

DuraGal Flooring System® Assembly Guide

A guide for builders installing the DuraGal Flooring System[®] in residential applications





Sloping Blocks | Bushfire Zones | Termite Areas | Flood Zones | Reactive Soils Decks | Sub-Floors | Mezzanine Floors | Home Additions | Re-Piering Solution

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General Disclaimer

This publication contains general information about the use of the DuraGal Flooring System[®] in single storey residential buildings. This information is a guide only and not a substitute for expert advice on how to successfully design and construct a residential building or install a floor system. Successful design, construction and installation depends on many factors beyond the scope of this publication; including, for example, correct site preparation, proper care of product prior to installation, workmanship during installation and engineering judgments specific to each installation.

Product specification and other information in this publication may change at any time without further notice. InfraBuild does not accept any responsibility for other products named in, for any error in, or omission from, this publication or for any loss or damage or other consequence arising from the use of this publication by any person.

Table 1 – Members used in the DuraGal Flooring System®

Section	Product Specification	Coating Specification
90x90x2.0 SHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Post)	AS/NZS 1163 C450L0	AS/NZS 4792 ZB 135/135
89x89x3.5 SHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Post)	AS/NZS 1163 C450L0	AS/NZS 4792 ZB 135/135
75x50x2.0 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Joist)	AS/NZS 1163 C450L0	AS/NZS 4792 ZB 135/135
100x50x1.6 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Joist)	AS/NZS 1163 C450L0	AS/NZS 4792 ZB 135/135
100x50x2.0 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Joist)	AS/NZS 1163 C450L0	AS/NZS 4792 ZB 135/135
150x50x2.0 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Bearer)	AS/NZS 1163 C450L0	AS/NZS 4792 ZB 135/135
150x50x3.0 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Bearer)	AS/NZS 1163 C450L0	AS/NZS 4792 ZB 135/135

* Please refer to Austube Mills DuraGalPlus product literature for more information on product and coating specifications. Substitution of products that do not meet or exceed the above product and/or coating specifications may compromise the DuraGal Flooring System[®].

Working With Steel

As the name indicates, DuraGal Flooring System[®] utilises strong and lightweight steel members to reduce on-site handling and lifting.

Always work within the regulated safe loads and take care when lifting posts, bearers, joists and connection components into place.

Although it is generally considered safe to work with, some precautions need to be taken when handling or interacting with steel. Make sure that you are wearing the appropriate and/or regulated Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Suitable work gloves or appropriate hand protection is recommended. Here are some simple tips to follow;

- Avoid lifting and carrying the steel members (Rectangular Hollow Section or Square Hollow Section) by inserting your hands into the open ends of the steel. The ends may have sharp burrs that could cause injury
- Always lift and carry the steel member with both hands firmly around the outside surface
- Steel can be slippery in wet conditions.

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Starting



General Floor Construction

Getting Ready for the DuraGal Flooring System®

Assembling the DuraGal Flooring System® is made easier if the building site is prepared properly and ready for work. A clear area should be used to unbundle the steel members and on-site safe handling and storage should be considered.

Screw fasteners and connection components are a feature of the system, so it is important to check that you have everything you need before starting.

Generally, domestic building construction follows a 'ground up' approach, so this guide has a step by step structure to assist with finding assembly details at key stages during the building process.

This assembly guide covers recommendations for DuraGal Flooring System[®] elements and suggested arrangements where the floor interacts with other elements.

Assembly details and fastener specifications in this assembly guide are provided so that correct members, connection components and fasteners are used to comply with engineering certification. Building designers, engineers and certifiers should refer to the DuraGal Flooring System® design guide for these details.

Building plans and approvals

Building plans and council approvals must be in place before construction starts and all designs must also be certified by a registered structural engineer.

Floor layouts produced by InfraBuild Steel Centre are based on approved specifications but are not engineering certified and they require third party certification. A list of building certifiers with DuraGal Flooring System® experience is available. It is important that footings are properly designed and have appropriate certification.

Site preparation

Set out the floor area to fit building plans and footing specifications. Post placement and relative heights should be checked before assembly commences and adjustments should be made to the footings if there is any variation from the building plans.

DuraGal Flooring System[®] are produced to tight dimensional tolerances, so it is important to measure footings and any foundation structures such as brickwork for fit.

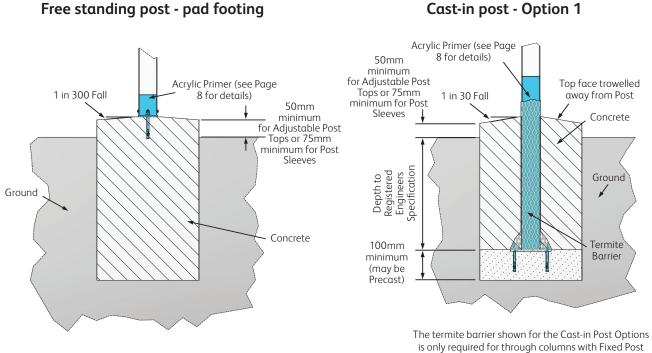
Construction

The structural performance and spans achieved by the DuraGal Flooring System[®] rely on fastener specifications and quantities provided in this assembly guide. Variation or substitution of members, components or fasteners is not permitted without written approval from a registered structural engineer.



General Footing Guide

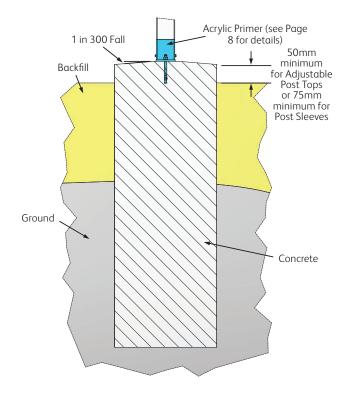
Free Standing Post and Cast-In Post Options

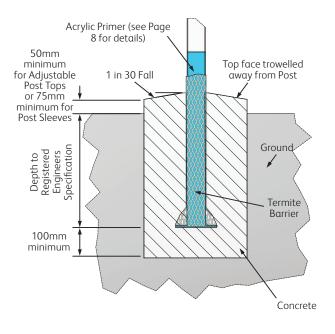


Free standing post - pad footing with backfill

Cast-in post - Option 2

Top components. Refer to AS 3660.1 for details.





Concrete Blend and Width or Diameter to Registered Engineers Specification for all footings.

Cast-in post - Option 1

Tools and Equipment



General Guide on What Tools and Settings are Required to Make the Job Easier

Preferred tools to make the job easier

Selecting the right tools and the right blades, bits and drives can make cutting, drilling and screwing much easier and quicker.

