitting, warping and cracking.



### 4.3

#### ADDITIONAL CARE & MAINTENANCE WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING

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Once the slab has been commissioned and is ready for installation, the underfloor heating should be turned on and increased in daily increments of 5°C until the installation surface temperature is 15°C. This temperature should be maintained and kept at 15°C until at least 48 hours after installation has been completed. For best performance, the heating system should be operating at all times, all year round to avoid the floor cooling and taking on moisture from the environment.

If the underfloor heating does not run at a constant temperature all year round, more movement should be expected in the timber flooring, with gaps appearing and closing up from season to season.

Large rugs or any object covering the flooring that is restricting heat dispersion from the system should be avoided. The 'accumulated' heat caused by these objects may lead to surface cracking, shrinkage/cupping, and coating breakdown of your timber flooring. When maintaining surface temperature, turning on and off underfloor heating should always be done gradually, starting at 15 degrees and slowly working up or down in 2-degree increments per day (1 degree in the morning and 1 degree at night).



Fendalton House  
O'Neil Architecture  
Lume Design  
Custom Herringbone

# 5. Wet Areas (E3)

As of 5 November 2021, additional Building Code changes have come into effect, which have impacted how wood flooring is to be specified in wet areas.

This change is only relevant to timber flooring being specified in wet areas such as kitchens, bathrooms, toilets, and laundries and does not include living areas, dining spaces, hallways, or entrances.

As Timber Flooring has been removed from Acceptable Solution E3/AS1, Timber flooring must now be submitted for Building Consent using one of the two below compliance pathways:

- Alternative Solution (D3 PVA Joints/Caulk Perimeter); or
- E3/AS2 (Wet Area Membrane)

Read this section for information about these options so you can decide which is best for your project.

## 5.1

### SHOULD I SPECIFY AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION OR E3/AS2?

There are two compliance pathways when specifying timber flooring in Wet Areas to comply with the E3 Building Code clause. Below is an overview of each, with guidance on which pathway to select:

#### Pathway 1: Alternative Solution (D3 PVA Joints/Caulk Perimeter)

Submit as an Alternative Solution by specifying Forté Timber flooring (all products have passed testing to ISO4760), sealing plank joints with D3 PVA, and sealing the perimeter with Caulking within the Wet Area.

Refer to [Forté Alternative Solution Guidance for Timber Flooring\\*](#) for more information.

#### Pathway 2: E3/AS2 (Wet Area Membrane)

Submit under E3/AS2 by specifying a Wet Area Membrane in accordance with the Code of Practice for Internal Wet-area Membrane Systems. This is to be installed beneath the area the Timber Flooring is to be installed.

Refer to the [Code of Practice for Internal Wet-area Membrane Systems\\*\\*](#) for more information.

Where possible, it is recommended to specify an Alternative Solution (D3 PVA Joints/Caulk Perimeter) rather than a E3/AS2 (Wet Area Membrane).

The below table has been produced to provide general guidance on whether we recommend submitting the flooring as an Alternative Solution or not. Forté recommend using the Alternative solution, however a Wet Area Membrane can be used at all times.

#### 5.1.1

#### CONSIDER THE BUILDING TYPE (OVERFLOW)

Multi-Dwelling Buildings (Residential and Commercial) require overflow to be considered in order to protect leaks from damaging adjoining properties.

E3/AS1 2.0.1 states that overflow is required when "... accidental overflow could damage an adjoining household unit or other property". When in effect, the overflow clause in E3/AS1 requires:

- Containment (coving of 75mm)
- Floor wastes (complying with NZBC G13).

As there are complications around the detailing of containment and floor wastes with Timber Flooring, we recommend the specifier adhere to the exemption under E3/AS1 2.0.2, which states,

"Household kitchen sinks and laundry tubs that have an integrated overflow with a minimum flow rate of 0.25 l/s do not require additional overflow provision..."

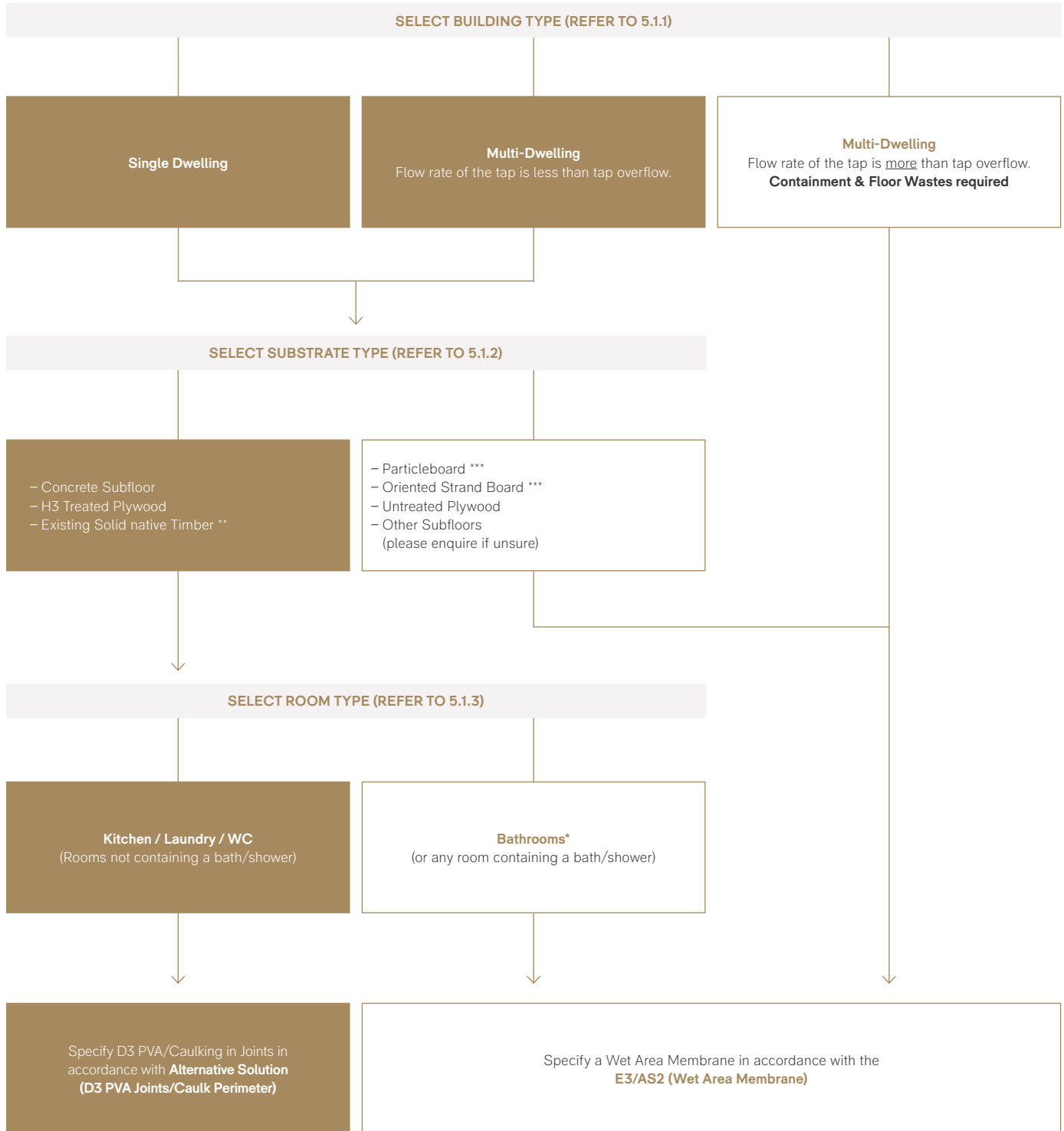
To satisfy this exemption, the specifier should ensure that:

- 1) Either the maximum flow rate from the inlet tap(s) is less than the flow rate of the integrated overflow for that sink or tub, or
- 2) The water supplies to the inlet tap(s) for that sink or tub are fitted with proprietary flow restrictors (such as cartridges) to limit the tap flow rate to less than the flow rate of the integrated overflow for the sink or tub.

**Note:** This does not apply to single (detached) dwellings

Building Type	Alternative Solution	E3/AS2
Single Dwelling	✓	✓
Multi Dwelling (flow rate of tap <u>less</u> than overflow rate of sink/tub)	✓	✓
Multi Dwelling (flow rate of tap <u>more</u> than overflow rate of sink/tub)	✗	✓

## E3 SPECIFICATION FLOWCHART



- \* Bathrooms: Forté does not recommend the installation of timber flooring in bathrooms (rooms with baths / showers)
- \*\* Existing Solid Native Timber: If subfloor is an existing Solid Native Timber, apply a 2-Component Epoxy Moisture Barrier to the subfloor before installation. This will provide additional protection to the structure in the case of a major floor/leaking.
- \*\*\* Particleboard & Oriented Strand Board: Forté does not recommend the installation of Timber Flooring and Particleboard & Oriented Strand Board without a Wet Area Membrane, as the scope of use statement on the product Appraisal / Codemark for these products generally require a wet-area membrane to be installed for use in wet-areas.



