FactSheet
November 2019

Meyer TIMBER®

meyJOIST

HOW TO DEAL WITH CONSTRUCTION LOADS

Construction loads can be defined as those loads imposed on a partially completed structure during and as a result of the construction process. These loads may include, but are not limited to, materials, personnel, and equipment placed onto a structure which has not finished being installed.

In the context of a floor structure, it is common to have packs of floor sheets, timber or even bricks being loaded on the floor during construction. If these loads exceed the recommended allowances specified by the respective floor system suppliers or are located in undesirable areas, there is a real danger of floor joists suffering permanent damage or even collapse. There have been a few instances of collapse in the recent past which has prompted Work Safe Victoria to release a specific Safety Alert on preventing floor collapse. For more information, click on this link: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/preventing-floor-collapse

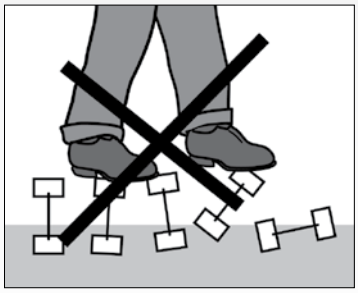
Let's see how meyJOISTs can be managed on site to ensure the floor structure remains safe and stable during the entire construction process. Strict adherence to the following guidelines will help to provide a safe working environment during floor system construction:

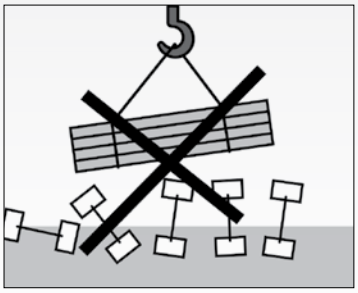
- Before loading an incomplete floor with building materials, floor joists must be braced and fixed adequately to the supports. It must be noted that under no circumstance workers should walk on joists until they are fully braced.
- The maximum weight of materials that can be loaded on the floor system should be determined. As a guidance, no more than a pack of 15 sheets of 19mm particleboard flooring or 18 sheets of 18mm OSB flooring or 27 sheets of 10mm plasterboard should be loaded on meyJOIST floors away from support points. Seek advice from a Meyer Timber® engineer for guidance on loading other building materials on fully braced floor systems.
- It is also important to ensure that building materials are positioned in such a way that they are spread over at least four joists and no more than 1.5m from a support. If these materials are orientated parallel to joists, a series of bearers should be provided to ensure loads are distributed across four joists. Cantilever areas must be avoided at all times.
- Temporary bracing to be installed as per guidelines provided in meyJOIST product manual. This bracing may be progressively removed as the installation of the flooring proceeds, leaving bracing in place on un-sheathed areas.
- Flooring sheets must be fully fixed to the joists in accordance with manufacturers recommendations before additional loads are placed on the floor system.
- Damaged joists must be discarded and no attempt made to repair them on site without appropriate advice.

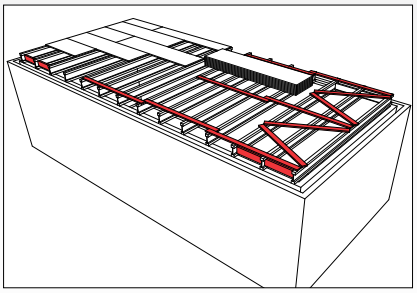
In addition to the above, care must be taken to follow the instructions provided in the meyJOIST Installation Reference Sheet or the product manual to ensure a safe and stable floor system is achieved. With people or heavy additional loads on unstable joists it is a recipe for disaster as there is usually significant fall from heights safety concerns.

Following the above methods will minimise any incidents and provide the best outcome possible – everyone on the site is safe and goes home at the end of the day to their family.

Afzal and George







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