Cutting steel members

Cutting steel members on site has been made easier with availability of portable cold cut saws. The cold cut produces a burr-free (safer) cut without zinc burn. A recommended saw blade is the Makita[®] 185mm cermet TCT B – 04628 36 tooth.

For further information on the Makita® 4131 saw and saw blade contact your local Makita® dealer.

Drilling steel members

Regular steel drill bits are generally suitable for holes up to 6mm diameter through tubular steel hollow sections. It is also possible to cut larger holes into the DuraGal ZB 135/135 RHS for services. Drill circular holes with a carbide tipped hole saw (hole cutter) which is suitable for steel up to 4.0mm thick. Alternatively, a step drill bit may be used for this purpose.

Adjustment spanner for post tops

Use a good quality 600mm shifting spanner when making adjustments to the post top connection. A fully loaded floor may require jacking and propping before adjustments can be made.

Screw gun settings

The DuraGal Flooring System[®] utilises two types of screws. Hex head self drilling screws are used as the primary fastener for general assembly of the floor structure and philips head countersunk screws are used to connect floor sheets. It is important to use the correct screw gun and settings, so that the cutting tip and thread can perform at their optimum range.

For hex head self drilling screws, the preferred speed is 2500 rpm. Clutch settings and depth should be adjusted to allow for full engagement of the thread. Firm, consist pressure and speed is required.

DuraGal Flooring System[®] generally include the specified hex head self drilling screws.

Floor screws are installed using auto-feed screw guns with the capacity for a collated belt.

Suitable floor screws can be ordered directly from the InfraBuild Steel Centre.

Nail gun settings

Floor sheets can be fastened to DuraGal ZB 135/135 RHS. Joists using hardened 'twist' nails and a pneumatic nail gun. Settings may vary with floor material. Test nail and gun specifications for size and penetration prior to construction. Check maximum air pressure is up to 120 psi and minimum is 100 psi. Refer to specifications recommended by the manufacturer.

Tool consumables

Self drilling screws supplied as part of the DuraGal Flooring System[®] kit use a 3/8" hex head drive for 14 gauge or a 5/16" hex head drive for 10 gauge.

Floor sheet fasteners for standard materials use a Philips dead power bit – number 2.

Structural Member Weight Guide

Structural Member Weight Details for Working out Safe Lifting and Handling

InfraBuild Steel Centre SHS and RHS.

DuraGal Flooring System[®] uses Rectangular Hollow Section (RHS) bearer and joist members, along with Square Hollow Section (SHS) posts in DuraGal ZB 135/135 galvanised finish.

InfraBuild Steel Centre also offers a much larger range of SHS and RHS products beyond these sizes. Refer to the InfraBuild Steel Centre Know Your Steel Product Catalogue for full details.

Table 2 – Structural Member Weights	
Structural Member	Mass kg/m
90x90x2.0 SHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Post)	5.45
89x89x3.5 SHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Post)	9.07
75x50x2.0 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Joist)	3.72
100x50x1.6 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Joist)	3.64
100x50x2.0 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Joist)	4.50
150x50x2.0 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Bearer)	6.07
150x50x3.0 RHS DuraGal ZB 135/135 (Bearer)	8.96

Corrosion Protection

Precautions to Reduce the Risk of Corrosion



Care must be taken to preserve the zinc and coatings on DuraGal Flooring System[®] components and minimise the risk of corrosion to the underlying steel. The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of corrosion.

Storage of floor components

Most galvanised products are susceptible to "White Rust" or "Zinc Storage Stain". The following storage precautions should be observed to minimise the risk of this occurring: All steel members, components and fasteners should be stored on site in a dry and well-ventilated position wherever possible. If packs of steel members are to be left exposed to the weather for more than a few days, the individual sections should be separated by nonstaining timbers such as dressed radiata pine (not treated pine) and arranged so that all surfaces are well ventilated and any water will readily run off and not pool either on the surface, or inside the section. If these precautions are not followed, then white rust may form very quickly. Your DuraGal Flooring System[®] supplier cannot be held responsible for deterioration as a result of poor storage practices on site.

Partially erected floors

It is recommended that the ends and open tops of sections exposed to the weather be covered to prevent the filling of posts and the ponding of water in the joists and bearers.

Fasteners

Do not use any other fasteners other than those recommended in this guide. The use of the wrong type of fastener may lead to corrosion at the contact area between the fastener and the DuraGal Flooring System[®] members.

Swarf

Swarf (steel filings) Is often an initiation point for corrosion. It is recommended that saws be regularly cleaned and that any swarf be brushed or blown from the DuraGal Flooring System[®] components.

Ponding of water

The ponding of water within DuraGal Flooring System[®] sections must be avoided. Ponding may occur where the ends of sections have been incorrectly sealed, through adjustable post top connections or by water ingress through fastener holes. Decks and areas of open floor directly exposed to outdoor weather conditions are most susceptible to ponding. InfraBuild Steel Centre has developed a number of techniques to reduce these risks.

Soil contact

Contact between DuraGal Flooring System[®] components and soil should be avoided by proper design of the footings as soil contact markedly increases the corrosion rate of zinc. Please refer to page 4 for footing details.

Concrete

A quick drying high build paint system, as outlined on Page 8, should be applied at least 200mm above and below the concrete junction where floor components are embedded in concrete. Please refer to Page 4 for footing details.

Timber contact (exposed deck and verandahs)

Do not use treated pine in direct contact with the DuraGal ZB 135/135 sections as this will increase the corrosion rate of Zinc. Contact with some hardwood species will stain galvanised members and components. Although this staining is unsightly, it will not generally be detrimental to the performance of the product. Tape systems, as detailed on page 29, are available and should be used as a barrier between all exposed to the weather timber and steel members.

Avoid contact between dissimilar metals

Contact between dissimilar metal may increase the corrosion rate of one of them. In particular, the use of copper pipes on galvanised surfaces will be detrimental to the galvanising. Water run off from one metal to another may also lead to corrosion of the galvanised metal.

Painting components

Use the paint systems recommended by reputable paint suppliers for advice on specific paint systems to suit the climatic conditions of your site and application. Further advice is given in the DuraGal[®] Easy Painting and Corrosion Protection Guide.

