1. Introduction

Timber flooring is popular for its warm sense of touch and variety of styles and patterns. It is important to note that timber flooring is a system which comprises the substrate, plywood sub-base (if applicable), timber strips /parquets /blocks, adhesive (and/or nails) and expansion gaps. All components are equally important and closely related to one another. Adequate compatibility must exist among these components as they could only function collectively. The system could only be as strong as the weakest component, if not worse.

Therefore, design, material selection, preparatory works, installation, protection and maintenance must take into consideration the performance characteristics of each individual component as well as the in-situ environmental conditions that prevail during the installation process. This guide adopts the quality standards set out in CONQUAS 21 and includes the CONQUAS quality assessments criteria in the recommended inspection checklists.

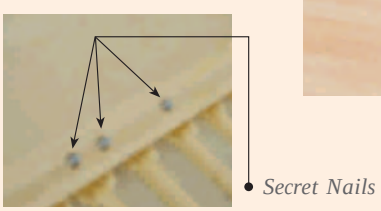
Due to volume constraint, this guide focuses on the installation of timber strips and parquet flooring for residential projects.

2. Design

There is a wide range of timber flooring, adhesives and finishing coats available in the market. This guide book focuses only on those commonly used systems and products.

2.1. COMMON TYPES OF TIMBER FLOORING SYSTEMS

There are various timber flooring systems available in the market, including timber strip flooring, parquet flooring and wood block flooring. Table 2.1 shows the various types of timber flooring systems and installation methods commonly used in residential projects.

Table 2.1 Types of Timber Flooring Systems and Installation Methods

1.	Types of Timber Flooring Systems
1.1.	Parquet Flooring – Parquet flooring is made up of strips of proprietary products, in varying lengths depending on the layout design, for direct installation on the floor screed. – Appendix A shows the common types of design and layout patterns for parquet flooring.
1.2.	Timber Strip Flooring – Timber strips usually come with tongue-and-groove joints. The dimensions of these strips vary, depending on the type of timber used and the manufacturer's specifications. – Timber strips are usually laid on plywood sub-base with adhesive and secret nails.