### 5.1.2

## CONSIDER THE SUBSTRATE/STRUCTURE OF THE WET AREA

The second point to consider is the substrate beneath the area of Timber Flooring within the Wet Area. The table below shows the common substrates with comments about their suitability for submission as an Alternative Solution or whether an E3/AS2 Wet Area Membrane is required.

Substrate		Alternative Solution	E3/AS2
Concrete (Slab-on-Grade or Suspended)	Concrete is deemed impervious by BRANZ and is a good substrate for the installation of Forté timber flooring.	✓	✓
H3 Treated Plywood	H3 Treated Plywood is the preferred substrate for installation over framed timber substructures. (Refer to 'Timber Subfloors and Assured Maintenance' in the Forté Alternative Solution Guidance for Timber Flooring)	✓	✓
H1.2 Solid Pinus	(Refer to 'Timber Subfloors and Assured Maintenance' in the Forté Alternative Solution Guidance for Timber Flooring)	✓	✓
Existing Solid Native Timber	(Refer to 'Timber Subfloors and Assured Maintenance' in the Forté Alternative Solution Guidance for Timber Flooring). If subfloor is an existing Solid Native Timber, apply a 2-Component Epoxy Moisture Barrier to the subfloor before installation. This will provide additional protection to the structure in the case of a major floor/leaking.	✓	✓
Particleboard / Oriented Strandboard	Forté does not recommend the installation of Timber Flooring over Particleboard & Oriented Strandboard without a Wet Area Membrane, as the scope of use statement on the product Appraisal/Codemark for these products generally require a wet-area membrane to be installed for use in wet-areas. <b>Particleboard Note:</b> Further to the above, the E3/AS2 solution states, "Particleboard must not be used as a new substrate in any wet area", and so should not be specified for use in any new construction in wet areas. For renovations with existing particleboard framed flooring, refer to point 4.1.3 of the Code of Practice for Internal Wet-area Membrane Systems for compliance pathway with sheet overlay prior to apply Membrane.	✗	✗
Untreated Plywood Other Subfloors	It may be possible to install Forté timber flooring directly to some Fiber Cement compressed sheet types, please enquire for more information. For untreated plywood and any other subfloor type, we would generally recommend installing over the top of a Wet Area Membrane in accordance with E3/AS2 (provided it is suitable). Please enquire for more information.	✗	?

### 5.1.3

## CONSIDER BATHROOMS (ROOMS WITH A BATH/SHOWER) VS. WATERSPLASH AREAS

Although it is possible, Forté does not recommend the installation of timber flooring in bathrooms (rooms with baths/showers), and installations in these areas are outside the Alternative Solution guidance.

Please contact Forté if you have an area requiring installation in one of these areas for project-specific information.



## 5.2

### ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION (INSTALL WITH D3 PVA/CAULKING IN JOINTS)

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Refer to the [Forté Alternative Solution Guidance for Timber Flooring Document\\*](#) for more information.

#### 5.2.2

##### SCOPE OF USE

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This Alternative Solution applies to

- Single-dwelling kitchens / Laundries / WC (excludes bathrooms – refer to 5.1.3)
- Multi-dwelling kitchens/laundries (where flow rate of the tap is less than tap overflow)

#### 5.2.3

##### REQUIRED FOR COMPLIANCE

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- Forté Timber Flooring installed in accordance with Timber Flooring Overlay System Installation Guide
  - Water-resistant D3 PVA applied to all joints during installation (within 1.5m of Sanitary Fixture/Appliance)
  - Water-resistant caulking silicone gap filler applied to seal around the perimeter as well as any fixed items in the room/area (within 1.5m of Sanitary Fixture/Appliance)
- Forté Timber Flooring, which has passed an E3 Moisture Test (all flooring products have passed)
- [If subfloor is an existing Solid Native Timber] Apply a 2-Component Epoxy Moisture Barrier to the subfloor before installation.

#### 5.2.4

##### HOW TO SUBMIT ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

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###### MASTERSPEC

Forté have updated their work section on Masterspec (refer to 6311FF Forté Timber Overlay System) with all the required documentation to specify timber flooring in accordance with E3 requirements.

###### OTHER

Our team are able to put together a specification for you using our MasterSpec account if you do not use Masterspec. Otherwise, if you require a customised solution, please contact your Forté representative.

Note: Refer to '3.3 Flooring Buildup Diagrams' for a link to the documents required to submit to council.

### 5.3

## INSTALL OVER A WET AREA MEMBRANE (E3/AS2)

The Waterproofing Membrane Association Incorporated have developed a Code of Practice as a guide for installing Wet-area Membranes in accordance with E3/AS2. This Code of Practice for Internal Wet-area Membrane Systems should be used in conjunction with the Forté Timber Overlay Flooring Installation Guide for installations over top of Wet-area Membrane Systems.

**Note:** The E3/AS2 solution states, "Particleboard must not be used as a new substrate in any wet area", and so should not be specified for use in any new construction in wet areas.

For renovations with existing particleboard framed flooring, refer to point 4.1.3 of the Code of Practice for Internal Wet-area Membrane Systems for compliance pathway with sheet overlay prior to applying the Membrane.

### 5.3.1

## SYSTEMS APPROVED FOR USE WITH FORTÉ TIMBER FLOORING

Forté have worked with wet-area membrane suppliers to ensure there is a suitable membrane available for use with all of our products. The two systems we commonly recommend are:

[Ardex WPM002](#)

[Mapei Aqua Defense](#)

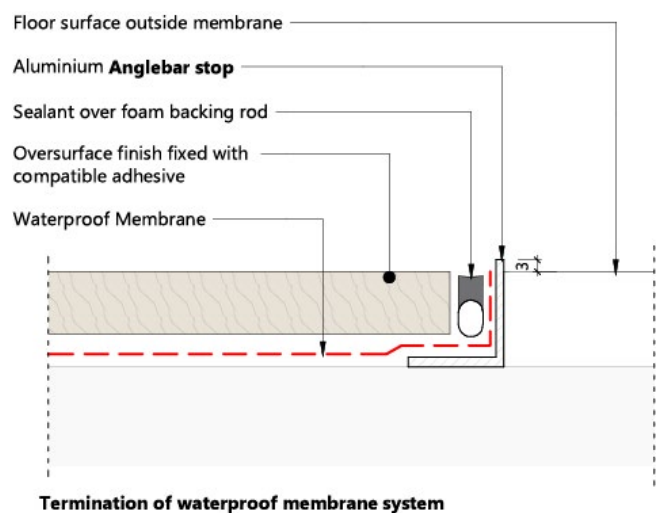
### 5.3.2

## WATER-STOPS / TRANSITIONS (E3/AS2 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.5)

For ease of use, please see specific sections below relating to the transitions as noted in the [Code of Practice for Wet-area Membrane Systems](#)\*\*\*:

- 1) Water-stop at termination of waterproof membrane system
  - a) Open Plan area: Refer to Figure 14
  - b) Under Door: Refer to Figures 18/19/20
- 2) Cabinetry Water-stops
  - a) Membrane installed before/under cabinetry: Refer to Figures 15/16 (Recommended)
  - b) Membrane installed after cabinetry installation: Refer to Figure 17 (Not Recommended)
- 3) Floor-to-wall Junction: Refer to Figure 21
- 4) Penetrations for Piped Services: Refer to Figures 27/28

Please also refer to Section 7 of this guide for specific guidance on common transition ways.





