



7<sup>th</sup> May 2009

## **WARNING TO CONSUMERS**

*Bankrupt Governments have recently removed the requirement of Licensing to portions of the wood floor industry in some Australian States & Territories, thus making it easier for the unsuspecting consumers to be “conned” by unscrupulous traders.*

*The National Wood Flooring Association of Australia has seen the necessity of alerting potential users of wood floor systems of those tactics that are most commonly employed in the cutting of corners and in cheating people from obtaining quality wood floor systems that are installed using only those methods that reflect best trade practise.*

*Our executive has decided, that due to the growing number of consumers that are told incorrect information it was essential that the following information be published to inform potential consumers of the dangers used by unscrupulous and unprincipled operators.*

*The following information reflects industry best practise as promoted by the National Wood Flooring Association of Australia.*

- a) Timber floors installed over pier & beam / bearer and joist construction must be exposed to a full cross-flow of ventilation in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia.
- b) No wood floor should be installed over an un-ventilated sub-floor void.
- c) All wood floors installed over concrete or similar sub-floors should be installed over a **minimum** thickness of **18 mm Exterior Waterproof, Structural Grade, Plywood** (conforming to the minimum requirements of Australian Standard A.S. 2269.

It is **essential** that this plywood should be **firmly anchored to the concrete** sub base with a **minimum of 15** off x 5 mm diameter x 65 mm long steel “Spike” Anchors (*each with a 2050 lbs pull-out load.*)

This process is essential to avoid un-ventilated air beneath raw floor boards, which is the most common cause of “*cupping and curling*” of the finished floor as the environment beneath the floor is often a totally different environment to that on the surface of the floor.

### **BE WARNED**

There are now operators who, to cut corners and to reduce their price, are installing floors directly on top of *loose-laid 12 mm plywood (rather than 18 mm) and mostly of very inferior Chinese origin.*

*This plywood is not stamped and does not conform with Australian Standard A.S. 2269.*

*These floors are not anchored to the sub-floor at all.*

*(Where they should be secured by a minimum of 15 anchors per 2400 x 1200 sheet.)*

*As the “correct” nails or cleats used to install your wood floor require a **minimum** of 18 mm to accept the fixing, guess what happens to the nail in any 12 mm floor. Why they just fold up as they crumple into the concrete sub-floor and are then prone to be a major source of generating “squeaks” etc within the floor system.*

- d) Due to the phenomenon of “EDGE BONDING, an event that occurs when certain floor coating weld together the T & G joints of a strip floor, best trade practice requires that “only” oil based finishes should be used over any T & G wood floor system.

Clients who require the application of any finish, other than an oil based finish over any T & G wood floor should expect to sign a document which will “**indemnify**” the contractor against the incident of any future damage to the floor by use of alternative products, contrary to best professional advice.