

Tiling onto floating floors

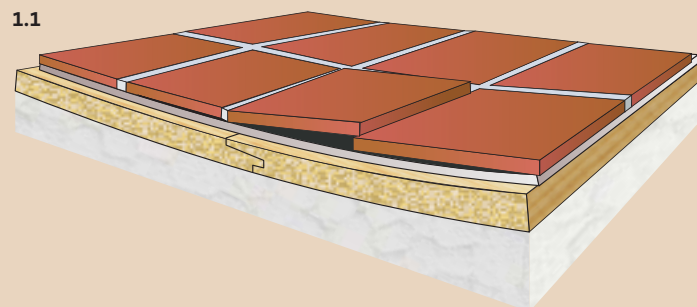
Floating floors is a term used for a floor that is not attached to a rigid substrate. Generally this will be a tongued and grooved wooden board

above an acoustic or insulation material. Floating floors are used to improve floor insulation and/or to reduce noise transmission. Normal

wooden floors flex when loaded but this movement is even greater on a floating floor as the boards are not supported by joists.

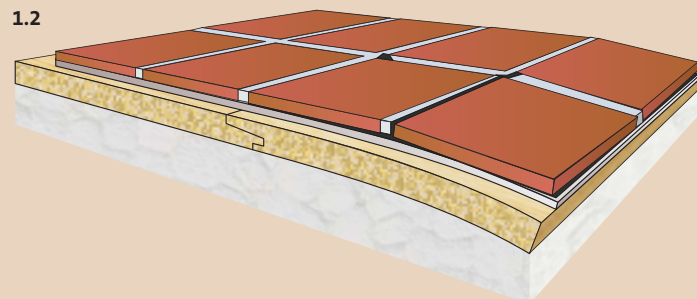
1 Deflection

1.1



1.1 As a floating floor is not supported by joists, any applied load creates significant movement over a big area. This can be felt as bounce in the floor when it is walked across. As the applied load increases so does the severity of movement.

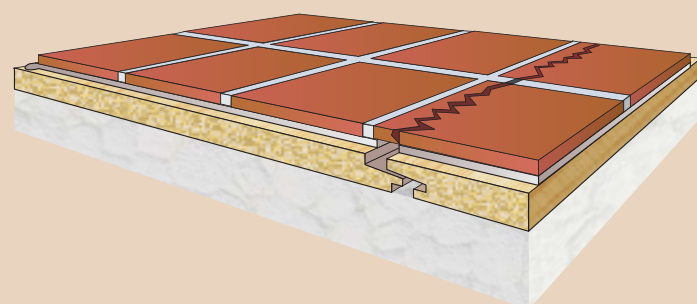
1.2



1.2 The edges of a floating floor are even more susceptible to exaggerated movement as they are not supported and any applied load is spread over a smaller area.

If the adhesive used to fix the tiles is not flexible or thick enough to absorb the amount of movement, the tiles will either delaminate or crack. Large tiles will exacerbate the deflection across each tile's width.

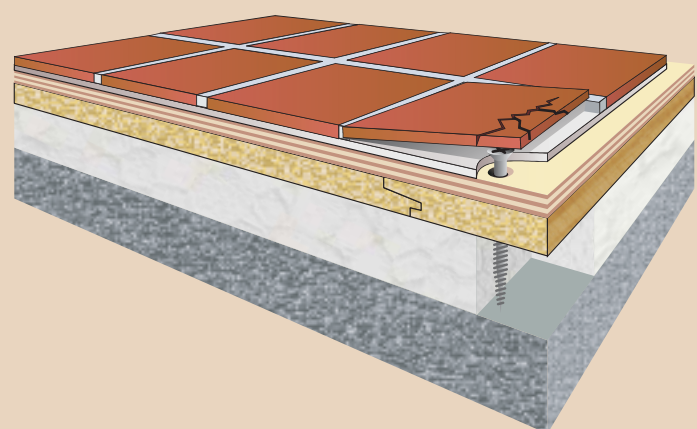
2 Unsupported joints



If a joint between wooden boards of a floating floor is not correctly located or fixed, it will be susceptible to highly localised movement which will crack the tile along the joint.

If the boards of a floating floor are not tongue and grooved, they are not suitable for tiling.

3 Columns



When a floating floor is over-boarded to add rigidity, the extra board has to be securely attached to the original boards. If nails are used, the constant movement of the floor can cause them to work loose, press on the underside of the tile and cause cracks to form. If the screws/nails used are too long they can bottom out on a rigid surface under the floating floor and create a column, over which tiles will crack.

Overboard with plywood or tile backer-board

Although relatively small tiles can be fixed directly onto small areas of tongued and grooved floating floors using specialist products such as **weber.set WF21** or

weber.set rapid flex, a much more secure solution is to fix a second board over the existing timber. This increases the rigidity of the floor and prevents localised movement,

thus making it a far better substrate for tile fixing. If a water-resistant tile backer-board is used to overboard, it will virtually eliminate any moisture related movement.

