

Qikfit Floors Installation Guide

Description

The Qikfit floor that you are installing is a pre-fabricated low profile timber floor system specifically designed to suit your home. It allows for a simple, fast and cost-effective alternative to floor construction. This installation guide will detail the preliminary work required, how to best install your Qikfit floor and troubleshooting information should you have any issues.

Note that the manufacture and assembly of the floor panels complies with AS1684.2-2010 Residential timber-framed construction. Construction and follow-on requirements not included in this guide should be referenced back to AS1684.2-2010.

Installation Benefits

- Fast installation – dimensionally accurate and level.
- Precision factory manufactured.
- Qikfit panels have insulation pre-installed.
- Can be assembled on any pier system (steel, masonry, timber, etc.)
- Panels are a manageable weight with no lifting equipment required.
- Reduced on-site waste due to off-site fabrication.

Read this install guide fully before commencing any work, including footing and pier/stump installation.

Delivery and Storage

Make sure there is enough room to allow your Qikfit bearers and floor panels to be delivered to site. The panels are stacked and strapped into bundles which are normally craned off the truck.



All materials need to be stored with at least 150mm clearance to natural ground. If not being used immediately the materials should also be covered to protect them from the weather. Covering should not be wrapped under the materials as this prevents ventilation and can cause excessive condensation.

Foundations and Supports

Every Qikfit floor will have a dimensioned stump layout as part of the subfloor plan. Due to the wide variety of footing and stump possibilities it is the builders' responsibility to supply and install stumps/piers. Options include adjustable steel stumps, concrete stumps, brick piers, or H5 treated timber stumps.

The subfloor layout details the position of the stumps and offsets required when installing:

- All internal piers are dimensioned to centreline of support in both directions.
- External central piers have one centreline dimension and one outside dimension (to external face of frame).
- External corner piers have two outside dimensions (to external face of frame).



This allows the builder to apply the external offset appropriate to their pier system to ensure the stumps do not foul any continuation of external cladding etc.

Bearing requirements are 30mm minimum for end supports and 75mm minimum for intermediate supports for normal loadings. Bearing under concentrated load points may need to be larger.

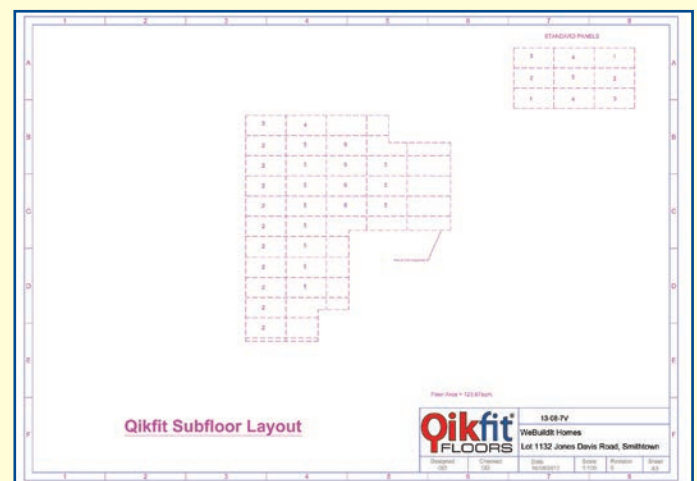
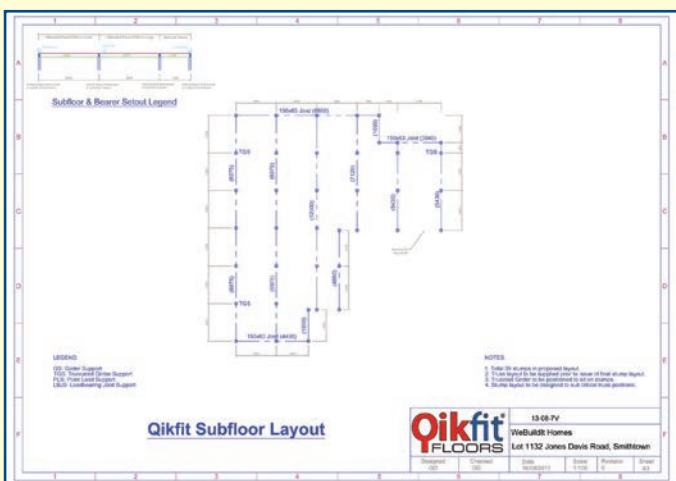
As the system is precision manufactured it is important that the bearer supports are level and in the correct position. Taking extra time to ensure this will mean a faster installation time.

It is also necessary to address termite management as per AS3660 as part of the foundation and pier/stump installation.

What do you need before you start

The Qikfit floor supplied will come with pre-fabricated bearers, pre-manufactured panels, a subfloor layout and a panel layout. Other equipment needed to complete the process is:

- Fasteners to connect the bearers to the supports.
- Flooring glue to be used under panel joins.
- Nails/Screws to connect the panels together.
- Circular Saw to trim panels if required.
- Stanley knife or similar to trim insulation if required.



Installation Process

The installation of a Qikfit floor should be undertaken by a suitably qualified person who understands this installation guide and the associated relevant requirements of AS1684.2-2010 and Volume 2 of the National Construction Code (NCC). A proposed installation process is:

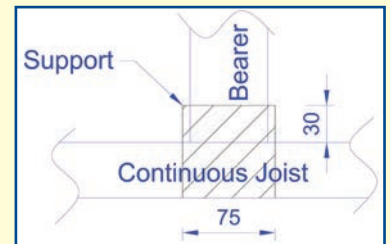
1. Install bearer supports in accordance with the dimensioned subfloor layout supplied by Qikfit and notes above.
2. Provide termite management system as per AS3660 (chemical barriers, antcaps, etc)
3. Place bearers onto supports loosely. Loose end joists may also be noted on the subfloor layout. These are normally continuous with the bearer required to butt into these. Ensure there is enough bearing on the support for both the continuous joist and end support of bearer.

