



03. Technical Specifications

03.09 BOARD WIDTH AND METHOD OF FIXING

Tongue and grooved flooring is most regularly supplied in “nominal” width profiles such as 100 and 150 mm wide. (Whereas, the actual “Finished Size” face cover width of every board will vary depending upon the machining profile, but will generally be say 80mm or 130 mm Finished Size.)

High quality feature floors, installed for beauty and performance, are normally installed as a “**secret nailed**” profile (in which the nail holes are almost totally hidden) floors up to 85 mm “face- cover” are **the maximum width recommended for secret nailed profile.**

Platform floor construction or floors designed to be overlaid with carpet or some other floor covering, are generally installed as a **face nailed floor** in which case all nail holes are visible on the face of the floor.

It should be noted, that in the installation of every “secret nailed” timber floor, there are always some sections of the floor **which must be face nailed.** These boards are “starter” boards and “finishing” boards where it is not possible to use “secret nailing” equipment. Also, in some projects it may be necessary or expedient to alter the direction in which boards are most practically installed and this can also necessitate that some boards will be face nailed to accommodate directional change within the installation and such phenomenon within a “secret nailed” floor are standard and acceptable trade practice that should not be regarded as a “defect”.

Wherever practical, boards will be installed in the direction of longest length of a room or area, however, with one directional floors, the decision of primary choice at the commencement of a project may well dictate that the layout of some rooms will not permit this consideration. Similarly, in pier and beam construction, the direction and placement of joist may dictate the direction of boards in the finished floor.

Some manufacturers are now offering wide board material up to 300 mm wide to create a very rustic old world presentation. In such cases, it must be understood that the wider the board, the more movement will take place within every individual board and greater will be the joint which opens and closes between each board. Conversely, it is also true that the narrower the board, the fewer the problems and less will be the movement that may take place within each individual board.

Generally speaking, the greater the width of board the more the potential for distortion due to cupping and curling and greater the reason to insist on the inclusion of a structural plywood sub base with full adhesive bonding between timber and sub floor.

Particular attention is drawn to the fact that for clients seeking **wide board** presentation are specifically advised to also consider the **single plank** options that are available in **engineered wood floors.** Remember, engineered floors can generally be installed as either fixed or floated construction, with the added advantage of rapid installation times where required, due to the fact that most of these products are also available in a **pre-finished** presentation as well as the traditional **site-finished** format.