

Safe Storage of **OPEN WEB JOISTS** for Prolonged Time

Prolonged Storage

Open Web Joists (Fig. 1) will sometimes need to be stored for longer than usual. The following guidance will help to keep these products in the best possible condition until sites can return to work.

Previous experience indicates that Open Web Joists stored fully in accordance with the recommendations below for between three and six months will typically suffer no significant reduction in performance.

Site Storage of Open Web Joists

Open Web Joists are delivered in tightly banded packs to facilitate mechanical handling which is the recommended method for unloading and movement within the site.

Open Web Joists should be stored on firm level ground well clear of any vegetation. They should be protected with a weatherproof covering to protect them from short term exposure to inclement weather. Open Web Joists can be stored either vertically or flat. If stored vertically there should be adequate bearers (Fig. 2) under the node points. If stored horizontally they should be supported to prevent distortion.

Special precautions should be taken when stacking top chord supported floor cassettes to prevent the stack lozenging in storage. Additional bracing to the ends of the stack should be fixed to stop lateral movement. Care should be taken when handling Open Web Joists to avoid bending, twisting or dropping.

Open Web Joists that have been installed but are not otherwise covered with a floor deck will need a weatherproof covering to prevent prolonged exposure to increased moisture levels. It is critical that contractors do not walk on unbraced Open Web Joists as they may be unstable. Temporary diagonal bracing laid at 45° and fully fixed to the joists along with installation of the permanent strongbacks should be used to stabilise partially completed the Open Web Joists.

For Open Web Joist floors that have been fully installed and decked, contractors should seek advice from the decking manufacturer. Where non weatherproof materials have been used for the floor deck there is a risk of trapped moisture causing problems and potentially impacting the long term performance of the floor. Where necessary drain holes should be provided to prevent water pooling on the floor deck.

Restarting on Site

In most cases where the above recommendations have been fully followed there should be no problem in re-commencing work. However, an initial visual inspection by yourselves should always be undertaken, and any concerns raised immediately with Harmony.

Fig. 1 Open Web Joists

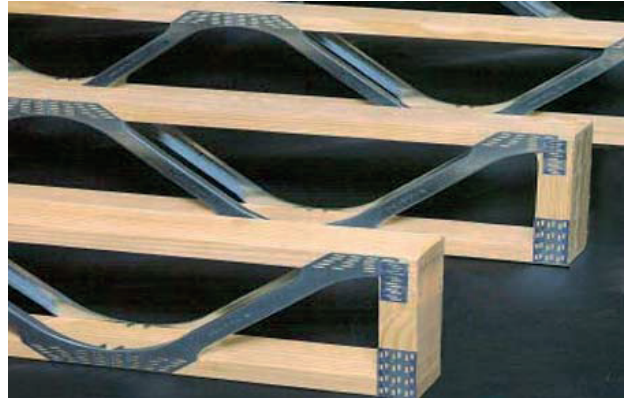


Fig. 2 Bearers

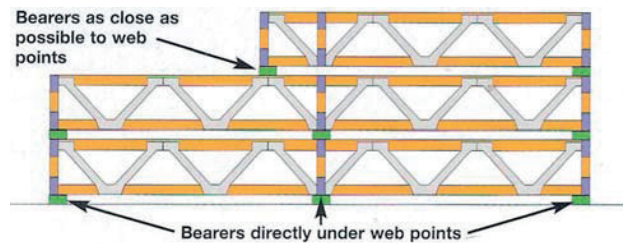


Fig. 3 Do's & Don'ts

