Insulation of heating pipes in timber floors

(Withdrawn - January 2024)

The Technical Guidance Notes are produced by NHBC as guidance solely for our builder customers as to how to interpret the technical requirements in relation to the warranty cover provided by NHBC under its Buildmark, Buildmark Choice, Buildmark Link, Buildmark Solo, Buildmark Connect or any similar product from time to time. It has not been created or intended for distribution or use outside of that purpose. The information contained in this Technical Guidance Note does not constitute advice and is not to be relied upon by any third party. Nothing in this Technical Guidance Note is intended to, nor should it be taken to, create any legal or contractual relationship. Any third party who chooses to rely upon the information contained in the Technical Guidance Notes shall do so entirely at their own risk and NHBC accepts no duty of care or liability, however caused, in connection with its use or reliance by any third party.

Question

Should heating pipes be insulated in timber first floor voids?

Considerations

- Heating pipes can usefully contribute to the space heating requirement heat is not lost to the outside.
- Providing insulation to heating pipes may necessitate excessive notching of floor joists.
- Domestic services compliance guide.

Answer

Unless the heating design requires insulation of heating pipes, it is not necessary to insulate heating pipes where they run in floor voids within the insulated envelope of the building.

Pipes passing through holes or notches in floor joists should be sleeved or wrapped so they can move freely and without noise.



NHBC, NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK5 8FP Tel: 0344 633 1000 Web: nhbc.co.uk