

# Introduction

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This Technical Guide gives recommendations for the use of mastic asphalt in flooring and covers a variety of applications. In a majority of instances mastic asphalt flooring should be regarded as a finishing trade, with a range of highly aesthetic, decorative appearances possible.

Mastic asphalt flooring is an ideal underlay to receive subsequent floor finishes i.e. carpet, vinyl etc. and offers many benefits for the overall construction process, such as the following:

- No additional water is added to the building, making the overall drying time of the construction drastically shorter
- It can be put into use directly after cooling (usually after a few hours), reducing construction time considerably
- It is easy to install
- It is placed jointlessly
- It does not require compaction to reach its final stability
- It is considerably wear resistant and highly resistant to disturbances and shocks
- It can absorb certain variations of conditions (e.g. due to temperature variations, slow settlement etc.) without cracking
- It is dense and non-porous, and highly resistant to vermin and bacteria
- It is odourless and does not create any dust
- It is non-flammable (class Bfl – s1 according to EN 13501-1)
- It has vapour resistivity in excess of 100,000 MN/g
- It is highly durable and therefore economical
- It is non-toxic and does not contain tar
- It can be fully recycled
- It is listed as an approved Radon barrier in BRE Report BR211 (1999 edition)

BS8204-5:2004+A1:2011 Code of practice for mastic asphalt underlays and wearing courses, covers materials, design considerations and work on site, inspection and maintenance.

The mastic asphalt should be one of the following:

- a. Mastic asphalt for flooring to conform to type F1076 in BS 6925
- b. Mastic asphalt for paving to conform to BS EN 13108-6 for use in unheated buildings
- c. Mastic asphalt for waterproofing to conform to type R988 or Type T1097 in BS 6925 for use as an underlay and to form skirtings.
- d. Proprietary flooring to Manufacturer's specification
- e. Proprietary spark resistant flooring
- f. Proprietary chemical and acid resisting flooring

Type F1076 mastic asphalt for flooring is graded according to usage, as follows:

- Grade I - Special hard flooring
- Grade II - Light duty flooring
- Grade III - Medium duty flooring
- Grade IV - Heavy duty flooring

Type F1076 does not cover grades of mastic asphalt for special applications such as chemical resistant or spark resistant flooring, for which purposes proprietary variants are available, nor is it suitable for external applications such as loading bays, balconies and rooftop car parks, for which paving grade mastic asphalt is specified in BS EN 13108-6.

Guidance on the selection and suitability of grades of mastic asphalt flooring is provided in [Table 2](#) and [Table 3](#).