The Lighthouse  
Crossan Architects  
Abbey Lang  
Artiste Grande Da Vinci Herringbone

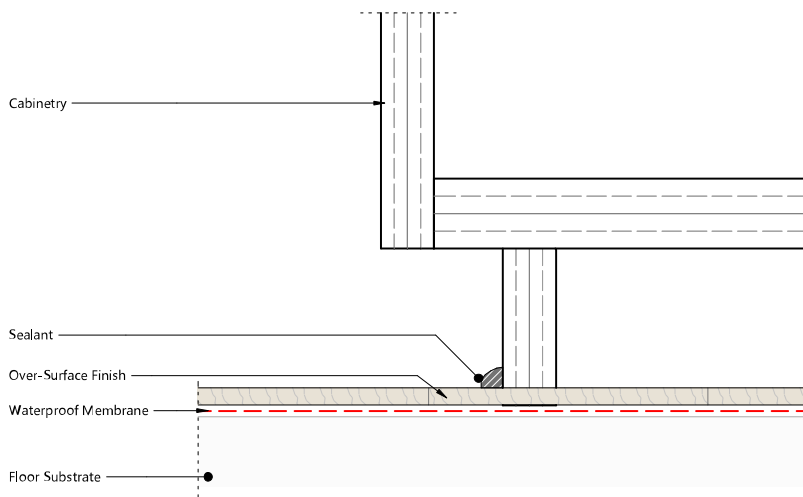
### 5.3.3

## WET AREA MEMBRANES IN KITCHENS AND LAUNDRIES

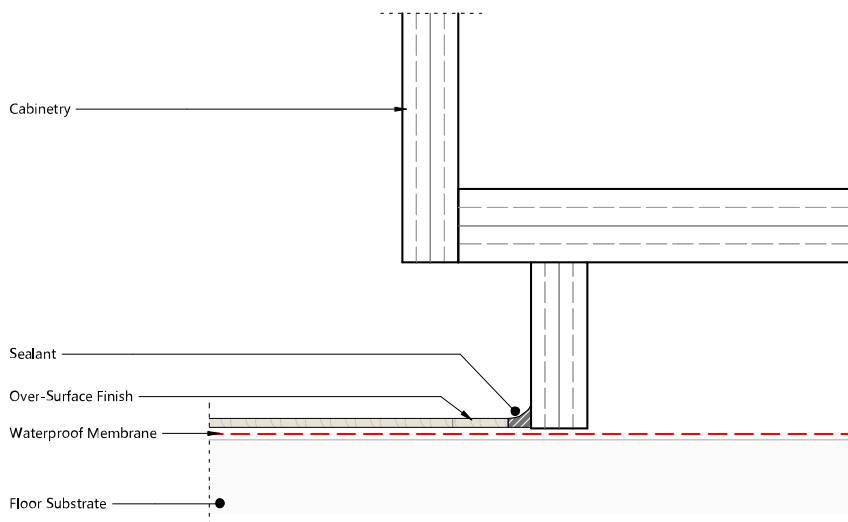
When installing Wet-Area membranes it is strongly recommended that the timber flooring is installed beneath the entire kitchen area.

This is because the membrane must extend 75mm up the wall, and if the kitchen is installed prior to the flooring, then the Code of Practice recommendation is that the membrane must extend 75mm up the cabinetry toe kicks, and this can cause aesthetic issues.

**Figure 1. Waterproof membrane system and timber flooring installed before cabinetry (recommended)**



**Figure 2. Waterproof membrane system and timber flooring installed after cabinetry**







Lucky Lane  
Forager Studio  
Fixation Builders  
Urban Tokyo

# 6. Stairway Design and Access (D1)

## 6.1

### STAIRWAY DESIGN OVERVIEW

#### Stairway Design Overview

Stairway Type		Accessible Stairway	Common Stairway	Service Stairway	Private Stairway		
					Main Private	Secondary Private	Minor Private
<b>Design</b>	<b>Reference Note</b>	Refer to D1/AS1 'Definitions' for examples			Includes; Private houses, private apartments, and small industrial buildings		
Max Pitch	D1/AS1, Table 6	32°	37°	47°	37°	41°	47°
Max Riser Height	D1/AS1, Table 6	180mm	190mm	220mm	190mm	200mm	220mm
Min Tread Depth	D1/AS1, Table 6	310mm	280mm	220mm	280mm	250mm	220mm
Min Stairway Width	D1/AS1, 4.2.1	900mm	850mm	850mm	850mm	850mm	850mm

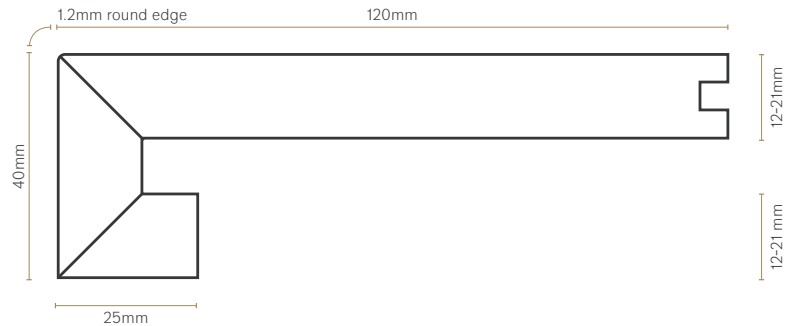
## 6.2

### FORTÉ STANDARD NOSING DESIGN & APPLICATIONS

#### Forté 3-in-1 Stair Nosing

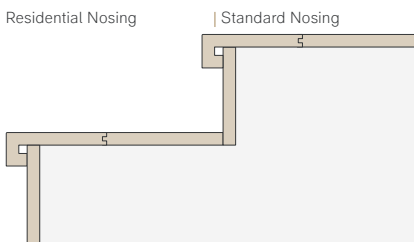
Suitable for: Private (Residential), Common, and Service Stairways

Our standard nosing is for low-medium traffic stairways. The leading edge has a 1-2mm aris which provides some level of protection from chipping. The premium nosing is recommended for high-traffic stairways.

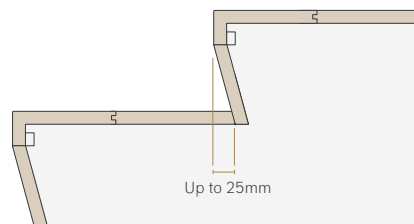


#### Applications

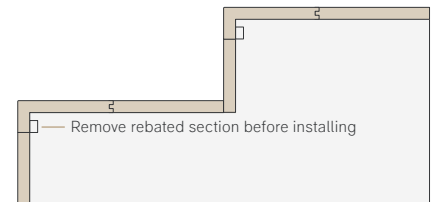
Residential Nosing



Bullnose\*



Raked\*



Square

\*The building code allows a 25mm protrusion of the nosing. This allows the total stair depth to be reduced, thus saving space and cost.

For example, a 2.5m high staircase with 14 nosings will reduce the overall staircase length by 350mm.





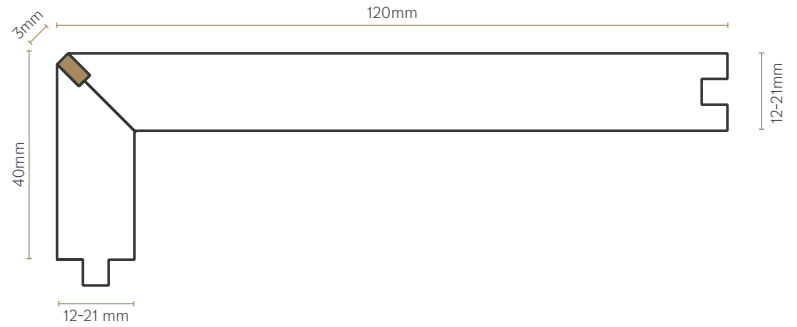
### 6.3

## FORTÉ PREMIUM NOSING DESIGN & APPLICATIONS

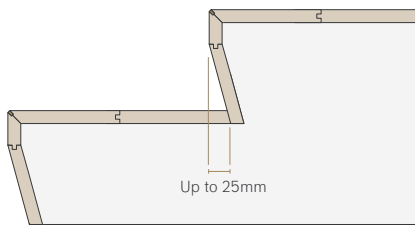
### Forté Premium Stair Nosing

Suitable for: Private (Residential), Common, and Service Stairways

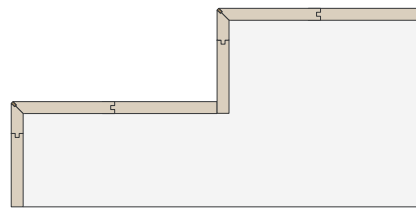
Our Premium nosing has a brass profile inserted to the leading edge of the nosing to provide additional protection and a premium aesthetic.



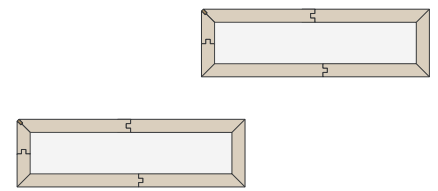
### Applications



Raked\*



Square



Floating

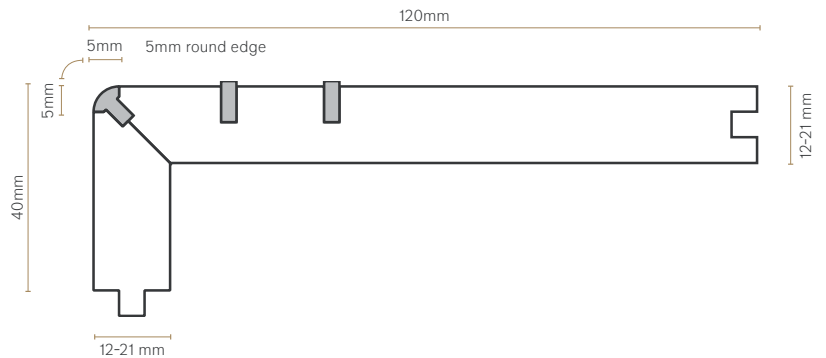
### 6.4

## FORTÉ ACCESSIBLE NOSING DESIGN & APPLICATIONS

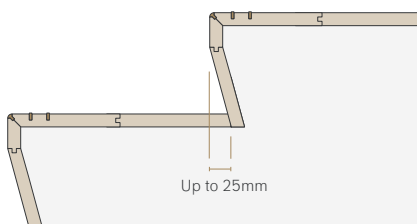
### Forté Accessible Stair Nosing

Must be used for Accessible stairways, may also be used for all other Stairways

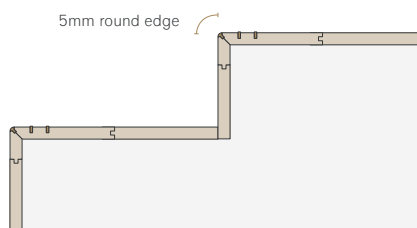
Our Accessible nosing is designed as a solution to comply with all NZBC requirements for Accessible Stairways. To achieve an LRV contrast of 30, all Accessible nosings have an anodised silver trim. The leading edge of the nosing also has a 5mm quarter round inserted to achieve NZBC requirements.



