

# Bowens Installation Guidelines

## FLOORING TERMS

- **Sub Floor Materials** we recommend timber is dry (preferably hardwood) including particleboard.
- **Sub Floor Base** should be level (floor joist) or flat (particle board or concrete).
- **Sub Floor Ventilation** must be to building regulations (gaps between ground and sub floor members).
- **Sub Floor Vents** must be free of obstructions to allow air flow (including bearers).
- **Substrait** concrete substrait should be moisture sealed. Particle board should be dry.
- **Flooring over Concrete** for best results, use plywood underlay over a 200 UM plastic waterproofing membrane for overlays, or hardwood battens using 200 UM plastic waterproofing membrane for 19mm flooring.
- **Acclimatising** is recommended for at least 2 to 3 weeks in an environment the floor will exist in – Including air conditioning and heating.
- **Wet trades** such as plumbing and plastering can affect the moisture content of the sub floor and floor.
- **Heating ducts, skylights and Windows** particularly full height and in a north situation. Direct sunlight can show excessive shrinkage.
- **External drainage and stormwater** can cause wet spots that flooring can absorb increasing the moisture content.
- **DO NOT secret nail over 85mm in width.**
- **House at lockup stage** flooring should not be supplied until all external doors and windows are installed.
- **After Installation** – do not allow the house to stay shut up after installation in the summer months, it could cause excessive shrinkage.
- **After laying Care** – A protective covering over the installed floor prior to sanding and finishing is advisable. Many builders' products uses may cause irreparable damage, particularly glues, silicones, paints, wood stains, plaster setting components etc.
- **Air conditioning** – Typical air conditioning environments are very low humidity when compared with normal outdoor environments and all timber being hydroscopic will acclimatise to these conditions (refer note under acclimatisation).
- **Flooring Finishes** – there are many types of finishes used. Polyurethane in particular is very popular but it can be catastrophic to the finished floor if not used professionally. There are some flooring producers who will not guarantee their product if this is used. A typical problem is edge bonding where the polyurethane acts as a bond and glues sections (of the boards) together. We recommend professional advice to achieve the finish you desire.

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- **Caring for the finished floor**

- Care finish in a dust free environment
- No fan forced air systems should operate
- All air systems should be thoroughly cleaned and tested before commissioning.
- Cleaning techniques should not involve water based cleaners.
- Any spills, flooring and contact with damp material could increase the moisture content of the floor.
  - Move mats regularly
  - Dry sweep regularly
  - Protect from direct sunlight and heat if necessary cover windows exposed to sunlight.