Products required

weber.set WF21 or **weber.set rapid flex**
weber AD250, **weber.set rapid**
weber.joint wide flex or **stoneset fine wall and floor grout**
weber SL450 or **stoneset flexible NC sealant**

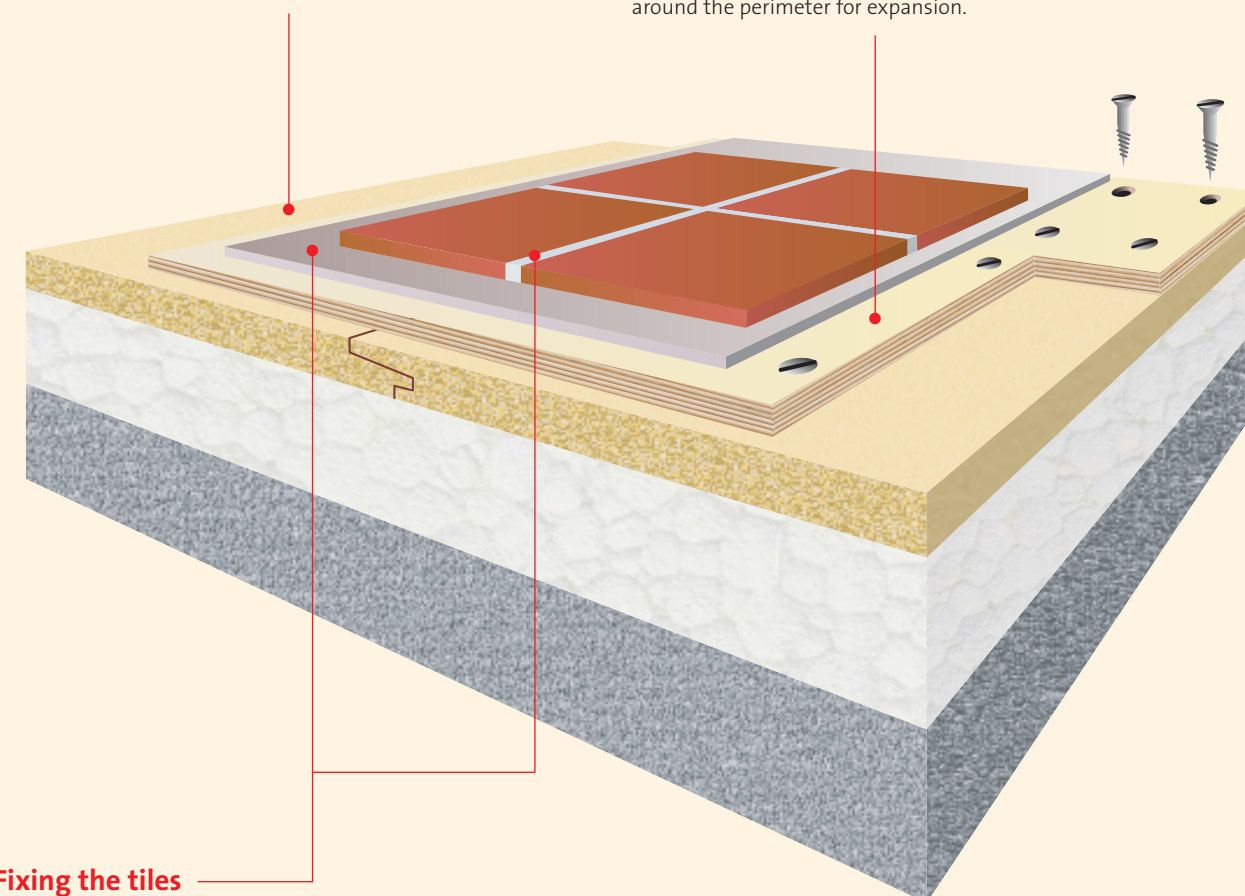
1: Preparation

Verify that the extra height from the over-boarding can be accommodated and that the floor is capable of supporting the expected load.

All tongued and grooved boards should be glued together securely and wedged around the edges until dry.

2: Fix the over-boarding

Use WBP grade plywood at least 15mm thick. Prime the back and edges of the plywood with **weber AD250**. Lay the boards so that the joints do not coincide with joints in the existing timber and leave slight gaps between boards to allow for expansion. Screw the boards at 200 to 300 mm. Leave a movement joint around the perimeter for expansion.



3: Fixing the tiles

Fix the tiles into a minimum 5 mm solid bed of **weber.set rapid** and **weber AD250**.

Leave joints at least 3 mm wide for grouting and make adequate provision for movement (around the perimeter) and dividing large areas into bays.

Leave the adhesive to set and then grout the tiles with **weber.joint wide flex** or **stoneset fine wall and floor grout**.

Use **weber SL450** or **stoneset flexible NC sealant** for the perimeter movement joints.



For detailed instructions, please refer to the relevant product data sheet. For further information, please contact our Technical Helpline on 01525 722137.