### Applications






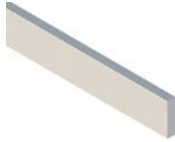
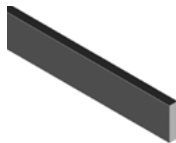


Raked Accessible

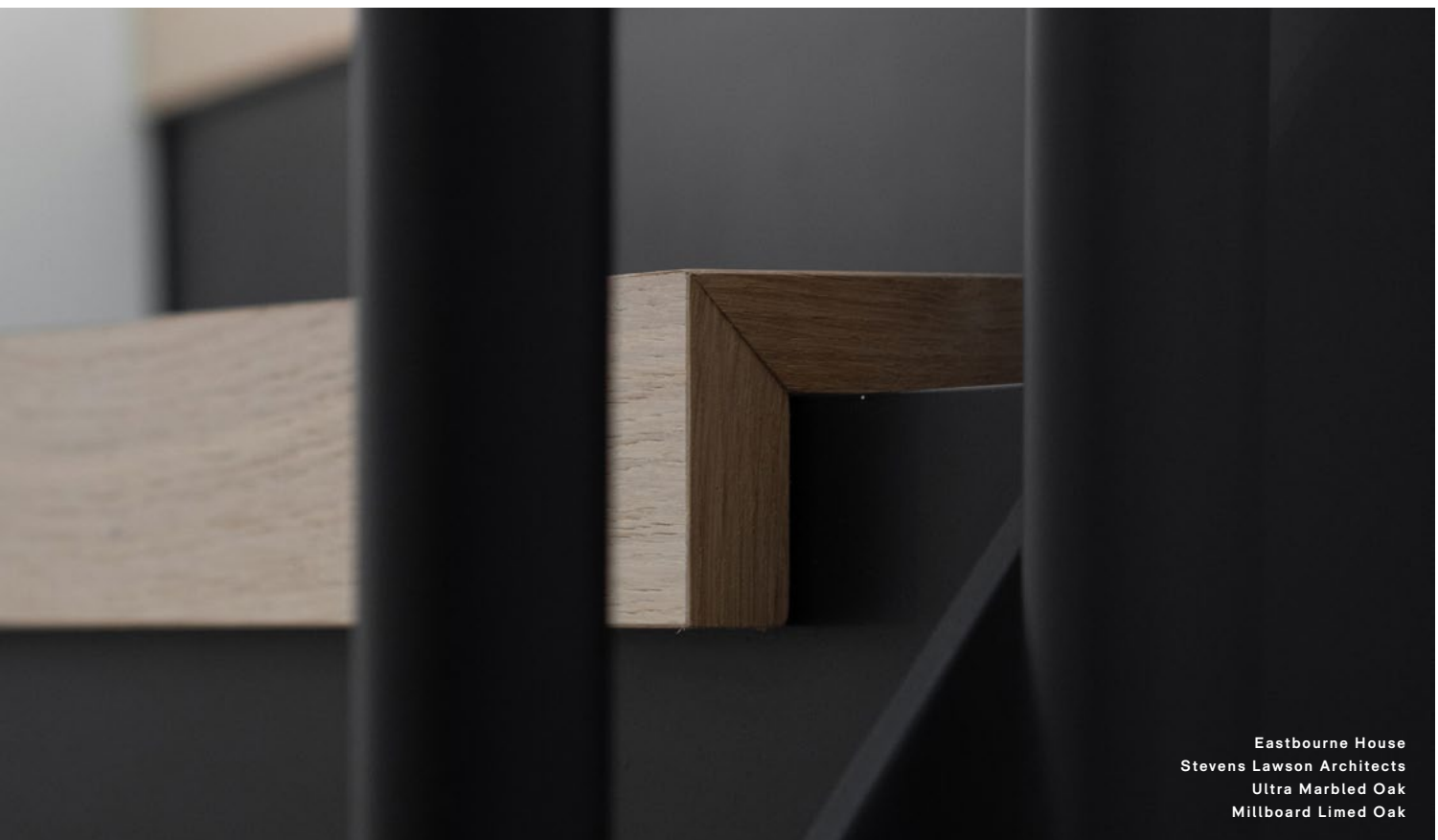


Square Accessible



## Stair Tread Inserts

<b>Colour</b>				
	Dark Bronze	Light Bronze	Champagne	Silver
<b>Finish</b>	Anodised Aluminium	Anodised Aluminium	Anodised Aluminium	Anodised Aluminium
<b>Code</b>	STI-DBA	STI-LBA	STI-CA	STI-SA
<b>Dimensions</b>	10mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	10mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	10mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	10mm x 3mm x 2.5m L
<b>Availability</b>	Stocked	Stocked	Stocked	Stocked
<b>Colour</b>				
	Black	Organic Brass 6.35mm	Organic Brass 9.5mm	
<b>Finish</b>	Anodised Aluminium	Organic	Organic	
<b>Code</b>	STI-BA	STI-OB6.35	STI-OB69.5	
<b>Dimensions</b>	10mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	6.35mm x 3mm x 3.6m L	9.5mm x 3mm x 3.6m L	
<b>Availability</b>	Stocked	Stocked	Stocked	



Eastbourne House  
Stevens Lawson Architects  
Ultra Marbled Oak  
Millboard Limed Oak

## Stair Nosing Codes

Collection	Colour	Standard Nosing	Premium Nosing	Accessible Nosing	Length
Artefact	Ammonite	SN-ARTAMM-S	SN-ARTAMM-P	SN-ARTAMM-A	1980
	Amulet	SN-ARTAMU-S	SN-ARTAMU-P	SN-ARTAMU-A	1980
	Flint	SN-ARTFL-S	SN-ARTFL-P	SN-ARTFL-A	1980
	Obsidian	SN-ARTO-S	SN-ARTO-P	SN-ARTO-A	1980
Artiste Grande	Da Vinci	SN-AGDV-S	SN-AGDV-P	SN-AGDV-A	2480
	Picasso	SN-AGP-S	SN-AGP-P	SN-AGP-A	2480
	Van Gogh	SN-AGV-S	SN-AGV-P	SN-AGV-A	2480
	Vermeer	SN-AGVG-S	SN-AGVG-P	SN-AGVG-A	2480
Atelier	Classic 15mm	SN-ATC15-S	SN-ATC15-P	SN-ATC15-A	2180
	Classic 21mm	SN-ATC21-S	SN-ATC21-P	SN-ATC21-A	2180
	Dolomite 15mm	SN-ATD15-S	SN-ATD15-P	SN-ATD15-A	2180
	Dolomite 21mm	SN-ATD21-S	SN-ATD21-P	SN-ATD21-A	2180
	Granite 15mm	SN-ATG15-S	SN-ATG15-P	SN-ATG15-A	2180
	Granite 21mm	SN-ATG21-S	SN-ATG21-P	SN-ATG21-A	2180
	Marl 15mm	SN-ATM15-S	SN-ATM15-P	SN-ATM15-A	2180
	Marl 21mm	SN-ATM21-S	SN-ATM21-P	SN-ATM21-A	2180
	Siltstone 15mm	SN-ATS15-S	SN-ATS15-P	SN-ATS15-A	2180
	Siltstone 21mm	SN-ATS21-S	SN-ATS21-P	SN-ATS21-A	2180
Indus	Atacama	SN-INA-S	SN-INA-P	SN-INA-A	2380
	Colorado	SN-INC-S	SN-INC-P	SN-INC-A	2380
	Kharan	SN-INK-S	SN-INK-P	SN-INK-A	2380
	Mojave	SN-INM-S	SN-INM-P	SN-INM-A	2380
	Patagonia	SN-INP-S	SN-INP-P	SN-INP-A	2380
	Sahara	SN-INS-S	SN-INS-P	SN-INS-A	2380
	Tanami	SN-INT-S	SN-INT-P	SN-INT-A	2380
Loft	Astoria	SN-LOA-S	SN-LOA-P	SN-LOA-A	1810
	Brooklyn	SN-LOB-S	SN-LOB-P	SN-LOB-A	1810
	Brighton	SN-LOBT-S	SN-LOBT-P	SN-LOBT-A	1810
	Claremont	SN-LOC-S	SN-LOC-P	SN-LOC-A	1810
	Harlem	SN-LOH-S	SN-LOH-P	SN-LOH-A	1810
	Manhattan	SN-LOM-S	SN-LOM-P	SN-LOM-A	1810
	Stamford	SN-LOS-S	SN-LOS-P	SN-LOS-A	1810
	Soho	SN-LOSF-S	SN-LOSF-P	SN-LOSF-A	1810
	Tribeca	SN-LOT-S	SN-LOT-P	SN-LOT-A	1810

