DETAILED FIXING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DANSKIN PARK BEARERS

Introduction
The Danskin Park Flooring System is designed for installation on generally even sub-floors. The surfaces of screeds, concrete sub-floors or units must be sufficiently level to meet the relevant BS Codes of Practice and Building Regulations. Concrete ground level supported floors must have a damp proof membrane and screed complying with the appropriate Codes of Practice and Building Regulations.

Storage
All components should be kept inside , under cover and in dry conditions at all times. Materials should be located into the environment in which they are to be fixed at least 24 hours prior to fixing. Do not place large quantities of material such as chipboard or plasterboard on top of laid flooring as this extreme loading can damage the resilient layers.

Preparation
The building must be weatherproofed and wet trades completely dried out before commencing installation of the flooring system. Isolated high points, mortar spillages and other debris should be removed from the area. All joints and air paths between concrete units and at perimeter walls must be grouted. Components exposed to wet conditions such as ingress of rain or plumbing leaks should be discarded and replaced.

Fire
It is presupposed that the structural floor on which Park Bearers are laid achieves all necessary fire protection.

Dryness of Concrete
Excessive moisture from cast in situ slabs and screeds which have not dried out can have adverse effects on flooring materials and timber components. BS 8201 states that " it is reasonable to recommend that the concrete be considered dry when the relative humidity falls to 75% or less" (when tested by use of a hygrometer). Where the dryness of concrete can not be guaranteed it is recommended that a vapour barrier is installed (minimum 1000 guage) .

Services
The provision of access to services is most successful if the location of services is detailed at an early stage . Services should be kept at least 150mm away from walls to allow space for perimeter bearers.

Design Recommendations

(a) Partitions
Partitions should normally be erected from the sub-floor and not on top of the floating floor. Where lightweight timber or metal stud non loadbearing partitions are built from the top of the floating floor a double row of Park Bearers should be placed beneath the partitions.

(b) Access Panels
Providing they are preplanned, the provision of inspection panels is simple. Panels should be square and supported along all edges by Park Bearers. Access panels should be screwed down.

(c) Areas of Heavy Loading
In areas where heavy loadings are anticipated, such as kitchens and bathrooms, the bearer centres should be reduced to 300mm. In cases of extraordinary loading advice should be sought from the specifier or manufacturer. Storage heaters are considered to be an extraordinary loading and will require support direct from the sub-floor, independent of the flooring system. Danskin's Technical Department are available to provide advice where required

(d) Intermediate Expansion Gaps in Flooring
The need for intermediate expansion gaps between sheets of chipboard must be considered where there are uninterrupted runs of flooring more than 5 metres in length. Expansion provision should be calculated at a rate of 2mm per metre run.

(e) Communal Areas in Flats
BS6399-1: 1996 imposes more onerous load bearing requirements for communal areas in certain designs of flatted developments. Concentrated load requirements over the long term can be as high as 4.5 kN while the maximum capacity of 22mm chipboard at reduced centres is only 2.7 kN. If it is intended to lay the Danskin Saddle System in communal areas in flats such as common corridors , hallways , stairs and landings it is essential to contact Danskin for specific advice regarding the floor boarding and component centres.

(e) Ceramic Tiles
As acoustic floors are designed to deflect vertically in order to reduce impact sound there are inherent risks in laying ceramic tiles on top of floating floors . However the risks can be significantly reduced by good detailing and the use of modern flexible adhesives. Ceramic tiles have been successfully laid on floors incorporating Park Bearers in numerous projects over many years. Contact the sales department for specialist advice.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

1) Perimeter Bearers
Lay Danskin Park Bearers around the perimeter of the room foam side down – approximately 50mm from the wall.

2) Acoustic Quilt
Where specified the acoustic quilt should be laid paper face down either under the bearers or between the bearers according to the specification. The edges of the quilt should be turned up at the perimeter walls.

3) Danskin Park Bearers
Park bearers should be laid at 400mm centres for 18mm chipboard, or 600mm centres for 22mm chipboard under normal domestic loading (UDL 1.5Kn/m2 , Concentrated load 1.4Kn), unless otherwise recommended by the specifier or manufacturer. On pre-stressed concrete planks the Park Bearers should be laid at right angles to the curvature of the floor. Having laid perimeter bearers infill the remaining area with Park Bearers. When laying alternate rows of Park Bearers, commence with a half-length so that the ends of bearers are staggered. Leave a small gap between bearer ends.Where services run across bearers – do not notch. Cut the Park Bearer and place approximately 25mm either side of the pipe.
Where moderate sub-floor irregularities are encountered, the following levelling techniques may be used:-

a) Low spots occurring under bearers can sometimes be rectified by the acoustic quilt, but if necessary suitable continuous packing should be inserted below the bearers to give support.
b) Isolated nodules can be overcome by placing a bearer on either side.
c) On pre-stressed concrete floors where there is a camber, firring pieces should be nailed on top of the bearers to provide continuous support and to level the floors. Care should be taken that nails do not pierce the foam. If sub-floor irregularities or cambers are excessive and outwith the Code of Practice the application of a self-levelling screed may be required before installation of the flooring system can proceed. Alternatively , use the Danskin Saddle System – an acoustic floor levelling system.

4) Thresholds
A Park Bearer should be placed across each doorway to provide extra support.

5) Chipboard Flooring
Lay chipboard sheets with long edges across the Park Bearers. Leave a clear 10 mm gap at the perimeter. The sheets in adjacent rows must be staggered in a brick-bonded fashion. If short edges overhang a bearer at any point the overhang must be supported by a bearer. Short Edges must always be fully supported.

6) Fixing Chipboard
Annular ring nails and P.V.A (or other suitable) adhesive must be used for fastening the chipboard to Park Bearers. The nails must be long enough to securely fix the chipboard but not so long as to pierce the foam on the underside of the bearer. Adhesive should be applied continuously to the bearer prior to laying each sheet of chipboard. All tongue and grooved joints must be continuously glued with adhesive otherwise any movement will lead to squeaking. Spot gluing is NOT sufficient to prevent squeaking. All joints must be tightly butted and excess glue removed with a damp cloth. Finally the boards should be surface nailed with a minimum of four nails across the width of each sheet, two about 25mm from each end and two equidistant between. Ensure that gaps where services come through the flooring are sealed with acoustic sealant to prevent airborne sound leakage.

7) Danskin Flanking Strip
Position the flanking strip in the perimeter gap adjacent to the perimeter wall. The preformed `L` shape will prevent it from falling down the gap. Fix the skirting board , lightly trapping the strip between the bottom of the skirting board and the flooring. Remove any excess flanking strip with a sharp knife. It is essential to isolate the skirting from the floor to prevent impact sound flanking transmission.

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