Chemicals

Zinc corrosion is increased by acidic or alkaline conditions, and may occur where certain chemicals are present. A common example is the acid run off which occurs from brick washing. Contact between these sorts of chemicals and the DuraGal Flooring System[®] components must be avoided. If accidental contact occurs, immediately hose down the contaminated area with water. If the galvanising is affected, repair of the coating will be required to restore the level of protection. Contact InfraBuild Steel Centre for advice. Assembly Guide

Top Tips System Rules and Principles



Things to Remember

1. Post Bases

- For free standing floors, before marking out post positions decide on location of external posts relative to external wall
- Measure post heights to underside of bearer and deduct 85mm for adjustable post tops
- Post base plates and post tops, where possible, should be installed while the post is horizontal before standing vertical to fastening the footings. This makes it easier to install the fasteners
- Check that you have the right size post base for each post
- Apply the recommended primer paint to all posts and post bases before assembling (see page 8 for details)

2. Posts

• Screw count for post base and adjustable post top always match (see page 9 for details)

3. Post Tops

- Set adjustable post top height to 65mm before assembly (see page 9 for details)
- Assemble post sleeve before adjustable post top on split floor arrangements (see page 16 for details)

4. Bearers

• Hip verandah bearers are fastened to uni-top adjustable post tops using 45mm eaves angle brackets

5. Joists

• Unitie brackets are used on the outer DuraGal ZB 135/135 RHS joist for double joists

6. Bracing

- Post to post bracing set is only used with post sleeve connections
- Joist bracing should be fastened in place before installation of outer end joist (see Page 17 for details)

7. Step Downs

• There are various methods for step downs when using the DuraGal Flooring System®

8. Interactions

- Floor sheeting sizes and laying direction needs to be considered and position joists under joins
- Some additional off-cut joist members may be required to support floor sheeting

9. Finishing

• All joins and cut ends must be sealed to protect them from corrosion Quick drying high build acrylic primer and joist sealing tape is available from InfraBuild Steel Centre

Post Bases

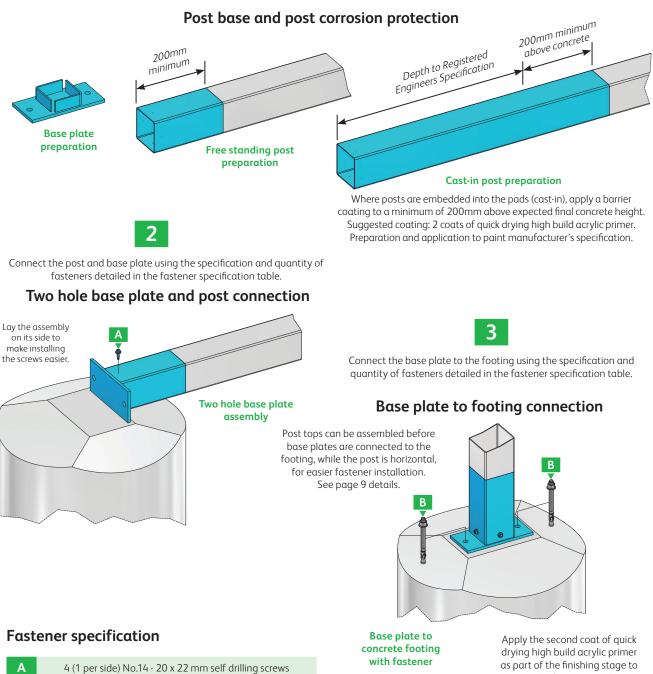


Preparation, Assembly and Connection

Post base, post corrosion protection and post fasteners



Apply a coat of quick drying high build acrylic primer (supplied as part of each floor kit) to all base plates and posts, ensuring that the entire surface area of the base plate and cut end and inside surface of the post is sufficiently protected.



Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.

M10 HDG Trubolt in each hole

В

protect the fasteners and joins.

Post Tops



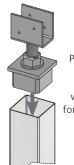
Assembly and Connection

Arrangements and Fastener Selection – Adjustable and Fixed Post Tops



Position the adjustable post top onto the SHS post, making sure that it is seated squarely.

Adjustable post top assembly



Post tops can be assembled before base plates are connected to the footing, while the post is horizontal, for easier fastener installation.

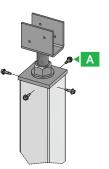
Adjustable post top with Square Hollow Section (SHS) post

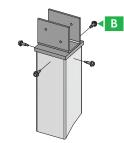
Use this assembly detail and fastener specification for the uni-top adjustable post top



Connect using the specification and quantity of fasteners detailed in the fastener specification table.

Post connection showing post top options





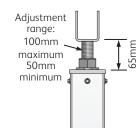
Adjustable post top fasteners Fixed post top fasteners

Joins and fastener penetrations that could allow moisture intrusion should be sealed appropriately. See page 30 for details.

Fastener specification

Α	4 (1 per side) No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws
В	4 (1 per side) No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws

Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.



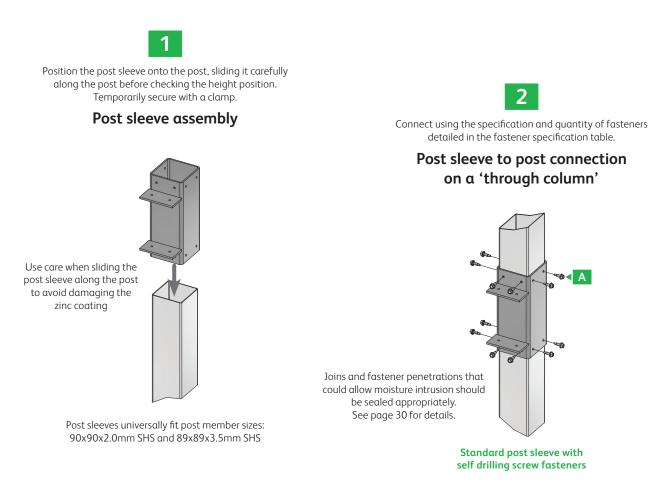
Adjustable post top adjustment range and setting

Assembly Guide



Assembly and Connection

Arrangements and Fastener Selection - Post Sleeves



Fastener specification

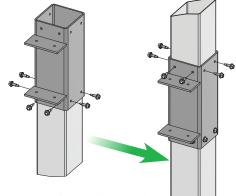
Α

16 (4 per side) No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws

Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.

Post sleeve to post connection on a two part post

Join the post mid way (+/- 20mm of centre) through the post sleeve



For long posts it may be possible to join the post in the post sleeve. This method should be used in accordance with a registered structural engineer's specifications



Typical Post Configurations

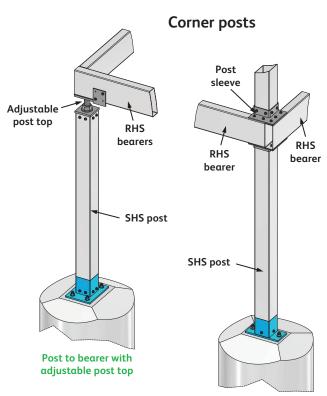
Post Arrangements – Post to Bearer and Through Column

Freestanding SHS posts and RHS bearer configurations.