Collection	Colour	Standard Nosing	Premium Nosing	Accessible Nosing	Length
Moda	Amalfi	SN-MODA-S	SN-MODA-P	SN-MODA-A	2200
	Capri	SN-MODC-S	SN-MODC-P	SN-MODC-A	2200
	Como	SN-MODCA-S	SN-MODCA-P	SN-MODCA-A	2200
	Dolcedo	SN-MODD-S	SN-MODD-P	SN-MODD-A	2200
	Isola	SN-MODI-S	SN-MODI-P	SN-MODI-A	2200
	Mondello	SN-MODM-S	SN-MODM-P	SN-MODM-A	2200
	Sorrento	SN-MODS-S	SN-MODS-P	SN-MODS-A	2200
	Tuscany	SN-MODT-S	SN-MODT-P	SN-MODT-A	2200
	Verona	SN-MODV-S	SN-MODV-P	SN-MODV-A	2200
Smartfloor	Blond	SN-SBO-S	SN-SBO-P	SN-SBO-A	2180
	Clay	SN-SCO-S	SN-SCO-P	SN-SCO-A	2180
	Marron	SN-SMO-S	SN-SMO-P	SN-SMO-A	2180
	Natural	SN-SNO-S	SN-SNO-P	SN-SNO-A	2180
	Sandstone	SN-SSO-S	SN-SSO-P	SN-SSO-A	2180
	Tawny	SN-STO-S	SN-STO-P	SN-STO-A	2180
Ultra	Natural	SN-ULN-S	SN-ULN-P	SN-ULN-A	1880
	Driftwood	SN-ULD-S	SN-ULD-P	SN-ULD-A	1880
	Marron	SN-ULMA-S	SN-ULMA-P	SN-ULMA-A	1880
	Mink Grey	SN-ULMG-S	SN-ULMG-P	SN-ULMG-A	1880
	Marbled	SN-ULM-S	SN-ULM-P	SN-ULM-A	1880
	Tussock	SN-ULT-S	SN-ULT-P	SN-ULT-A	1880
Urban	Barcelona	SN-URBA-S	SN-URBA-P	SN-URBA-A	1810
	Berlin	SN-URBE-S	SN-URBE-P	SN-URBE-A	1810
	Copenhagen	SN-URC-S	SN-URC-P	SN-URC-A	1810
	Milan	SN-URM-S	SN-URM-P	SN-URM-A	1810
	New York	SN-URNY-S	SN-URNY-P	SN-URNY-A	1810
	Oslo	SN-URO-S	SN-URO-P	SN-URO-A	1810
	Prague	SN-URP-S	SN-URP-P	SN-URP-A	1810
	Seoul	SN-URS-S	SN-URS-P	SN-URS-A	1810
	Tokyo	SN-URT-S	SN-URT-P	SN-URT-A	1810
Villa	Cashmere	SN-VIC-S	SN-VIC-P	SN-VIC-A	2380
	Dune	SN-VID-S	SN-VID-P	SN-VID-A	2380
	Limestone	SN-VIL-S	SN-VIL-P	SN-VIL-A	2380
	Raven	SN-VIR-S	SN-VIR-P	SN-VIR-A	2380
	Russet	SN-VIRU-S	SN-VIRU-P	SN-VIRU-A	2380

## 6.5 STAIR SLIP RESISTANCE

As per 2.1.5b of D1/AS1, Handbook HB197 can be used to advise on minimum slip resistance values for various areas based on the Wet Pendulum test conducted as per AS4586 using a slider 96 rubber.

The required result for stairways (provided handrails are present) is Classification X.

Wet Pendulum Slip Resistant Value (SRV) to HB197 Classification

	SRV (slider 96)	Classification	Slip-Resistant Nosings Required?
More Slip Resistant ↓	<12	Z	
	12—24	Z	Yes
	25—34	Y	
	35—44	X	
	45—54	W	No
	>54	V	

HB197:1999 Table 1 – Flooring selection pendulum recommendations for specific locations (Extract)

Location	Required Pendulum Result
Accessible internal stair nosings (dry areas)- handrails present	Classification X

### 6.4.1 STAIRWAYS

As per the below table, all Forté collections achieve a Classification X or W and therefore are suitable for use on stairways (both residential and commercial) without slip-resistant nosings provided handrails are present.

If handrails are not present, or if you would like additional slip-resistance, it is possible to create slip-resistant nosing as per the below guidelines.

D1 Access — Stairs / Ramps

Collection	SRV Result (AS4586)	Classification (HB197)	P Rating	Slip Resistant Nosings
Loft	42 SRV / 0.45 COF	X	P3	Not Required
Urban	37 SRV / 0.55 COF	X	P3	Not Required
Moda	49 SRV / 0.60 COF	W	P4	Not Required
Smartfloor	37 SRV / 0.55 COF	X	P3	Not Required
Indus	40 SRV / 0.70 COF	X	P3	Not Required
Atelier	30 SRV / 0.55 COF	Y	P2	Slip Resistant Nosings Required
Ultra	37 SRV / 0.55 COF	X	P3	Not Required
Artefact	35 SRV / 0.55 COF	X	P3	Not Required
Villa	40 SRV / 0.70 COF	x	P3	Not Required
Artiste Grande	35 SRV / 0.55 COF	X	P3	Not Required

## 6.4.2

### RAMPS

The maximum acceptable slopes for ramps are given in below table. The choice of slope must take account of the type of use and risk of slipping.

Accessible ramps must have an upstand of no less than 75mm in height on any drop-off side of a ramp and the clear width of an accessible ramp must be 1200mm.

As mentioned in the above table, all Forté collections have achieved a P3 rating (1:10), with the exception of the Atelier collections which has a P2 rating (1:12).

#### Acceptable Ramp Slopes

Type of Ramp	Maximum Slope
Accessible ramp	1:12
Common ramp subject to wetting	1:10
Common ramp normally dry	1:8
Service ramps	1:3

## 6.6

### COMMERCIAL ENTRANCES

Entrance mats should always be incorporated into the main entrance points in commercial spaces to minimise water and stones damaging the timber floor (required as per 2.1.6 'Transition Zones' of D1/AS1).

If the entrance mat is inset to the timber flooring, we recommend an aluminium or brass flat bar to be installed around the perimeter to protect the edge of the timber. These are available to purchase from Forté.







Forté Auckland Experience Centre  
Wonder

# 7. Flooring Heights & Finishings

## 7.1

### FLOORING HEIGHT

---

If there is a major variance of height within the subfloor where the timber flooring is to be installed, e.g. a renovation, plywood sheets/squares can be used to level this out to achieve a flush transition prior to installation.

For a minor variance of height within the subfloor where the timber flooring is to be installed, screed or levelling compound can be used to level this out prior to installation.

**Note:** As a general rule, the total finished height of the flooring on top of the substrate is the thickness of the product plus 2mm for glue and moisture barriers.

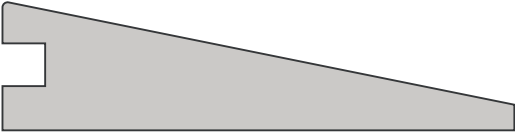
Where possible, consult with the flooring installer for site specific advice.

7.1.1

TRIMS & TRANSITIONS

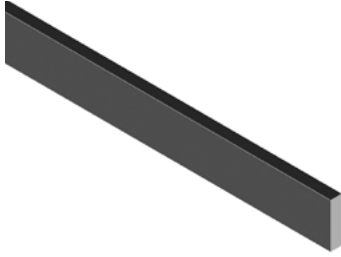
Forté offer a range of flat bars, including unfinished, organic and anodised aluminium flat bar options. Refer to our [website](#) for all options and availability or enquire with your Forté Account Manager for more information.