4. Measure the bearer spacings and overall lengths to confirm they are in the correct position and then temporarily secure them into position.
5. Decide on a starting point for the panel installation. The best place to begin is where there is a high concentration of standard panels. These are noted by similar numbers (1 to 5) on the panel layout. A suitable starting point on the sample job shown above is the top left hand corner. Panels are mostly a standard width to suit the flooring, normally 1250mm or 1200mm (noted on panel layout). It is recommended once the bearers are in position to mark out from the start point where the panels should come to, adding 1-2mm for clearance between panels. This will help prevent any "creep" of the panels during installation.

6. Apply construction adhesive to top edge of bearers and place the first panel into position. The bearer has a ledger plate secured to the bottom side where the joist sits, the ends of the joists should be tight against the bearer and the flooring should line up with the outside for external bearers or centreline for internal bearers. Tack the panel into position using a nail/screw in each corner. Fastener sizes to be used are:

- Hand Driven 65mm long x 2.8mm diameter flat head or bullet head nails.
- Machine Driven 65mm long x 2.5mm diameter flat head or bullet head nails.
- 10g x 50mm long Type 17 countersunk self-drilling wood screws.

7. Apply construction adhesive to bearers and place the next panel, making sure there is a 1-2mm gap between panels and that the panels are being installed to the marks from point 5 above. This will prevent the panels creeping out and making the floor footprint bigger.
8. Continue installing the panels. As the panel installation approaches a bearer support and it is clear the bearer position is correct, secure the bearer to the support with the required permanent fixing. This will avoid having to access this connection from underneath once the floor is complete. After 5-6 panels are in position it is recommended to check them dimensionally and then return to the first panels and finish fixing the flooring edges. Fastener spacing on the panels is to be at 150mm maximum with fasteners a minimum of 10mm from the edges.
9. Steps 6-8 are continued until all panels are in position. If some creep does occur on larger jobs, the end panel normally has a loose joist installed with the subfloor and so the panel can be marked out and trimmed back to suit. If trimming is more than 1mm per panel join on the run of panels you should contact Qikfit floors to confirm this is suitable.
10. Noting follow-on trades, holes can be cut in the OSB flooring in the same manner as other timber flooring products. Ensure that the hole is also cut in the insulation neatly with a knife to maintain the still air gap and thermal efficiency. It is good practice to seal the gap between insulation and services with a thermal tape.





Troubleshooting

Every Qikfit floor has been designed to make it easy for you to install, but issues may arise from time to time. Here are some pointers for common problems:

How do I deal with wet areas without setdowns? If the final floor is all level (no setdown), the only additional requirement for under wet areas is to ensure the fasteners are galvanised or coated to protect them in the event of a waterproofing membrane failure.

How do I set down wet areas? By letting the Qikfit team know that you want the wet areas setdown, this can be incorporated into the design of the panels.

My services are located directly over the top of a joist? Dealing with this is no different than standard timber floor construction. AS1684.2-2010 has rules on what can occur with joists, but typically the penetration should be moved to miss the joist (a maximum offset of only 45mm).

What if I need to alter a panel or if a panel was damaged on-site? Contact Qikfit before you modify any panels. It may be that the one you are trying to install is sized to go in another position. If a panel has been damaged it can be rectified on-site (extra materials may be required). Call and we will be happy to advise the best solution.

FAQ

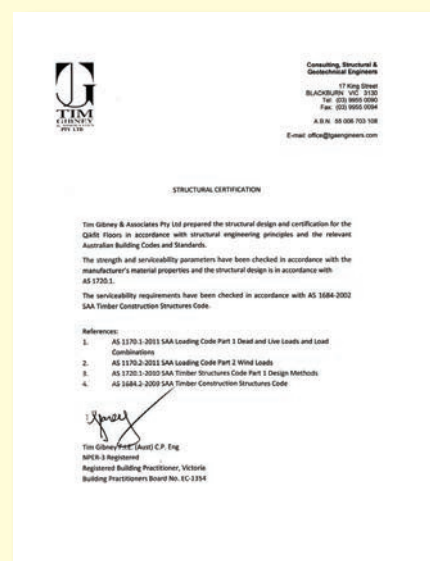
Other things you may wish to factor into the design and installation of your Qikfit floor:

Can I make the panels longer? Yes, but this means there will be a flooring joint across the panel that will need to be supported and the joist size will increase. The panel size has also been chosen to optimise these design sizes with the weight of the panel to prevent the need for specialised lifting equipment.

Can pier spacings be bigger (for a subfloor garage space, etc)? Yes, let us know where you want to miss a pier (or two) when you supply the plans and we can design the system around this. Typically the bearers will increase in depth in this area to deal with the larger span.

How long can the finished floor be left uncovered? The Qikfit floor is the same as other timber floor systems. It can be exposed to direct weathering for up to three months during standard construction. If extended exposure has occurred, Qikfit floors should be contacted to conduct an assessment of the suitability of the floor for this exposure.

Is the floor certified? The Qikfit system uses common engineering principles in its design. It has been checked and certified by a qualified independent structural engineer as shown in the certification letter noted here.



Qikfit Floors Pty Ltd

3/19 Ramage Street, Bayswater, Vic. 3153.

email: info@qikfitfloors.com.au

