Underfloor heating under *wood and stone*: temperatures, commissioning, which floors suit

UK timber floor makers cap the floor surface at 27 °C over underfloor heating, under the 29 °C that BS EN 1264 allows in occupied areas (as the Tile Association tabulates it). Stone is less sensitive to heat but rigid. Both need the heating commissioned and run before the floor goes down; the published steps differ.

Compliance guidance. Temperatures and steps are from the documents named, read on 5 November 2026. BS EN 1264 itself was not read: confirm against the current edition. The heating engineer designs and commissions the system; the floor maker's and stone workshop's instructions prevail. Guidance, not design or legal advice.

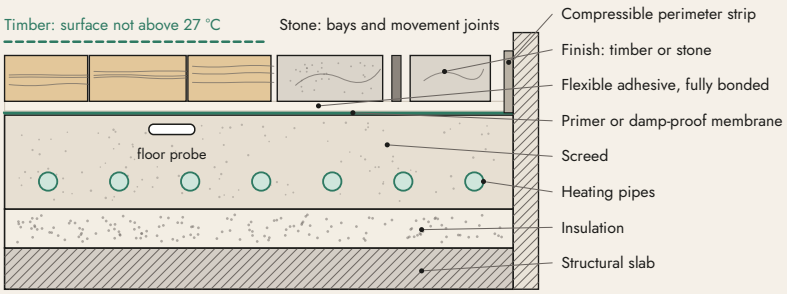
AT A GLANCE

Floor	Over underfloor heating	What the documents ask for, and where
Engineered timber, fully bonded	Suits	Flexible adhesive over the whole back; probes hold the surface to 27 °C; heating commissioned and run first; maker approves. *Maker, distributor, NWFA.*
Engineered click plank, floated	Some products	One maker allows click planks floated or bonded; tongue-and-groove planks must be bonded. An underlay adds thermal resistance. *Maker.*
Herringbone, chevron, panel parquet	Bonded	Bonded whatever the joint, unless the maker advises otherwise for the project. *Maker, distributor.*
Solid timber boards	Only if the maker approves	One maker: not suitable unless specified. NWFA: engineered is more stable; narrow, quarter-sawn boards move less. *Maker, NWFA.*
End-grain blocks	Some systems	Fully bonded. Gaps round each block are acceptable and open and close with the seasons. *Distributor.*
Natural stone	Suits, with joints	Low thermal resistance (25 mm marble 0.05 m^2K/W) but rigid: bays up to 40 m^2, perimeter strip, flexible adhesive; drier screed for marble, limestone, travertine. *Tile Association.*

Sources: a UK timber floor maker, a UK distributor, NWFA and the Tile Association (dates below). Other makers differ; the maker's instructions prevail.

COMMISSIONING, AS TWO DOCUMENTS GIVE IT

Step	Stone, cement screed (Tile Association)	Timber (a UK maker; a distributor)
Before	Pressure test, report. Screed cured 7 days, dried 2 weeks.	Commission before fitting; record screed moisture.
Heat, hold	Up to 5 °C a day to the maker's maximum (45 °C water); hold 3 days.	Maker: several days up, run 5 days. Distributor: full cycle to 27 °C floor, 2 weeks.
Cool, check	Cool; screed about 15 °C before fixing.	Cool over several days; test screed moisture.
Fitting	Heating off or low; screed 15 to 20 °C.	Heating off, and for 48 hours after.
Restart	After 7 (rapid-set) or 14 (normal-set) days, then the system maker's manual.	Maker: up to 2 °C in 24 hours. Distributor: up to 3 °C a day, to 27 °C.



Schematic section, not to scale and not a design. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

HEATING LIMITS AND COMMISSIONING

Floor surface not to exceed [27] °C at any point, limited by floor probes in [each room or zone]. Flow temperature not above [40] °C. Heating contractor to pressure test (report issued), then commission and run the system before the floor is delivered, to [BS EN 1264-4 / the system maker's protocol]: up by no more than [5] °C a day to [the maximum operating water temperature, [ ] °C], held [3] days, then cooled. Record and issue the dates, temperatures and durations with the screed moisture readings.

TIMBER OVER HEATING

[Engineered oak, [ ] mm], fully bonded with a flexible adhesive the maker approves for underfloor heating; maker to confirm in writing that floor, build-up and heating are approved together. Heating off during fitting and for [48] hours after, then up by no more than [2] °C in each 24 hours.

STONE OVER HEATING

Stone [type, [20] mm, [600 x 600] mm] in a solid bed with a flexible adhesive [BS EN 12004; BS EN 12002 class [S1]] over a screed at no more than [75]% RH at 20 °C. Perimeter strip allowing [6] mm. Movement joints: bays no larger than [40] m² and no longer than [8 x 5] m, and at structural joints, thresholds and heating zone edges. Heating off for fixing; commission [7 / 14] days after fixing, then as the system maker's manual.

TERMS USED

Underfloor heating (UFH)

Heating pipes or cables built into or under the floor. Over timber and stone the surface temperature is limited, so the heating engineer, floor maker and stone workshop agree the build-up.

Commissioning (heating)

Bringing a heating system up to temperature in stages, running it and recording it, before the floor goes on.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- The Tile Association, Tiling to Heated Floors (2013, updated 16 July 2014): read in full 5 Nov 2026.
- BS EN 1264 (parts 1 to 5), BS 8201:2011, BS 8204, BS EN 12002 and 12004, BS 5385-4: named by the documents read; paywalled and not read (only the contents of EN 1264-2 and -4, 2021, were seen). Confirm against the current editions.
- A UK timber floor maker's guide (28 March 2024); a UK flooring distributor's guidelines (2022 to 2024); an underfloor heating maker's training page (undated): read 5 Nov 2026; not named. The distributor is not an independent trade body.
- National Wood Flooring Association, Installation Guidelines, Appendix H (rev. 2016): read 5 Nov 2026; US figures.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/underfloor-heating-under-wood-and-stone. 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.