Flooring Trim Overview

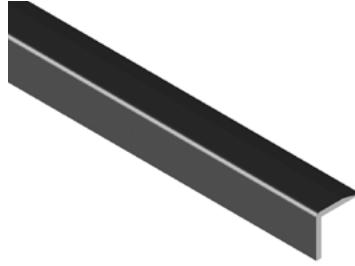
Profile	Uses	Finish	Colour	Code	Dimensions	Availability	
<b>Transition Flat Bar</b> The transition flat bar can be used to protect the edge of the timber with Carpet transitions. We have a range of finishes available, and recommend to select a colour that best complements the colour scheme.	7.2 Timber to Carpet 7.3 Timber to Timber	Anodised Aluminium	Silver	TFB-SA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked	
			Black	TFB-BA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked	
	Champagne		TFB-CA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked		
	Light Bronze		TFB-LBA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked		
	Dark Bronze		TFB-DBA12	12mm x 3mm x 2.5m L	Stocked		
	Organic		Brass		TFB-OB13	3.175mm x 12.7mm x 3.6m L	Stocked
					TFB-OB19	3.175mm x 19mm x 3.6m L	Stocked
			Aged Brass	TFB-AB13	3.2mm x 12.7mm x 3.6m L	Custom Order	
			Waxed Steel	TFB-WS13	13mm x 3mm x 4m L	Stocked	
	<b>Joinery Angle Trim</b> For a seamless finish, we recommend the Joinery Angle Trim to be specified to match the Joinery colour. Forté can supply the unfinished trim to the installer to achieve this. Alternatively, we stock Silver and Black Anodised trims.	7.6 Timber to Joinery	Aluminium	Raw	JAT-UA13	13mm x 14mm x 2.5m L	Stocked
Anodised Aluminium			Silver	JAT-SA13	13mm x 14mm x 2.5m L	Stocked	
			Black	JAT-BA13	13mm x 14mm x 2.5m L	Stocked	
<b>Tile Angle Trim</b>	7.4 Timber to Tile	Forté does not sell tile trims and we generally recommend the Tilers Mate L-Angle Tile Trim. The trim should be selected based on the selected tile thickness. For a list of sizes available visit: <a href="https://www.tilersmate.co.nz/product/anodised-l-profile-tile-trim/">https://www.tilersmate.co.nz/product/anodised-l-profile-tile-trim/</a> For a list of Stockists visit: <a href="https://www.tilersmate.co.nz/stockist/">https://www.tilersmate.co.nz/stockist/</a>					
<b>Transition Ramp</b>	7.5 Timber to Polished Concrete	Matching Ramps are available on custom order from Forté.					

Order free samples of our trims and transition bars on our [website](#).

Transition Flat Bar



Joinery Angle Trim



## 7.1.2 CAULKING

### Caulking Overview

Availability	Stocked	Uses	7.6 Timber to Joinery	7.7 Timber to Front Door	7.8 Skirtings 5.2 E3	5.2 E3 Alternative Solution
Brand	Colour	Code	Matching Forté Product			
<b>Aquaseal Flexfill</b>	Afromosia	CA-ASA	Artiste Grande: Vermeer		Indus: Patagonia, Tanami	
			Smartfloor: Marron Oak		Urban: Oslo	
			Ultra: Marron Oak			
<b>Bona Gap Master</b>	Light Oak	CA-BOOL	Smartfloor: Natural Oak		Urban: New York	
	Dark Oak	CA-BOOD	Indus: Mojave		Moda: Sorrento	
			Ultra: Bordeaux Oak , Champagne Oak		Urban: Prague	
			Villa: Chai			
Wenge	CA-BOWE	Artefact: Obsidian		Moda: Dolcedo, Isola		
Urban: Tokyo						
<b>Black</b>	CA-BOB	Urban: Seoul		Villa: Raven		
<b>HB Fuller Caulk in Colours</b>	Vanilla	CA-FLV	Atelier: Marl / Indus: Kharan		Moda: Capri, Mondello	
			Smartfloor: Clay Oak		Urban: Berlin, Copenhagen	
			Villa: Dune, Limestone			
<b>Mocca</b>	CA-FLM	Artiste Grande: Da Vinci		Atelier: Classic, Siltstone		
		Ultra: Tussock		Urban: Milan		
<b>Selleys No More Gaps</b>	Ivory	CA-SEI	Ultra: Marbled Oak		Moda: Amalfi	
			Villa: Cashmere		Smartfloor: Blond Oak	
<b>Coffee</b>	CA-SEC	Artiste Grande: Picasso, Van Gogh		Atelier: Granite		
		Indus: Atacama, Colorado, Sahara		Moda: Como, Tuscany, Verona		
		Smartfloor: Sandstone Oak, Tawny Oak		Urban: Barcelona		
		Ultra: Driftwood, Mink Grey		Villa: Flint, Ammonite, Amulet		



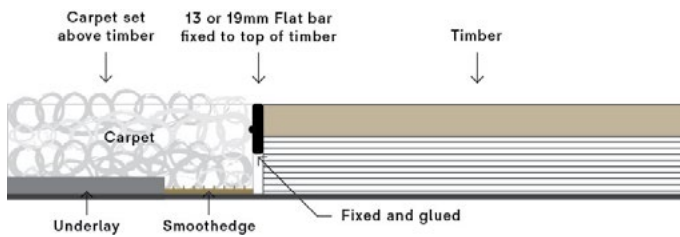


Merivale House  
Sheppard and Rout  
Smartfloor Blond Oak



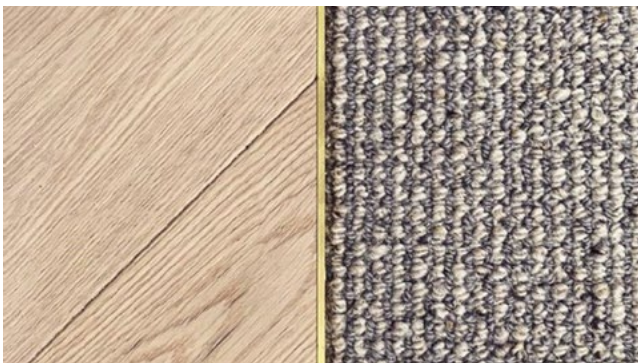
## 7.2

### TIMBER TO CARPET



Generally the carpet should be set as little higher above the timber to start with, as it will settle over time to be flush with the timber flooring. If required, you can install an MDF ramp beneath the carpet to smooth any difference in heights\*.

#### TRANSITION WITH INSERT (RECOMMENDED)

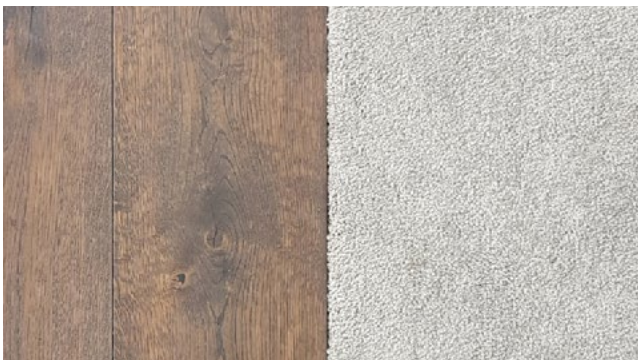


**Design requirements:** The top of the flat bar should be set level with the top of flooring.

We recommend transitioning from carpet to timber using an extruded Flat Bar (Brass/Aluminium are often used) inserted into the flooring.

When the flat bar is installed along the edge of the timber it creates a protective edge for the wood which reduces the risk of damage and provides a quality finish.

#### TRANSITION WITH NO INSERT (NOT RECOMMENDED)



**Design requirements:** The pile of the carpet should be set a little higher above the timber floor as the carpet pile will settle and potentially leave the timber edge exposed without protection.

It is also possible to transition to carpet with no flat bar, however it becomes even more important to set the carpet height correctly as when the carpet settles, the edge of the timber has no protection, and may chip off if heavy objects are dragged across the transition.

\*<https://giltedge.co.nz/product/ramp-edge-5mm>

### 7.3

## TIMBER TO TIMBER

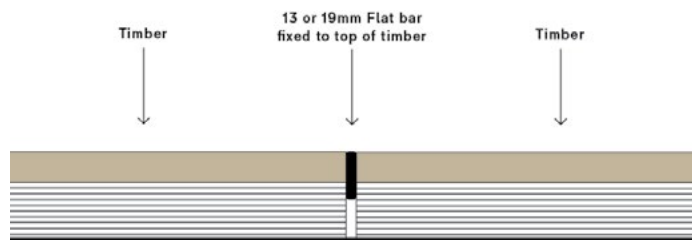
A waterstop is required where sanitary fixtures are installed and there is a transition between the space where the sanitary fixture is and another area of the dwelling - for example between your living space and the kitchen area.

### 7.3.1

#### TIMBER TO TIMBER (BORDER OR FLOORING DIRECTION CHANGE)

Timber to timber transitions are commonly found with borders around the perimeter of rooms installed with herringbone and chevron flooring or when the room changes direction and a break in the floor is needed to allow the flooring to continue to run along the length of the room.

