Floor *transitions* and movement joints: wood, stone, carpet and brass

Height, movement and the line, settled together at each junction. Threshold limits: Approved Document M (England), cited by paragraph. Movement gaps: a distributor's and our own guidance.

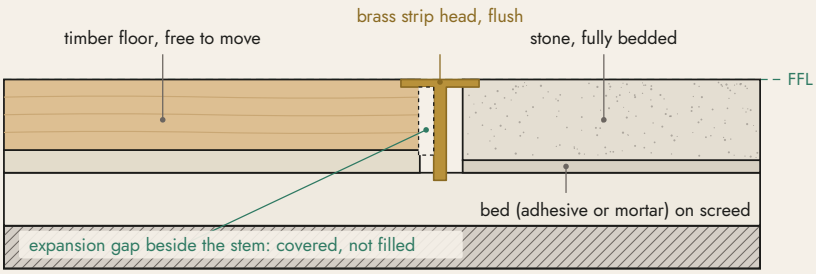
Compliance guidance. Threshold figures are from Approved Document M volumes 1 and 2, England only (editions and paragraphs cited); Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own documents, not read. Movement gaps are a distributor's and our own journal's, not a standard's. Details are illustrative: the designer, flooring contractors and partner workshops coordinate each junction, and building control decides what applies. Guidance, not legal or building control advice.

AT A GLANCE

Junction	Movement it must allow	Detail (illustrative)	Height or rule
Wood to stone, same level	Timber swells and shrinks; stone and screed hardly do	T-section over a gap on the timber side; stone bedded to the stem	Flush at finished floor level
Wood to stone, movement joint	Stone's own joint carried through the junction	Movement profile over a joint through stone, bed and screed	Joint lines match the base
Wood to carpet	Timber needs its edge gap	Cover strip fixed on the carpet side only	Carpet face level with timber
Doorway	Timber floors break at doorways and arches	T-section under the leaf; boards under the architraves	Entrances: Approved Document M limit
Perimeter, columns, pipes	A gap at every wall and abutment	Skirting, scotia or shadow gap covers it	Never filled with adhesive or grout
Hearth	A gap where no bead can be fixed	Cork expansion strip or mastic joint	Hearth rules not covered here
Heated and unheated zones	The zones shrink and swell at different rates	Threshold strip between the zones	Heating designer confirms

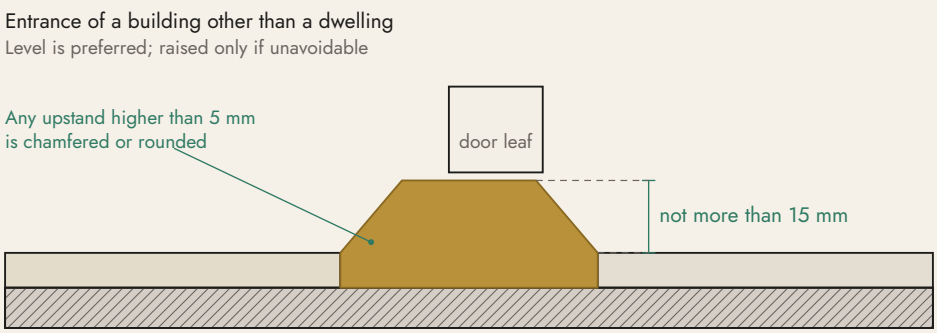
Illustrative. Regulated figures: Approved Document M only. Movement gaps: a distributor's guidelines and our journal.

Timber to stone at a doorway, brass T-section
Heads of both floors and the strip sit at the finished floor level



Schematic, not to scale. Strip and gap sizes are set by the flooring contractors and the profile maker.

Timber meeting stone at a brass T-section, all three faces at the finished floor level. Schematic. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



Schematic, enlarged. Approved Document M volume 2 (England), paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7(e).

A raised entrance threshold, enlarged (volume 2, paragraph 2.7(e), England). Schematic. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

ENTRANCE THRESHOLDS

Where Approved Document M applies [volume 2 / volume 1] and the entrance is an accessible entrance: threshold level or, if a raised threshold is unavoidable, not more than 15 mm total height, with a minimum number of upstands and slopes and any upstand higher than 5 mm chamfered or rounded (volume 2, paragraph 2.7(e)) [confirm current edition]. Changes in floor material at the entrance not to create a trip hazard.

WOOD TO STONE

Junction between [timber] and [stone] at [location ref] by [brass T-section], head [ ] mm wide, stem [ ] mm deep, finish [ ], over an expansion gap of [ ] mm on the timber side. Timber, strip head and stone flush at FFL [ ] m. Stone bedded independently up to the stem. Detail drawing [ref] approved before fabrication.

PERIMETER, DOORWAYS AND HEARTH

Expansion gap of [15] mm minimum around the perimeter and every vertical obstruction, covered by [skirting / scotia / shadow gap] and never filled with adhesive or grout. Gaps through doorways covered by [T-section]; door linings and architraves undercut where agreed. At [hearth]: [cork strip / mastic joint], [ ] mm.

MOCK-UP AND APPROVAL

A mock-up of each junction type built with the real finishes and strips, approved by [designer] before the main work. Junctions under fire-rated doors confirmed by the door maker and [fire engineer] before fixing.

TERMS USED

Threshold
The profile or junction at a doorway where two floor finishes or levels meet.

Accessible threshold
Approved Document M: a threshold that is level or, if raised, not more than 15 mm in total height, with a minimum number of upstands and slopes and any upstand over 5 mm chamfered.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document M vol 2 (2015 ed. incl. 2020, 2024 amendments, England): read; paras 1.13(f), 2.6, 2.7, 2.29, 3.14, 3.16.
- Approved Document M vol 1 (2015 ed. incl. 2016 amendments, England): read; paragraph 1.14(b), Appendix A.
- BS 8300-2:2018, BS 8201:2011, BS 5385-3:2024: named; not read (BS 5385-3 only via the Tile Association, Jan 2025).
- A UK distributor's installation guidelines (Jan 2024, Nov 2022); our journal guides: read; gaps, thresholds, hearths.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/floor-transitions-and-movement-joints. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.