

TONGUE & GROOVE PTG FLOORING FIXING GUIDELINES

SOFTWOOD TONGUE AND GROOVE FLOORING SUITABLE FOR INTERIOR USE



These instructions relate only to the fitting of Metsä Wood softwood flooring products. For information relating to the substructure and joist requirements, please refer to COP BS8201:2011 or seek professional advice.

SOFTWOOD FLOORING SPECIES

- a. Scot's Pine/European Redwood (*Pinus Sylvestris*)
- b. Spruce/European Whitewood (*Picea Abies*)

CE REQUIREMENTS

Metsä Wood flooring is fully compliant with current CE requirements and conforms to:

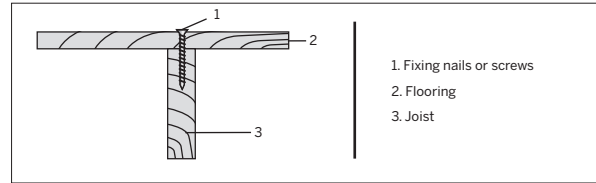
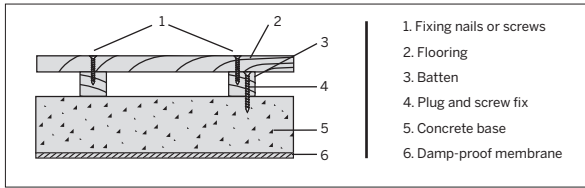
- a. BS EN 14342:2013
- b. See table for Declaration of Performance.

DECLARATION OF PERFORMANCE REFERENCE TABLE

ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS	PERFORMANCE	HARMONISED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
Reaction to fire	Fn	EN14342:2005 A1:2008
Minimum mean density	500g / m ³ Pine (<i>pinus sylvestris</i>) 400g / m ³ Spruce (<i>Picea albies</i>)	EN14342:2005 A1:2008
Minimum overall thickness	10-20mm	EN14342:2005 A1:2008
Emmision release of formaldehyde	E1	EN14342:2005 A1:2008
Thermal conductivity	0.13 W/(m K) Pine 0.12 W/(m K) Spruce	EN14342:2005 A1:2008
Biological durability (EN335:2013)	Use Class 1	EN14342:2005 A1:2008

SOFTWOOD FLOORING APPLICATIONS

a. The product is installed as a suspended timber floor supported on joists.



b. For use as an underlayment where the upper surface of the floor does not constitute the "finished" floor, for example under a carpet.

c. If the upper surface of the floor is required to be the finished floor then please ask your stockist about different grades of timber suited to this end use. This requires a specific "HIDDEN FIXING" profile and is available as a special order item.

d. The product is supplied "unfinished".

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

a. On site, all materials intended for flooring should be stacked carefully to retain flatness. They should be stored in a weather tight and dry environment with conditions that maintain the moisture content at the level recommended for laying and as close as possible to the conditions of the finished building.

b. Flooring should be 'conditioned' in situ for 2-3 weeks dependent upon conditions. As timber is a natural product this will give it time to absorb or lose moisture so that when fitted there is less likelihood of excess movement after fitting.

c. Mechanical fixings suited for the installation of pine and spruce flooring are as follows: -

i) ANNULAR-RINGED SHANK FLAT HEAD NAILS ("improved" nails); these should be 2.5 times the thickness of the flooring.

ii) WOODSCREWS SHOULD CONFORM TO BS 1210 and should be not less than size no. 8 and be no less than two times the thickness of the flooring.

iii) Care should be taken to ensure that all joints bear directly onto a joist to give the maximum bearing area and should be staggered so that joints are at least two board widths or two support spaces apart. All boards should be mechanically fixed by face nailing or screws. The timber flooring should be double fixed to every joist.

iv) In each case there should be two nails or screws per joist and the floorboards should be face fixed.

v) Nails or screws positioned near the end of a board should have a pre-drilled pilot hole to avoid splitting.

vi) Nails and screws should be placed not less than 20mm from the edge of the tongue or the groove.

vii) This product is intended to be nailed or screwed in place and must not be glued either board to board or board to joist.

d. The flooring has a "FACE SIDE" and reverse side. THE FACE SIDE MUST BE LAID FACING UPWARDS and can be seen by inspecting the tongue and the groove. THE FACE SIDE HAS THE THICKER SURFACE. For example: -



e. PROVISION FOR EXPANSION MUST BE MADE. It is recommended that a gap of not less than 12mm around all perimeters and any abutments such as thresholds or radiator pipes be made. Perimeter gaps should be sufficient that they be hidden by any skirting or architrave or trim moulding such as scotia beading etc, this to be determined by the end-user.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

a. Owing to the natural movement of in-service timber flooring because of the changing ambient environment in which it is installed, some convex or concave cupping across the face of the boards can be expected.

b. Wood is a natural product and therefore some opening up and closing of joints is to be expected. Both species of wood used in the production of Metsä Wood UK Ltd softwood flooring have a "movement classification" of medium as follows: -

i) A 4% CHANGE IN MOISTURE CONTENT WILL RESULT IN A MOVEMENT OF 1% ACROSS THE FACE OF THE BOARD, OR AS A RULE OF THUMB, THE ANTICIPATED MOVEMENT OF A FLOOR MADE FROM A MEDIUM TIMBER IS APPROXIMATELY 2-3MM PER METRE WIDTH OF LAID FLOOR ACROSS THE GRAIN FOR EVERY 1% CHANGE IN MOISTURE CONTENT.

c. Wood is a hygroscopic material; the moisture content which the wood attains depends primarily upon the humidity of the atmosphere and, to a lesser extent, upon the temperature. Wood shrinks as the moisture content decreases and swells as it increases. To reduce the dimensional changes which take place after wood is fixed in a building, the temperature and humidity in the building before, during and after laying the flooring should be approximately the same as those which are likely to prevail during occupation. As a guide, normally the following moisture content ranges are encountered for various heating conditions: -

i) Unheated: 15% to 19%

ii) Intermittent heating¹): 10% to 14%

iii) Continuous heating²): 9% to 11%

d. THE IMPORTANCE OF USING WOOD AT CORRECT MOISTURE CONTENT CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASIZED. IF, AT THE TIME OF FIXING, THE MOISTURE CONTENT IS TOO GREAT, SHRINKAGE IS INEVITABLE AND IT RESULTS IN UNSIGHTLY OPEN JOINTS. IF THE MOISTURE CONTENT IS TOO LOW, SWELLING CAN OCCUR, CAUSING LATERAL PRESSURE TO SOLID FLOORS WHICH CAN PRODUCE LIFTING.

These instructions apply specifically to solid softwood.

METSÄ WOOD UK LTD SOFTWOOD FLOORING IS NOT SUITED FOR INSTALLATION OVER UNDERFLOOR HEATING.

View our flooring installation video online: [metsawood.com/uk/tools/installation-videos](https://www.metsawood.com/uk/tools/installation-videos)

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