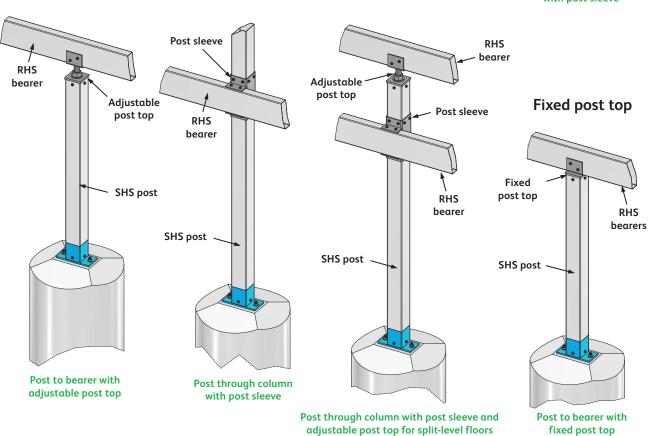
In most instances, the sub-floor will sit on top of Square Hollow Section (SHS) posts with adjustable post top connections to the Rectangular Hollow Section (RHS) bearer.

Fixed post tops are offered where site conditions don't require adjustment during construction or footings and soil conditions are stable.

Post sleeve connection components allow posts to pass through the sub-floor at the bearer and joist and connect directly with roof beams. They can also be used in conjunction with the adjustable post top for split-level arrangements.



Post through column with post sleeve



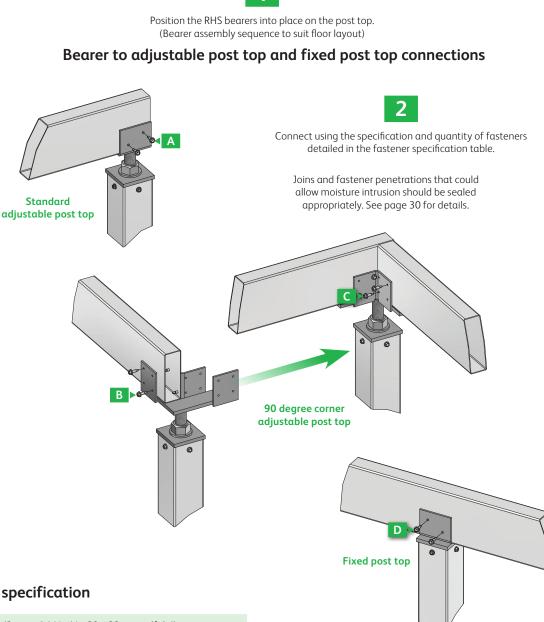
Mid-span (interior bearing) posts

Bearers



Assembly and Connection

Bearer Arrangements and Fastener Selection - Post Tops



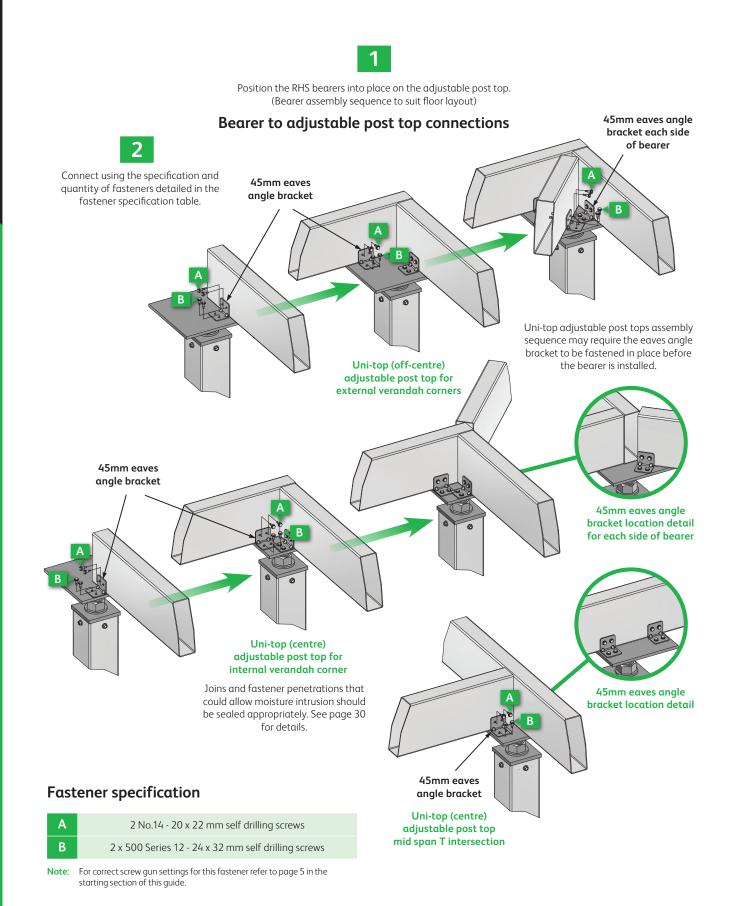
Fastener specification

Α	4 (2 per side) No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws
В	4 (2 per side) No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws
С	4 (2 per side) No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws
D	4 (2 per side) No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws

Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.