For transitions using an insert, we recommend using an extruded Flat Bar for the most quality finish and appearance.



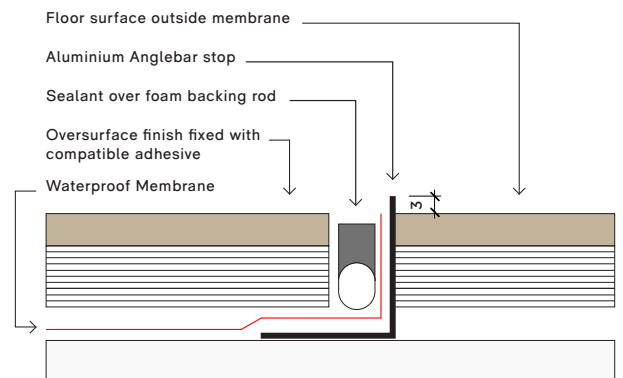
### 7.3.2

#### TIMBER TO TIMBER (WATERSTOP TRANSITION - CONCRETE SUBSTRATE ON A GRADE)

When treating an on-grade concrete substrate, timber to timber transitions will be mostly hidden within the underside of kitchen cabinetry per section 5.3.3 of this guide.

Kitchen Cabinetry should be installed on top of the timber floor.

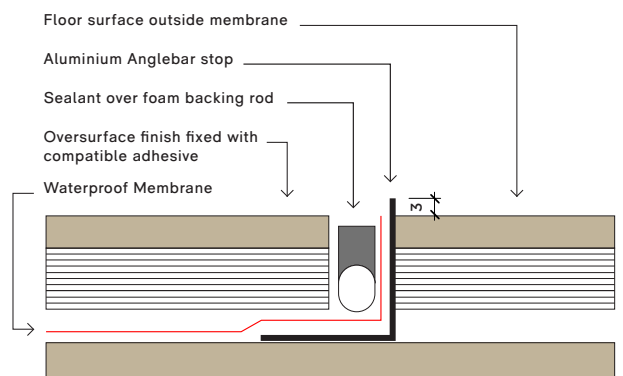
Where possible, Forte recommends a hidden solution for waterstops, for example under cabinetry.



### 7.3.3

#### TIMBER TO TIMBER ( WATERSTOP TRANSITION - TIMBER SUBSTRATE)

In some instances, water proofing may extend out to suit the extent of the flooring overlay, where a waterstop may be required between a timber to timber surface. We recommend an extruded aple bar for the more quality finish and appearance

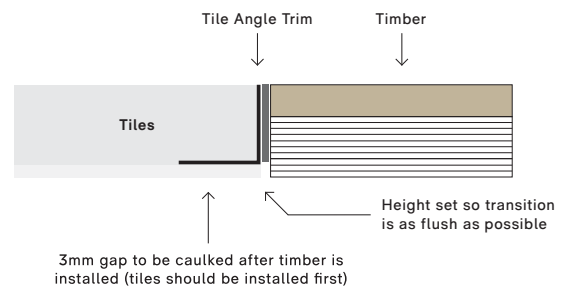


## 7.4

### TIMBER TO TILE

#### 7.4.1

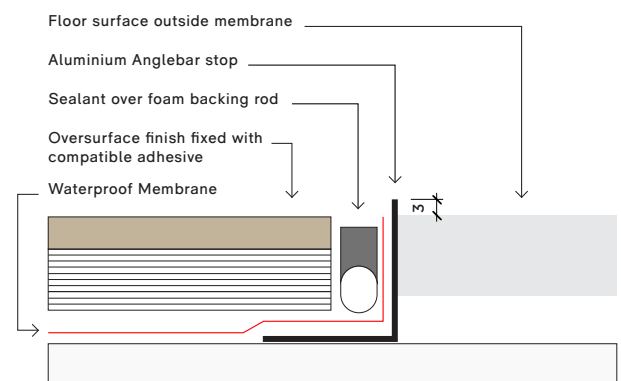
#### TIMBER TO TILE (NON-WATER-STOP)



#### 7.4.2

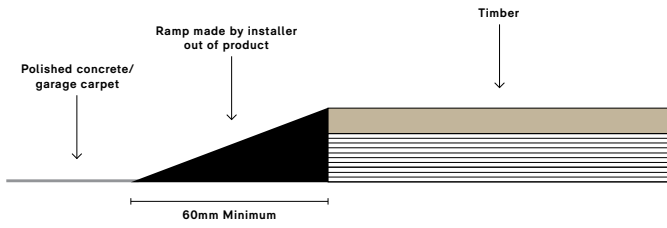
#### TIMBER TO TILE (WATER-STOP TRANSITION)

While flat bars are often used for other applications, transitions between timber and tiles should use a tile bar which is attached directly to the tile (not the timber). Note: The height of the transition should be considered prior to installation.



## 7.5

### TIMBER TO POLISHED CONCRETE / GARAGE FLOOR



When transitioning from timber to a polished concrete floor (or garage carpet), it is important to remember that there may be a substantial height difference as the timber is glued to the concrete that it is transitioning to.



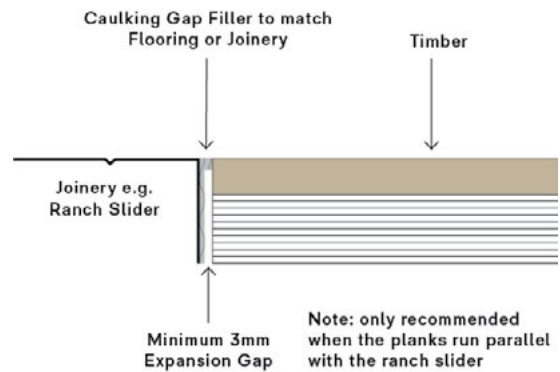
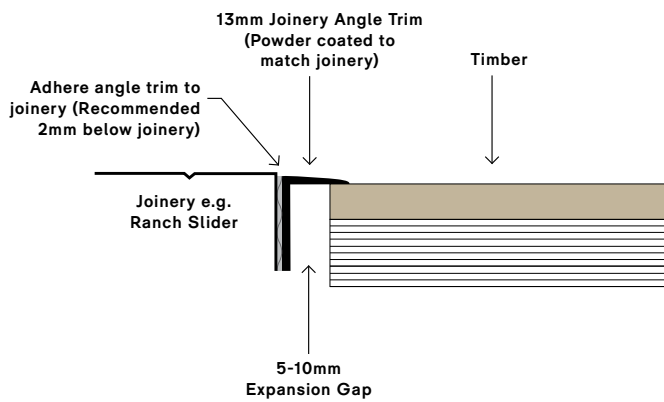
**Design requirements:** Experienced installers can make a ramp from the product being installed for a perfect colour match. Where possible, ramp down in an inconspicuous place like a doorway.

## 7.6

### TIMBER TO JOINERY

Forté offer unfinished aluminium angle trims as well as silver and black anodised options. Angle trims are usually supplied unfinished and then powder coated by the contractor to match the joinery colour.

Refer to our [website](#) for all angle trim options and availability or enquire with your Forté Account Manager for more information.



### 7.6.1

#### RANCH SLIDER WITH ANGLE TRIM

---

If the flooring level is higher or lower than the ranch slider threshold, then a 13mm angle trim will be necessary to protect the flooring edges from wear and tear. The angle trim will need to be glued/taped to joinery.

**Design requirements:** Use a slim 13mm aluminium angle trim that is powder-coated to match the colour of the aluminium joinery.

### 7.7

#### TIMBER TO FRONT DOOR

---

Our recommendation would be to get the front door sill removed, or purchase one without a sill, before having the wood flooring installed as it gives a cleaner and more professional look overall.

#### FRONT DOOR WITH TIMBER SILL REMOVED (RECOMMENDED)

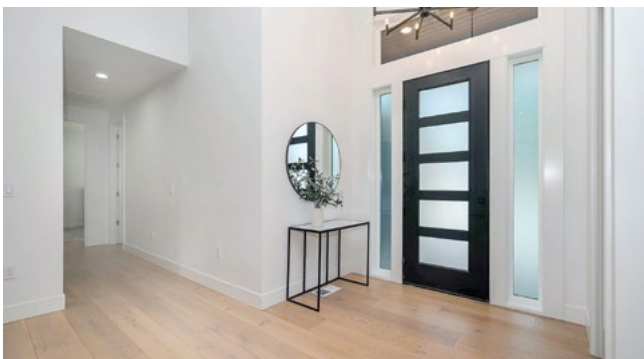
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**Design requirements:** The wood floor will need to be installed leaving a 2–3mm gap between the adjoining surfaces and finished off with a coloured caulking that matches your flooring.

