

## EXPANSION JOINTS AND CRACK REPAIRS

### Save money by doing basic post-installation work yourself

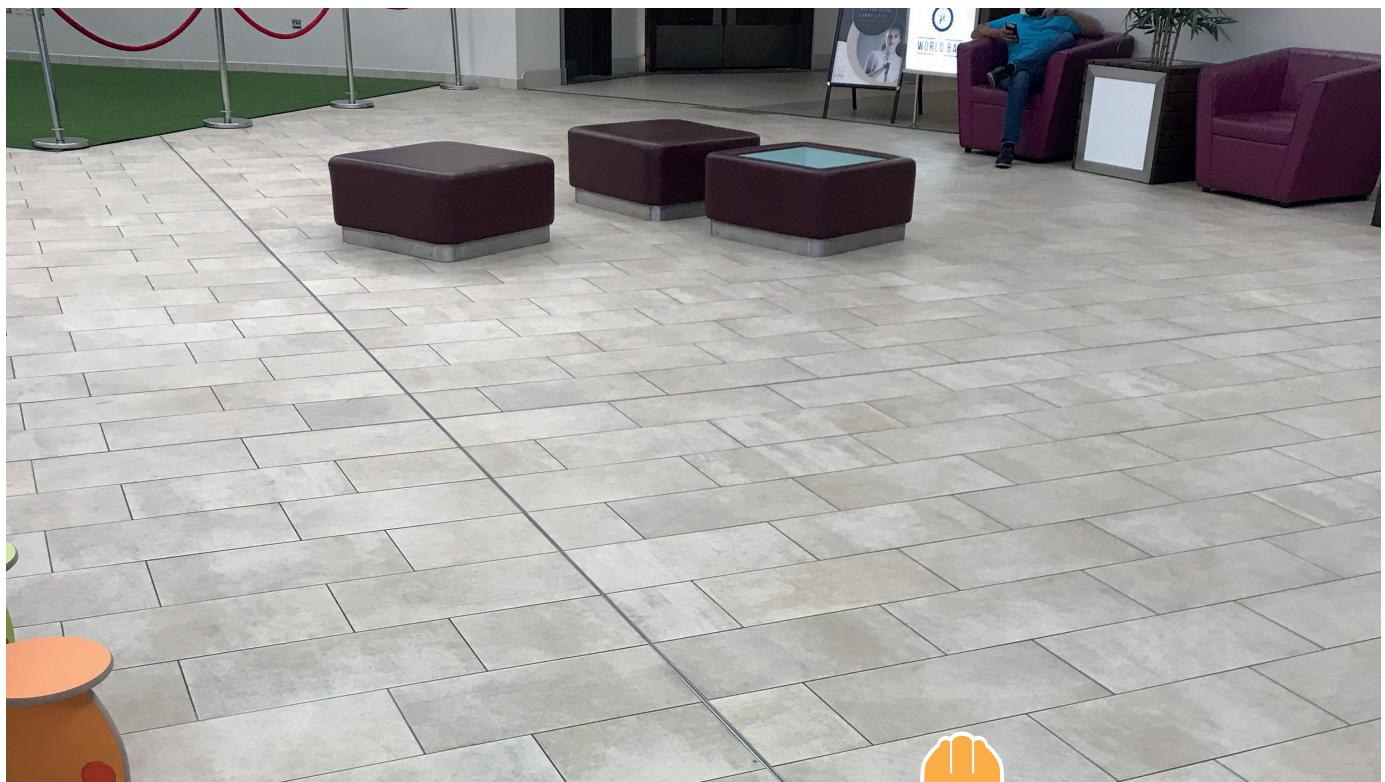
Screed naturally shrinks after installation and if not managed correctly, it will crack and damage bonded floor coverings – especially tiles.

Don't panic. It's quick and easy to cut expansion joints (also known as induced joints) into your new screed floor, which will give it freedom to move and prevent any damaging cracks from occurring.

You may have already spotted some fine surface cracks – this can happen as the screed dries out, but these too are easy to remedy.

Hiring a tradesman or contractor to do this important post-installation work can be costly, but it's quick and easy to do yourself. In fact, you could save over £500.

This guide will show you how to cut expansion joints and repair surface cracks before your new floor finish is laid. We've included links to our helpful 'how to' demonstration videos too.