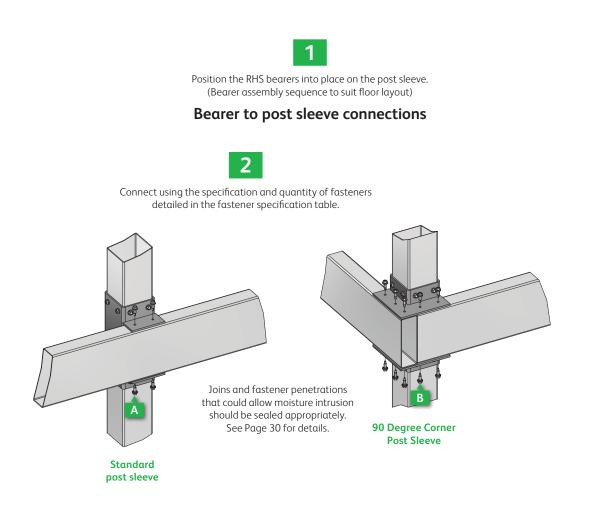


Bearer Arrangements and Fastener Selection - Post Tops





Bearer Arrangements and Fastener Selection - Post Tops



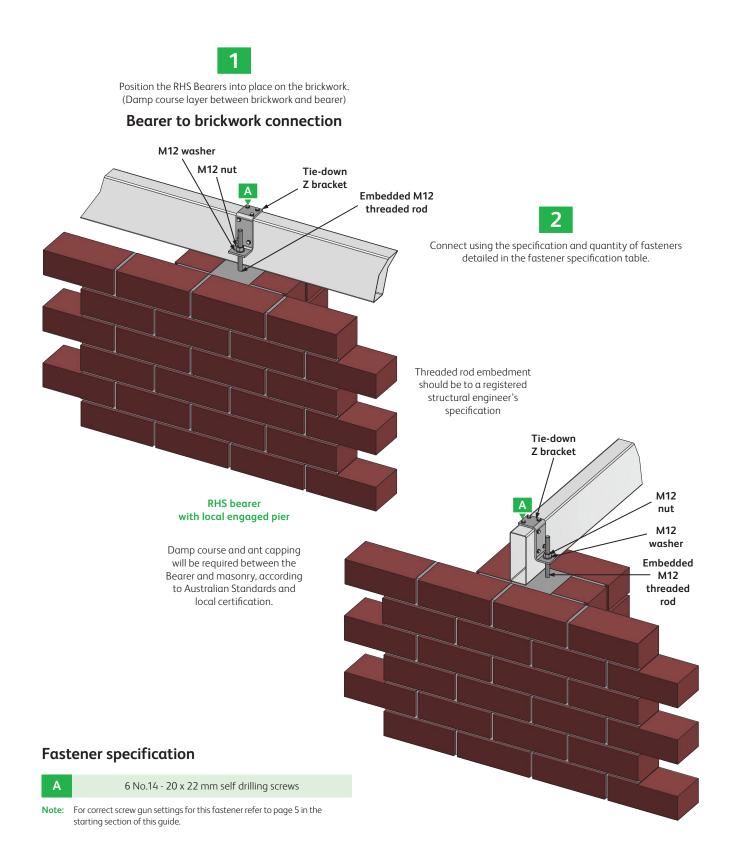
Fastener specification

А	4 No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws
В	8 No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws

Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.



Bearer Arrangements and Fastener Selection – Brick Veneer

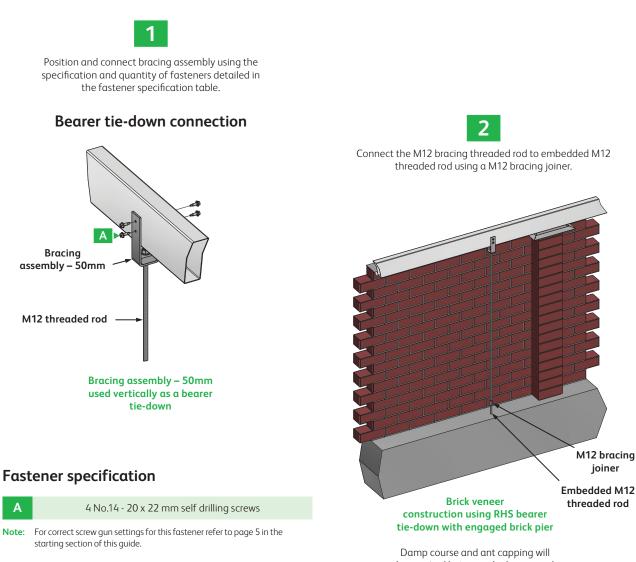


Assembly Guide



Assembly and Connection

Bearer Tie-Down Arrangement and Fastener Selection



Damp course and ant capping will be required between the bearer and masonry, according to Australian Standards and local certification.

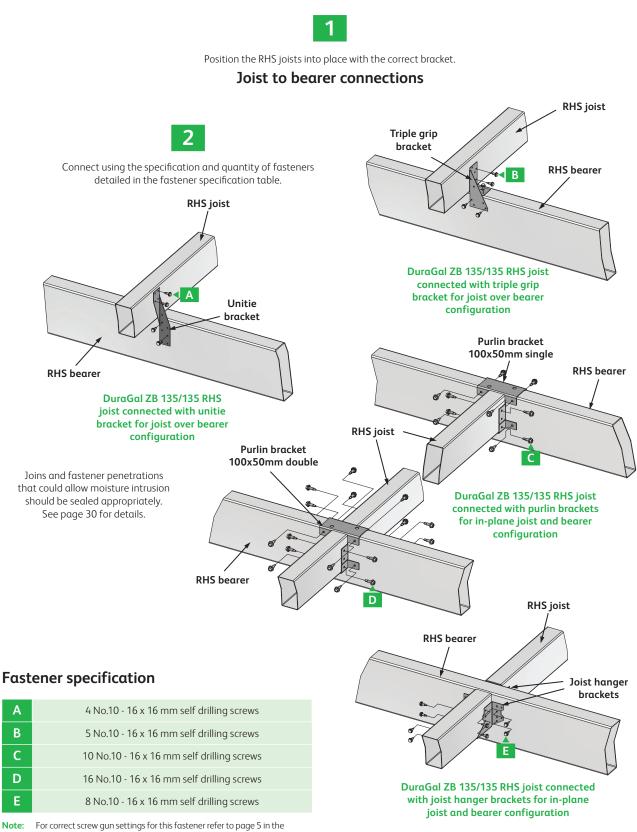
Note: InfraBuild Steel Centre reserve the right to change specifications without notice.

Joists



Assembly and Connection

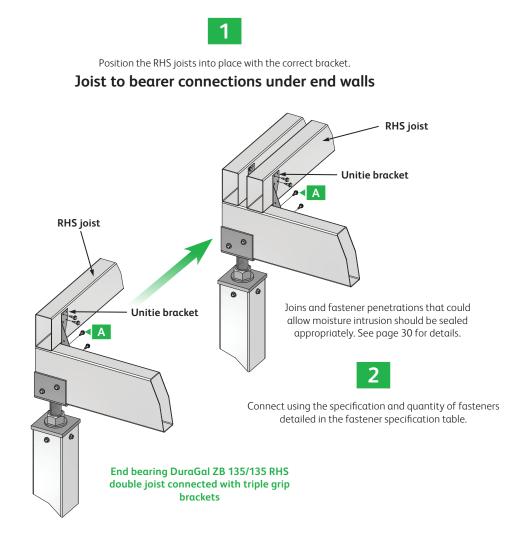
Joist Arrangements and Fastener Selection – Standard Joists



Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in th starting section of this guide.



Joist Arrangements and Fastener Selection – Double Joists



Fastener specification

Α	4 No.10 - 16 x 16 mm self drilling screws
В	4 No.10 - 16 x 16 mm self drilling screws

Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.

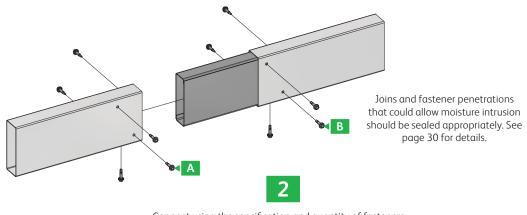


Joist Arrangements and Fastener Selection – Joist Joiners



Position the joist joiner half way into the end of the RHS joists you want to connect.

