Nydree Flooring technical department is routinely asked about the three basic types of joints used in concrete slab-on-grade construction. These joints are used to prevent unsightly cracking of concrete slabs. This bulletin describes each type of joint and Nydree's recommendation for installing over the joints.

Types of Concrete Joints

Saw Cut Control Joints

Some large slabs-on-grade are poured monolithically, then later saw cut at intervals providing control joints to allow for cracking at these weakened points. They extend to a depth of approximately one-quarter the concrete thickness. These joints can be bridged.

Cold/Construction Joints

Cold joints are formed primarily between slab pours where the size of a concrete slab may be too large to be poured at one time. The remainder of the slab would be poured at a later time forming a cold joint between the two sections. These joints usually align with and function as control joints. These joints can be bridged.

Isolation/Expansion Joints

Isolation and Expansion joints separate two slabs from one another and permit horizontal and vertical movements of the adjacent slabs. They extend the full depth of the slab and include a premolded joint filler. **Isolation and Expansion joints can not be bridged.** These joints should be carried through the wood flooring and installed according to the architectural details. The expansion spaces that separate the wood can be one or two part urethanes, silicone or a prefabricated expansion detail strip.

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