

Installation Guide

Expansion Joints

Movement/Expansion joints:

A movement or expansion joint is an intentional break in the tiled surface, which allows for moderate movement caused by heat expansion and contraction, thus preventing tiles and grout from cracking.

Where to use movement/expansion joints?

- At junctions between different substrates, including door thresholds.
- When tiling abuts other materials e.g. when tiles meet wood or laminate flooring.
- In conjunction with any existing structural movement joints.
- Around the perimeter of a tiled area, with intermediate movement joints applied in larger areas at 6m to 8m intervals. Shorter intervals are recommended when tiling externally, due to greater changes in temperature.
- When tiling over underfloor heating, the floor will be subjected to significant changes in temperature resulting in differential movement within the substrate and for porcelain / ceramic tiles, the floor area should be divided into bays of size not greater than 40m², with an edge length not greater than 8m.



Chrome expansion joint with grey insert



Chrome expansion joint with beige insert

Installation

Check movement joint is the right profile size for tile thickness e.g. a 10mm tile will require a 12mm profile.

Mark position for movement joint and apply adhesive.

Press movement joint into adhesive, whilst positioning surrounding tiles.

Apply adhesive to surrounding area and fit tiles into movement joint, ensuring that they are flush with the top edge of profile and allowing a 2mm grout joint between movement joint and tile.

Note movement joint will absorb a maximum of 20 percent of its compound insert width.

Refer to British Standard BS5385 for further guidance regarding the installation of movement/expansion joints.



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