Joist joiner connection



Connect using the specification and quantity of fasteners detailed in the fastener specification table.

Fastener specification

Α	5 No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws
В	5 No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws

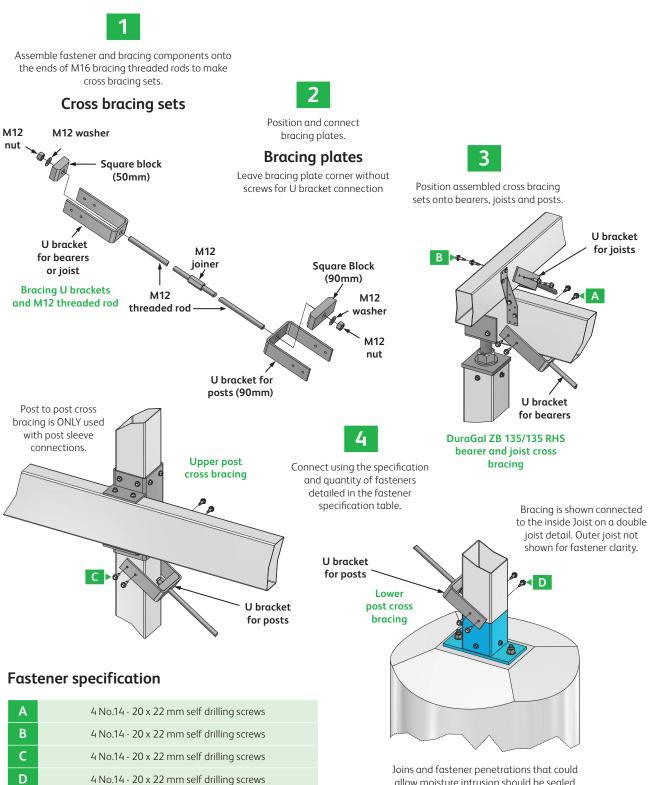
Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.

Bracing



Assembly and Connection

Cross Bracing Set Assembly, Arrangement and Fastener Selection



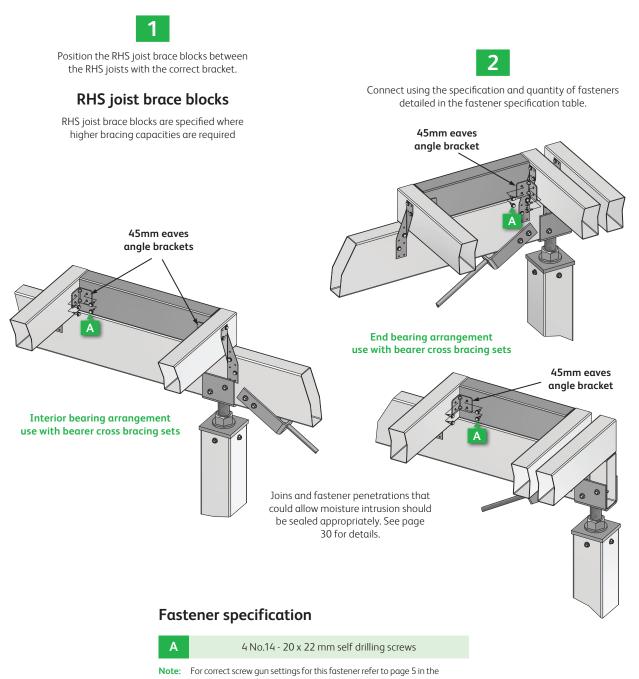
For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the Note: starting section of this guide.

allow moisture intrusion should be sealed appropriately. See page 30 for details.

DURAGAL FLOORING SYSTEM®



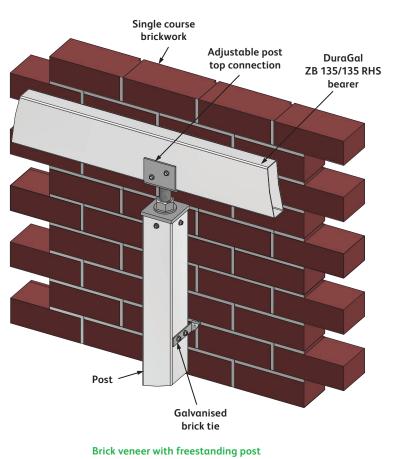
RHS Joist Brace Block Arrangements and Fastener Selection



starting section of this guide.



Free Standing Floor With Brick Veneer



Suggested floor bracing with brick tie to brick wall

Frequency to registered structural engineer's specification.

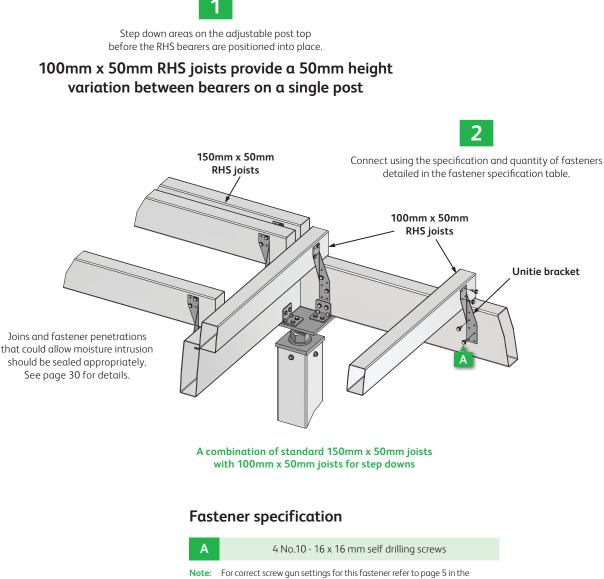
Suggested methods are provided to show that the DuraGal Flooring System[®] sub-floor can interact successfully with other building elements. Because of the variable nature and independent supply of these building materials, you should seek professional advice and contact the relevant manufacturer for full details.