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## CUTTING EXPANSION JOINTS

### Cutting expansion joints

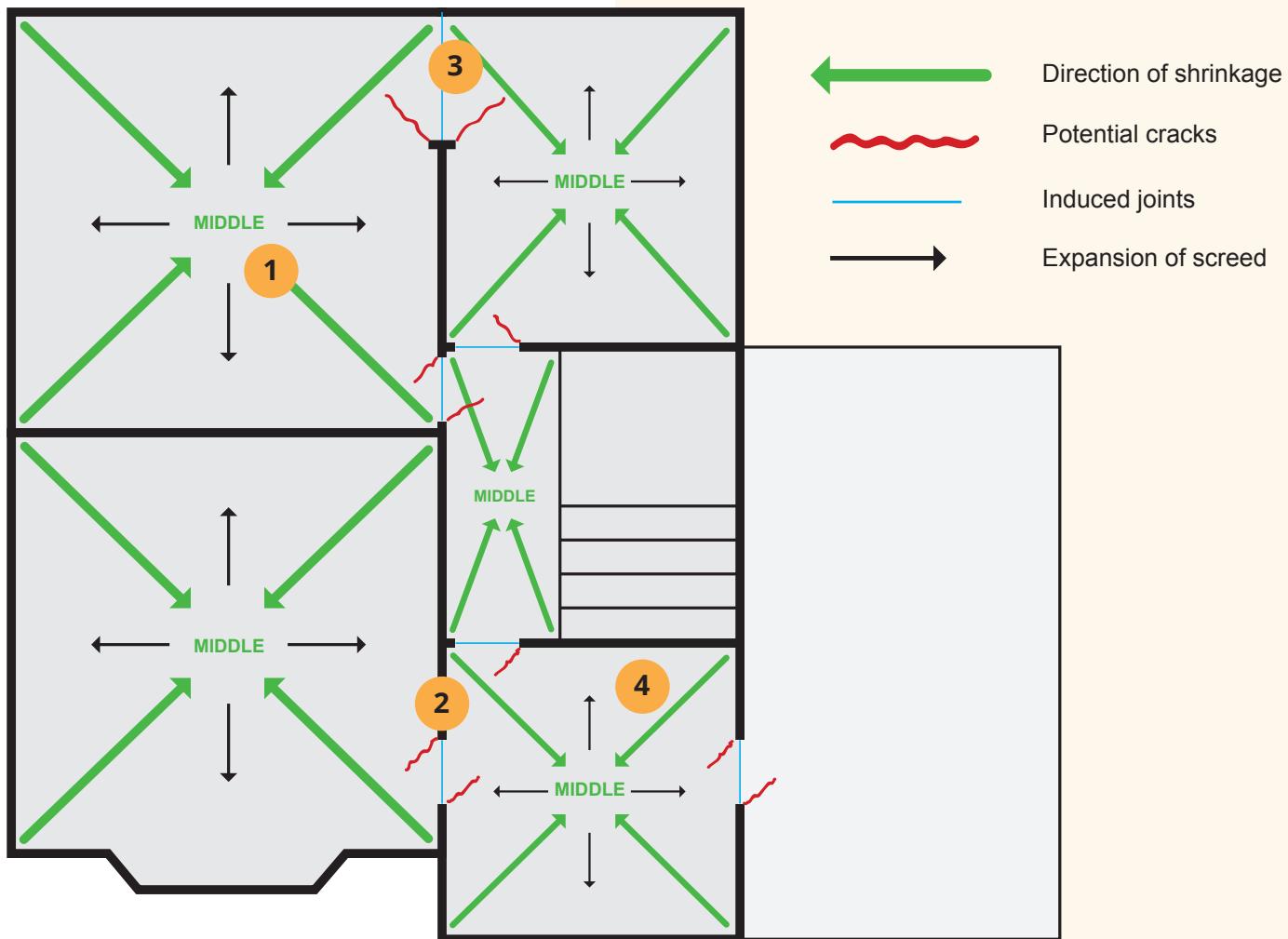
Managing the natural movement of screed floors and protecting your floor finishes is simple. You can pay a tradesman to cut your expansion joints (also called induced joints) for you, or you can save yourself hundreds of pounds by doing it yourself.

You will need:

- A hand-held angle grinder, available to hire for around £10 per day
- A piece of timber approximately one inch thick

### Key points to remember

- 1) Screed will naturally shrink towards the middle of the room and without expansion joints, cracks will appear from the doorway(s).
- 2) The joints you make will need to be mirrored in your floor finish, which means doorways are the ideal place – they can be easily concealed with door bars to give you the best aesthetic finish possible.
- 3) Liquid screed and sand & cement mixes shrink at different rates, which means you may need more or less expansion joints depending on the product you've had installed.
- 4) You are trying to create slabs of screed which can move independently of each other so that cracks do not occur.





