

# Recommendations for sub floor installing contractors

## Sub Floor Requirements

All sub-floors must be flat and level to the following tolerances:

- For plank floor tiles: +/- 3mm per 2 linear metres in all directions.
- For patterned floor tile designs: +/- 2mm per 3 linear metres in all directions. Eg: Tiles, herringbone, chevron etc.

## Cement Screed

Screed sub-floors must have a moisture content less than 3% and a relative humidity (RH) of less than 75% when tested with a BS 8203 hygrometer. Anhydrite screed must have a moisture content less than 0.3%. Measurement can only be undertaken 48 hours after heating systems and dehumidifiers have been switched off.

Hygrometer testing involves the drilling of a 16mm (width) x 50mm (depth) hole into the screed by the sub-floor contractor. The contractor should then insert a Protimeter humidity sleeve into the hole. One test must be conducted for every 5 square metres of floor area. The sub-floor contractor must avoid damage to any radiant under-floor heating systems, plumbing or electrical components beneath the surface of the screed. Fast dry and rapid set screed and self-levelling compounds can accelerate the time taken to achieve the correct moisture levels.

## Joists

- Plywood sub-floors fitted over joists must have a minimum thickness of 18mm.
- The plywood must be screwed to the joists, screwed at 300 to 400mm centres.
- Chipboard must have a minimum thickness of 18mm and be glued at tongue & groove, also screwed to joists at 300 to 400mm centres.
- All sheet plywood or chipboard joints must be staggered.
- Sheets cannot be joined at door thresholds. A single sheet must traverse the threshold.
- Plywood or chipboard sheets must have a moisture content of less than 10%.