Step Downs



Assembly and Connection

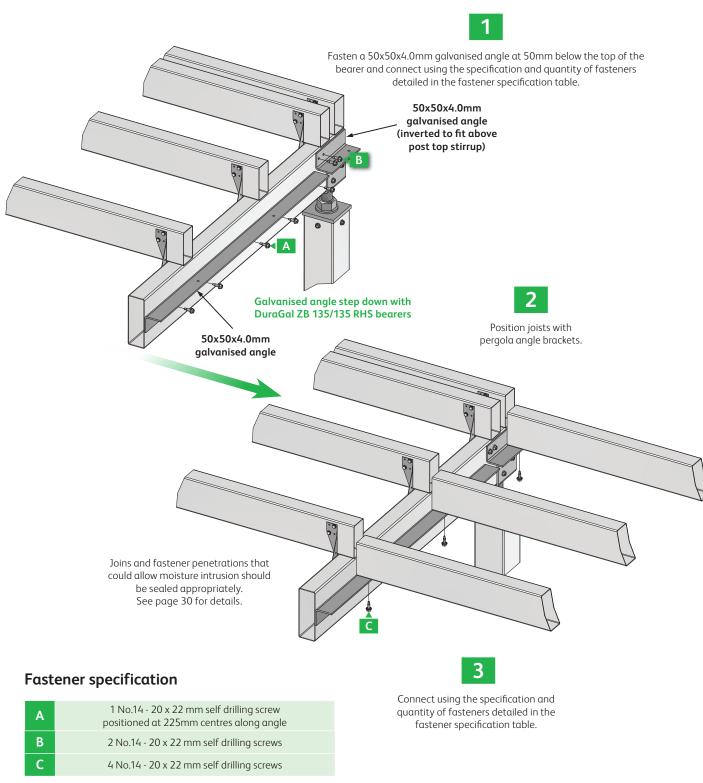
Joist Step Down Arrangement And Fastener Selection



For correct screw gun settings starting section of this guide.



Angle Step Down Arrangement and Fastener Selection



Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.

DURAGAL FLOORING SYSTEM®

Interactions



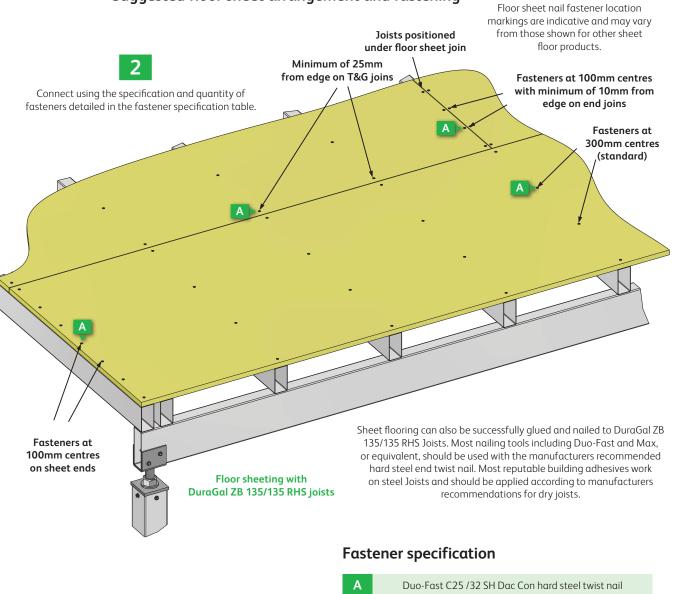
Assembly and Connection

Floor Sheeting Arrangements and Fastener Selection



Alignment of joists and floor sheeting is essential to successful fastening. Consider sheet sizes so that joins are over the centre of the joist.

Suggested floor sheet arrangement and fastening

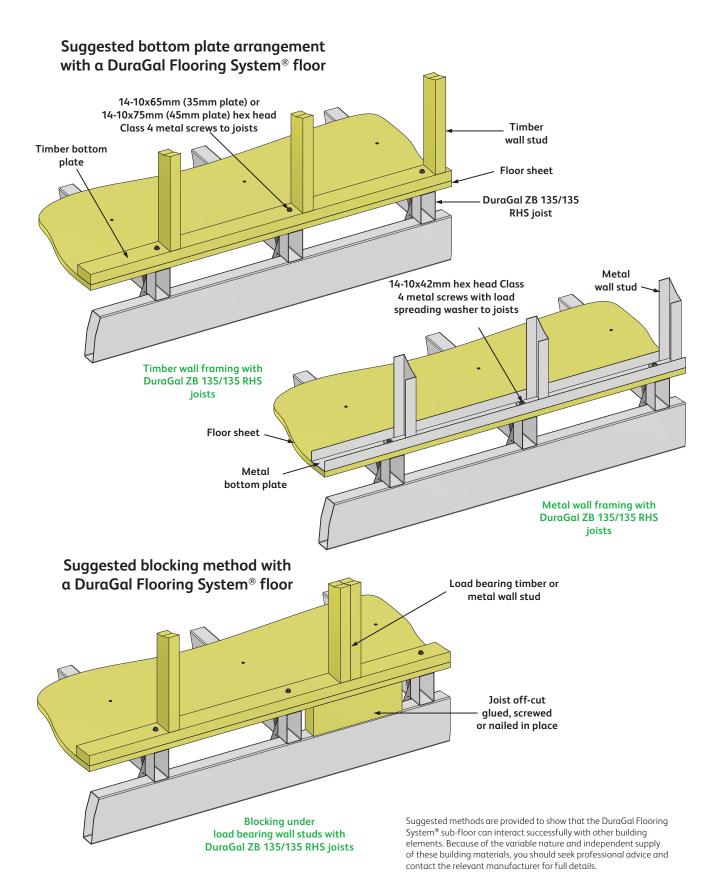


Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.

Suggested methods are provided to show that the DuraGal Flooring System[®] sub-floor can interact successfully with other building elements. Because of the variable nature and independent supply of these building materials, you should seek professional advice and contact the relevant manufacturer for full details.