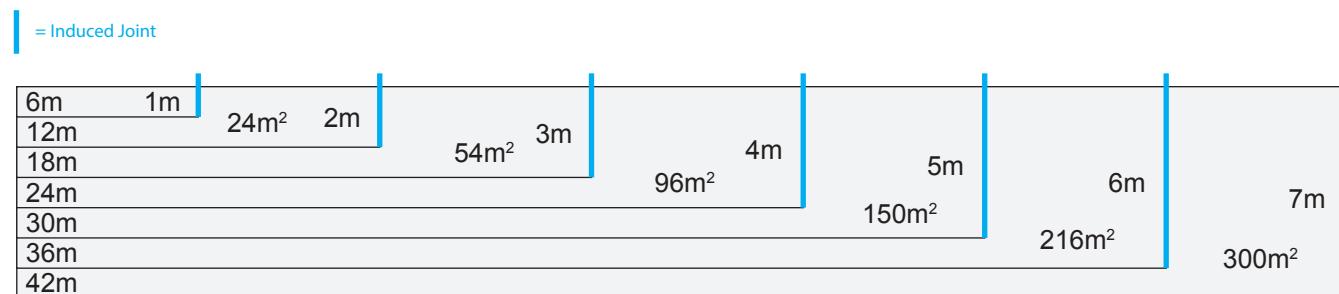
## CUTTING EXPANSION JOINTS

### Identifying where to cut expansion joint

Most projects will just need expansion joints in the doorways, but particularly big floor spaces may require more.

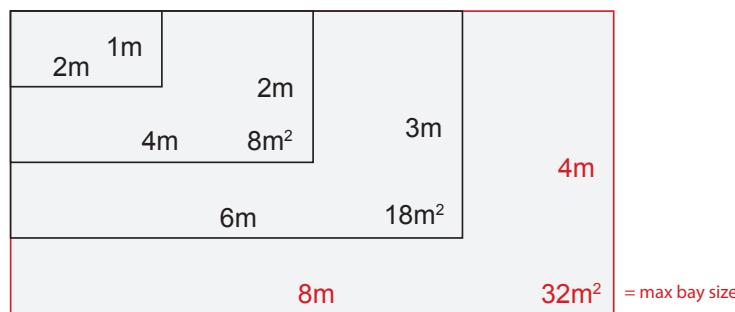
#### Liquid screed

- The location of expansion joints is measured as a ratio. For liquid screed that ratio is 6m:1m and the maximum bay size is 300m<sup>2</sup> (which is a floor space of 42m x 7m, a ratio of 42m:7m)
- This means for every additional 1m width, you can add 6m length before you need an expansion joint
- Identify the size and shape of your room to work out where the expansion joints need to go.



#### Sand & Cement

- The location of expansion joints is measured as a ratio. For sand & cement mixes that ratio is 2m:1m and the **maximum bay size is 32m<sup>2</sup>** (which is a floor space of 8m x 4m a ratio of 8m:4m)
- These means that for every additional 1m width, you can add 2m length before you need an expansion joint
- Identify the size and shape of your room to work out where the expansion joints need to go.



### Cutting the expansion joint

Once you've identified where your expansion joints need to go, use the wood as a guide and cut a 15mm deep line. As the floor shrinks, the natural movement of the floor will crack the joint you've made through the depth of the screed, allowing it to move freely without cracking across the surface. Watch our quick video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nC7fgFPGylY>



## REPAIRING CRACKS

### Repairing cracks

If you notice a crack on the surface of your new screed floor, don't panic. They are simple and cheap to fix yourself.

You will need:

- A hand-held angle grinder, available to hire for around £10 per day
- Metal crack repair stitches or three-inch steel nails
- A bottle of bonding resin – we use UZIN KR516



#### Open the crack

Using the hand-held angle grinder, trace the crack from top to bottom so that it's around 15mm deep.



#### Cut stitches

Cut horizontal stitches all the way down the crack around 4-6 inches apart – inserting a metal crack repair stitch or steel nail inside each one.



#### Resin fill the crack and stitches

Using the resin, fill the crack and stitch lines, making sure you've used enough to fill the entire opening.



#### Leave to dry

A high-quality resin like those available from UZIN, only take around one hour to dry.