#### FRONT DOOR WITH TIMBER SILL

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**Design requirements:** Timber should finish 2-3mm from the sill and gap should be finished with silicone/caulking gun. Silicone colour should match colour of flooring or sill for ideal aesthetics. Paint the Sill to match flooring or skirtings.

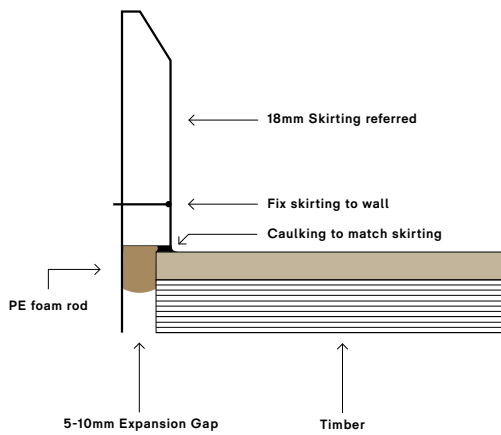


## 7.8 SKIRTINGS

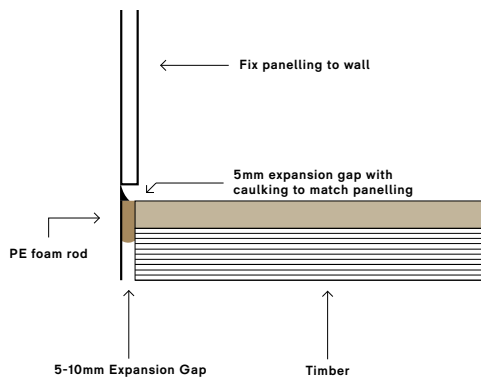
We recommend an 18mm skirting board to accommodate for expansion gap around perimeter.

### 7.8.1 FLOOR TO WALL WITH SKIRTING

#### FLOOR TO WALL WITH SKIRTING



#### FLOOR TO WALL WITHOUT SKIRTING





Bivacco  
Izzard Design  
Ultra Marron Oak





Top Notch  
Jack McKinney  
Moda Como

# 8. Energy Efficiency (H1)

## 8.1

### UNDERFLOOR HEATING CONSIDERATIONS

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Timber's R-value refers to its ability to resist thermal conductivity. Higher R-values equate to better insulation; materials with large R-values keep heat from escaping the home during the winter and permeating it during the summer.

0.11-0.15m<sup>2</sup> K/W is an ideal range of R-value for use with underfloor heating. Thicker timbers (18-21mm) have

a slightly higher R-value of 0.17m<sup>2</sup> K/W which means heating will be more gradual, however the floor will retain the heat for longer.

To aid specifiers with building installation calculations, Forté have conducted independent testing for it's R-values.

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Flooring Thickness	Collections	R-value	Including Acoustic Underlay
12mm	Loft	Test Results Pending	Test Results Pending
14-15mm	Urban, Moda, Artefact	0.11m <sup>2</sup> K/W	0.19m <sup>2</sup> K/W
18-21mm	Indus, Villa, Artiste Grande	0.17m <sup>2</sup> K/W	0.25m <sup>2</sup> K/W

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## 8.2 LRV

Light Reflective Value (LRV) measures the light that is reflected by a certain colour of stain/paint. LRV uses a scale from 0–100, with 0 being black and 100 being a bright white.

Forté has conducted LRV testing on all its colours to BS8493 - these are listed below.

### Design Considerations:

Consider the room where the flooring will be installed and how much natural light it receives throughout the day. Adjustments to the flooring colour may need to be considered depending on natural light, or lack thereof, to obtain the desired colour for the space.

Collection	Colour	LRV	Collection	Colour	LRV	Collection	Colour	LRV
Artefact	Obsidian	21.36	Loft	Soho	8.30	Ultra	Marron	11.42
	Flint	10.37		Harlem	10.39		Tussock	18.61
	Ammonite	15.76		Tribeca	17.72		Mink Grey	19.61
	Amulet	17.53		Brooklyn	25.86		Driftwood	22.06
Artiste Grande	Vermeer	20.23		Stamford	30.18		Champagne	26.73
	Van Gogh	12.59		Manhattan	31.01		Bordeaux	30.77
	Da Vinci	16.84		Brighton	34.51		Marbled	41.55
	Picasso	16.98		Claremont	34.90		Prague	8.43
	Granite	31.46		Astoria	36.57		Tokyo	9.35
Atelier	Marl	18.21		Amalfi	39.16		Oslo	13.33
	Classic	18.76	Sorrento	34.59	Barcelona	21.02		
	Siltstone	20.00	Sorrento LF	34.08	Seoul	28.27		
	Dolomite	26.31	Tuscany	19.228	New York	30.77		
	Patagonia	14.94	Capri	39.20	Milan	31.86		
	Colorado	19.71	Capri LF	39.23	Berlin	36.42		
Indus	Tanami	20.54	Verona	26.40	Copenhagen	42.15		
	Sahara	20.78	Isola	13.77	Raven	8.91		
	Atacama	25.93	Mondello	31.31	Russet	11.99		
	Mojave	33.78	Dolcedo	8.57	Limestone	32.13		
	Kharan	36.06	Marron	11.02	Dune	34.92		
	Smartfloor	Sandstone	19.73	Verona	26.40	Cashmere	35.17	
		Tawny	26.18	Isola	13.77	Cove	39.19	
Natural		26.32	Mondello	31.31	Solis	36.05		
Blond		33.32	Dolcedo	8.57	Ember	16.51		
Clay		38.57	Marron	11.02	Vanta	4.85		
			Sandstone	19.73	Dusk	21.36		



Tahua House  
Creative Space Architecture  
Twill Interior Design  
Atelier Classic



Aberdeen Residence  
Abbey Lang Home  
Moda Capri

# 9. Maintaining a Stable Climate

## 9.1

### CONTROLLING AMBIENT TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

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Timber is hygroscopic, meaning that it will absorb/release moisture towards the equilibrium moisture content of the temperature and humidity of the area it is installed in. Therefore it is important to consider including ways to control the temperature and humidity in spaces where timber floor is installed.

#### AMBIENT RELATIVE HUMIDITY

An internal relative humidity of between 40% and 60% is ideal for timber flooring. There is an increasing risk of product movement and hairline cracks in the veneer degradation as humidity reaches outer ranges of below 35%, or above 70%. We strongly recommend the use of a humidification or dehumidification system to maintain relative humidity within these parameters.

Note: [BRANZ\\*](#) recommends a relative humidity of 40-60% for optimum occupant comfort.

#### AMBIENT TEMPERATURE

Maintaining an average internal ambient temperature of between 16-27°C is recommended. The further outside this range increases the chance of product movement and hairline cracks in the veneer.

Note: [The Ministry of Social Development\\*\\*](#) recommends maintaining the internal temperature between 18-21°C.



## 9.2

### CONTROLLING FLOOR SURFACE TEMPERATURE

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#### SURFACE TEMPERATURE

It is important to protect the floor from extreme temperatures. Floor-to-ceiling windows coupled with the New Zealand sun have been known to create floor surface temperatures of over 70°C. It is recommended for homeowners to keep the floor surface temperature below 45°C when exposed to direct sunlight.

Where temperatures majorly or regularly exceed this level, there is a higher likelihood of cupping and warping, rapid deterioration of the product coating. Timber left exposed to direct, unfiltered UV rays will noticeably change in colour in the first 1-3 months. Changes in appearance may include darkening, lightening, or yellowing of the timber.

## 9.3

### DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

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Filtering sunlight through curtains, blinds or UV treated windows and doors can reduce direct heat in rooms that are exposed to a lot of sun.







Note: The above design considerations should be regarded for homes that have large, north-facing joinery or homes that are north-facing with no soffit.

For more information, refer to the "[Care and Maintenance Guide - Residential](#)".



Queenstown Country Club  
Warren and Mahoney  
Moda Capri Herringbone

# 10. Historic Products

Collection	Construction	Finish	Format	Phase-Out Date
 MANOR	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Birch Plywood Base	Hard Wax Oil	Plank Herringbone	December 2018
	3-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Hevea Core Spruce Backing	Prefinished Polyurethane	Plank	January 2023
	3-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Hevea Core Spruce Backing	Prefinished Polyurethane	Plank Herringbone	April 2024
	M3-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Hevea Core Spruce Backing	Prefinished Polyurethane	Plank Herringbone	September 2024
	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Eucalypt Plywood Base	Unfinished (surface coating applied onsite after installation)	Plank Herringbone	December 2019
	Multi-Layer Engineered European Oak Veneer Hevea Core Spruce Backing	Hard Wax Oil and Polyurethane (colour dependent, please enquire for more information)	Plank	December 2017





Poured Pleats Ponsonby  
Jack McKinney  
Smartfloor Blond Oak







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3 Keith Place,  
Pukekohe, Auckland

**Christchurch**  
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**Queenstown**  
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