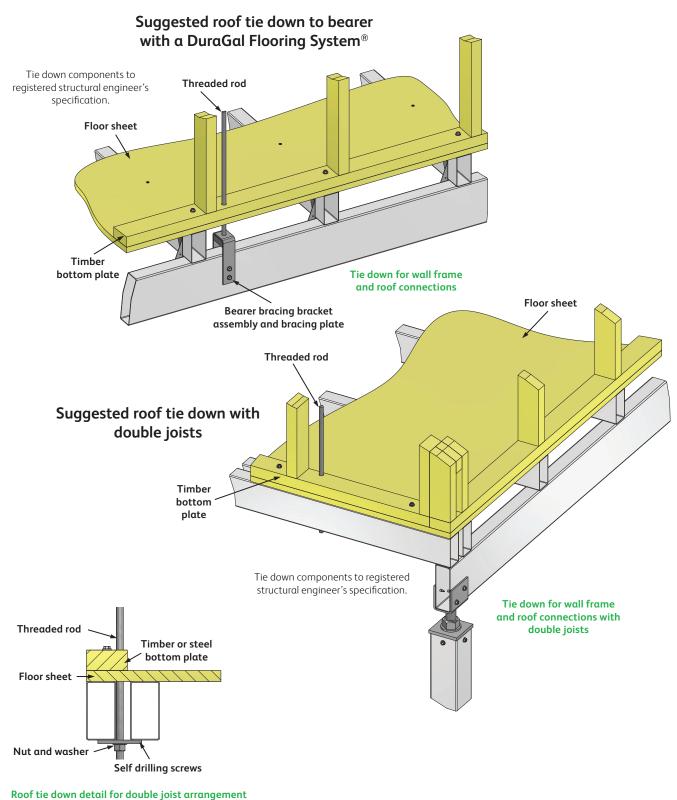


Wall Framing Arrangements and Fastener Selection





Wall Frame and Roof Tie Down Arrangements and Fastener Selection

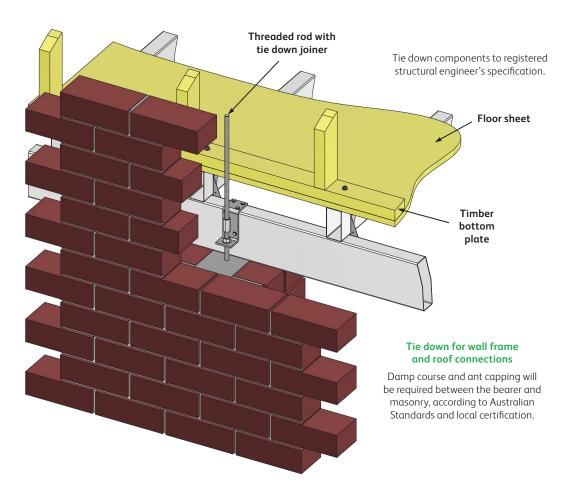


Root de down de lan for double joist an angement

Suggested methods are provided to show that the DuraGal Flooring System® sub-floor can interact successfully with other building elements. Because of the variable nature and independent supply of these building materials, you should seek professional advice and contact the relevant manufacturer for full details.



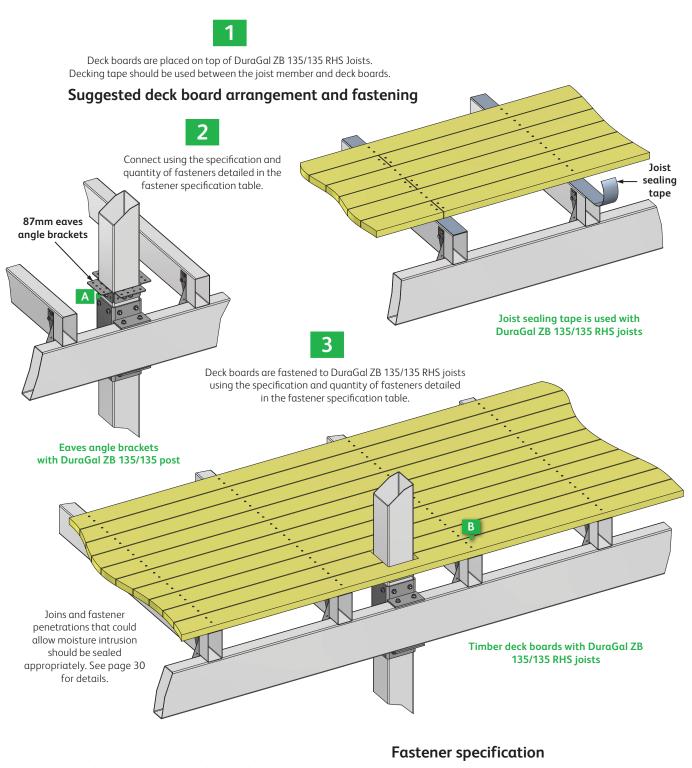
Wall Frame and Roof Tie Down Arrangements and Fastener Selection



Suggested roof tie down in brick veneer construction



Deck Board Arrangements and Fastener Selection



Suggested methods are provided to show that the DuraGal Flooring System® sub-floor can interact successfully with other building elements. Because of the variable nature and independent supply of these building materials, you should seek professional advice and contact the relevant manufacturer for full details.

Α	2 No.14 - 20 x 22 mm self drilling screws in each bracket
В	Max 2.5 x 38mm stainless steel hardened twist nail
С	Duo-Fast® C25 /32 SH Dac Con hard steel twist nail

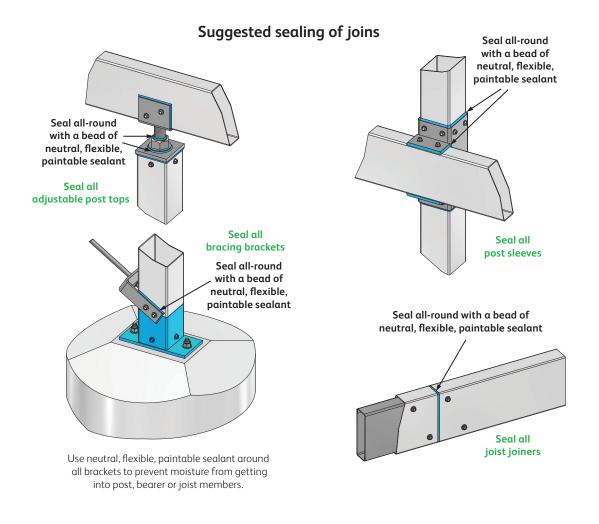
Note: For correct screw gun settings for this fastener refer to page 5 in the starting section of this guide.

Finishing

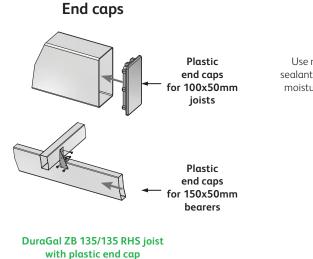


Sealing Members, Components and Fasteners

Sealing Connections



Sealing End Caps for Bearers and Joists



Use neutral, flexible, paintable sealant around end caps to prevent moisture from getting into bearer or joist members.



No other system makes as much sense.

Concrete slabs provide a very solid base upon which to build, but ground movement can cause the slab to crack over time. Future changes or additions to underfloor services will also prove difficult with a concrete slab. Additionally, slabs can act as a highway for termites to attack wooden building frames.

Timber sub-flooring can provide access beneath the house and assist the house to breathe. However, timber sub-floors can attract termites and other pests. Timber can also rot, warp, twist, swell and contract in variable conditions.

DuraGal Flooring System[®] doesn't warp, twist, crack or shrink. It cannot be affected by termites or pests. It allows access to all services: pipes, hot and cold water, gas supplies and central heating. DuraGal Flooring System[®] can be assembled on site without welding, and the piers are height adjustable if and when the land settles. DuraGal[®] offers significant savings in site preparation costs and maintenance.

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DuraGal Flooring System[®] is perfect for both new builds as well as additions such as verandahs and decks which can add value to your home.