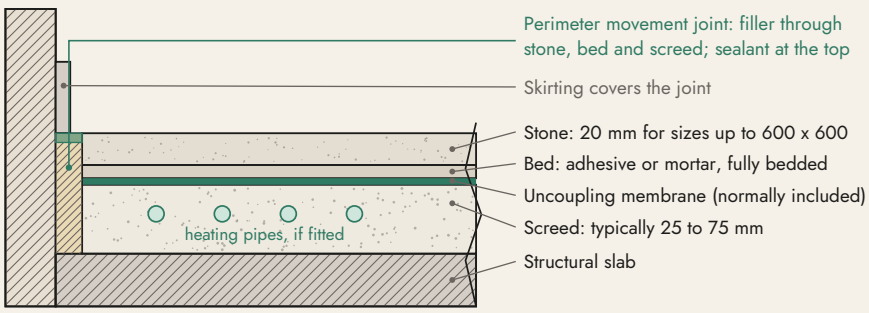
Natural stone *flooring* specification: size, thickness, bed and joints

Starting points for a stone floor: sizes, thickness, bed, joints and movement joints. BS 5385-5 was withdrawn in May 2024; BS 5385-3:2024 now covers stone floors. Agree every figure with the partner stone workshop.

AT A GLANCE

Decision	Starting point	Where it comes from	Who confirms
Stone and finish	Petrographic name (BS EN 12407), denomination (BS EN 12440), finish, and an approved sample from the production slab.	UK supplier's NBS-style clause (Oct 2020). Standards named, not read.	Stone workshop
Face size and thickness	400 x 400, 600 x 400 or 600 x 600 mm, or gauged widths up to 500 mm, all at 20 mm. Larger formats may need more thickness and lifting equipment.	One UK supplier's manual, for its own limestone.	Stone workshop, per stone
Tile or slab, and tolerance	BS EN 12057 covers modular tiles, BS EN 12058 slabs for floors and stairs. Name the edition: the 2015 edition changed nominal thickness tolerances. No figures are given here.	BSI listings (2015 editions). Standards not read.	Read the standard
Bedding	Fully bedded on adhesive or mortar, every edge supported; adhesive to BS EN 12002 or 12004; uncoupling membrane normally included.	Supplier manual.	Stone fixer
Screed	Typically 25 to 75 mm, suited to the stone and any underfloor heating; cured and dry, heating tested, before laying.	Supplier manual. BS 8204-1 named, not read.	Screed contractor
Joints and movement joints	Width follows the tolerance: 5 mm +/- 1 mm in one supplier's manual; floor tile joints never under 3 mm. Movement joints at the perimeter and across larger floors, through stone, bed and screed; outdoors 3 to 5 m apart; indoor spacing from the code.	Supplier manual; Tile Association (Jan 2025) quoting BS 5385-3:2024.	Stone workshop, fixer, and the code
Code of practice	BS 5385-5 was withdrawn on 30 May 2024. BS 5385-3:2024 now covers stone, terrazzo and ceramic floors.	BSI Knowledge listings, 5 Nov 2026.	Check the current edition

Starting points to agree with the partner stone workshop, not design values. No tolerance is quoted from any standard: none could be read.



Section, schematic, not to scale. Thicknesses: one UK stone supplier's guidance. Pipes: test before stone is laid.

Section through a stone floor beside a wall, schematic and not to scale. Layers and screed depth: one UK stone supplier; joint depth: Tile Association, quoting BS 5385-3:2024. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

STONE, SIZE AND TOLERANCE

Natural stone flooring [slabs to BS EN 12058:2015 / modular tiles to BS EN 12057:2015]. Petrographic name to BS EN 12407: [ ]. Denomination to BS EN 12440: [ ]. Finish [honed] to approved sample [ref] cut from the production slab. Face size [600 x 600] mm, thickness [20] mm, to drawing [ref]. Tolerances as BS EN 12058:2015 [confirm current edition]. Joint width [ ] mm. Declaration of Performance with declared flexural strength (BS EN 13161), slip resistance (BS EN 14231) and apparent density (BS EN 1936) before order. Stone workshop to confirm in writing that the thickness suits the stone, format, base and use.

BASE AND BED

Base: [cementitious levelling screed to BS 8204-1], [ ] mm, accepted in writing by the stone fixer as flat, dry and cured before laying. Underfloor heating, if any, commissioned and tested before laying. [Uncoupling membrane: type ref]. Stone fully bedded in [adhesive to BS EN 12004 / mortar bed], every edge supported, no hollows. Installation to BS 5385-3:2024 [confirm current edition] by an experienced stone fixing company.

JOINTS AND MOVEMENT

Perimeter movement joints at all walls, columns, steps and thresholds. Intermediate movement joints at [ ] m centres [BS 5385-3:2024 clause ref] and over every structural and screed movement joint below, in the same position, through the full depth of stone, bed and screed. Filler and sealant: [ ]. Joints shown on stone layout drawing [ref], approved before fabrication.

PROTECTION AND CARE

Floor protected from following trades with [board / covering] until handover. Sealer [product, as recommended by the stone workshop]; cleaner [pH-neutral product]. Maintenance instructions issued at handover.

TERMS USED

Slab (stone)

A large flat piece of stone, thicker and larger than a tile; BS EN 12058 covers slabs for floors and stairs and BS EN 12057 covers modular tiles.

Uncoupling membrane

A thin sheet under stone or tile that lets the covering move independently of the substrate to reduce cracking.

Screed

A layer of cement, calcium sulphate or similar laid over a slab to level it, carry underfloor heating pipes and take the final floor finish.

Movement joint

A deliberate break or flexible joint in a floor finish that allows thermal or moisture movement without cracking or lifting.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS 5385-3:2024: floor tiling code, 31 May 2024. Listing read; text not read.
- BS 5385-5:2009: withdrawn 30 May 2024.
- BS EN 12058:2015, BS EN 12057:2015, BS 8204-1:2003+A1:2009: listings read; texts not read.
- BS EN 12002, 12004, 13161, 14157, 14231, 1936, 12407, 12440: named by a UK supplier; not read.
- UK stone supplier's technical manual and NBS-style clause (Oct 2020): read 5 Nov 2026.
- Tile Association, external floor tiling and movement joints (Jan 2025): read; quotes BS 5385-3:2024.
- Stone Specialist (2013); Stone Federation GB buyer's guide (2011): read. The Federation's Code of Practice was not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/natural-stone-flooring-specification. 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.