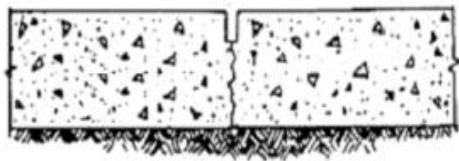


## Installation Guidance Note: Crack Inducement/Movement joints

Two of the most commonly found joints in cementitious subfloors are crack inducement joints and structural movement/expansion joints. The treatment necessary before a resilient or textile floor covering can be installed will depend on which type of joint is encountered.

**Crack inducement joints / saw cut joints** are usually cut into cementitious base to allow a weakened plane to regulate the location of cracks that may appear during dimensional changes that occur during the first 28 days of life, which is called the hydration process. After this 28-day period, cementitious bases usually reach their designed Newton strength, and the hydration process stops. Once this has occurred the saw cut joint is then classed as redundant and can be in-filled with a resin type product prior to applying further subfloor treatments.

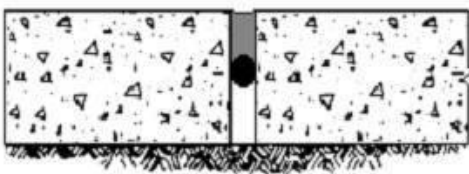


Crack inducement joint (saw cut joint)

**Structural Movement / expansion joints** are designed to safely absorb expansion and contraction of construction materials and should not be covered by any part of a resilient or textile floorcovering installation as the materials used cannot accommodate opposed lateral stress and movement and a flexible expansion joint should always be incorporated into the floor finish.

The most common form of expansion joint cover strip is a flexible PVC extrusion.

The choice of cover strip will depend on the width of the movement joint and expected range of movement so the profile manufacture should be contacted for information on suitability and installation of the chosen profile.



Structural Expansion joint



Flexible expansion joint cover strip

If a specification for the treatment of crack inducement joints is required please contact Forbo Eurocol UK:

Tim Barrett: [tim.barrett@forbo.com](mailto:tim.barrett@forbo.com); Tel:07967 303006