Phase 1: Preparing for a Rapid Response® installation - DIY & professional guide

These instructions are strictly for use with Wunda systems only — using them with any other system may result in serious performance issues, system failure, or invalidation of your warranty.

www.wundagroup.com
01291 634 149

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Phase 1 - Preparing for your Rapid Response® DIY installation

These are steps that should be taken before receiving your delivery

STEP 1

Layout plan overview video

https://vimeo.com/wunda/layout-plan-explained

Reviewing your pipe and board layout plan

Before laying any boards, familiarise yourself with the board layout on the supplied bespoke system drawing.

Boards can be identified by colour. Transitional boards have a red outline. Rapid Response® main boards are black outlined and the plain boards are grey outlined which are for use under unheated areas such as kitchen units.

The board with a blue outline is your starting point for laying the first board. Note the direction boards will need to be laid for each room.

Identify where boards will require cutting. Additional help videos can be accessed using the QR codes on the plan.

Review your supplied Wunda board & pipe layout drawing to identify manifold location and pipe routes, and the length of pipe for each loop. Some shorter loops may share a longer coil.

STEP 2

Floor preparation

Rapid Response® boards can be fixed to new or existing concrete/screed or wooden floors. First, ensure your subfloor is flat, level and dry without undulations, ready to lay the Wunda Rapid Response® boards.

When preparing to lay a Wunda Rapid Response® system, you must make sure the surface underneath is level to ensure that the boards have maximum contact with the subfloor and a secure bond. Defects in the floor may cause an uneven finish or cause the boards to become unbonded. Some preparation may be necessary for your installation.

The following will show you how to prepare:

- (A) Existing screed or cement floors
- (B) Wooden floorboards
- (C) Tile / non-porous floors

A Preparing a screed / cement floor for a Rapid Response® installation

Screed subfloors must be flat, dry and level for a Rapid Response® installation. In some existing homes, some preparatory work may be necessary to achieve this. New screed floors need to be fully cured and any laitance (weak powdery crust) and dust needs to be removed before laying the Rapid Response® panels.

*Please note the Rapid Response® panels should not be bonded to asphalt or bitumen, these floors need to be removed or covered up with a suitable levelling compound.

Damp proof membrane (DPM)

The floor needs to be dry and damp free. If you have an issue with damp, please check with a specialist to discuss the suitability of your subfloor and any damp issues you may be experiencing before laying your Rapid Response® system.

If no damp proof membrane (DPM) already exists within the existing subfloor you may wish to apply a liquid DPM.

Follow manufacturers guidelines for applying a liquid DPM. Once applied, ensure it has fully cured.
Before attempting to bond panels with WundaSpray, always try a test patch first to ensure the spray adhesive successfully bonds the boards to the floor. It may be necessary to spray adhesive onto the panels and the floor when fixing onto a DPM. Otherwise, you can apply a skim layer of self-levelling compound on top of the liquid DPM to bond the panels to.

Self levelling compound / renovation screed

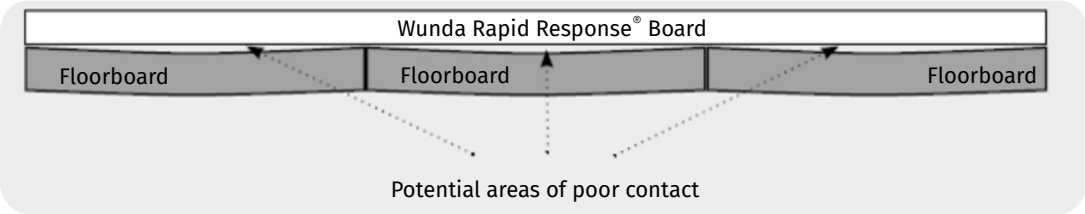
Concrete floors can become uneven over time through wear and tear. An uneven concrete floor will cause high and low points of contact with the Rapid Response® boards. This could result in bonding issues and 'bounce or movement' requiring the floor to be levelled first.

The floor must be flat and level. To achieve this, you can use a self-levelling compound, following the manufacturer's instructions for application. Remove your skirting boards before using self levelling compound, and also doors if necessary.

Once applied, ensure the screed has completely cured and is dust free before bonding the boards. Once cured, you may need to vacuum the area to pick up dust or pick up any particulate with a damp mop.

B Preparing existing floorboards for a Rapid Response® installation

Over time, wooden floorboards can become uneven due to wear and tear. Uneven floorboards will cause high and low points of contact between the Rapid Response® boards and the uneven floorboards (see image below). This results in bonding issues and 'bounce or movement' requiring the floorboards to be levelled. Follow below for some suggestions, if unsure consult a carpenter or builder.



Suggestions for levelling the floorboards

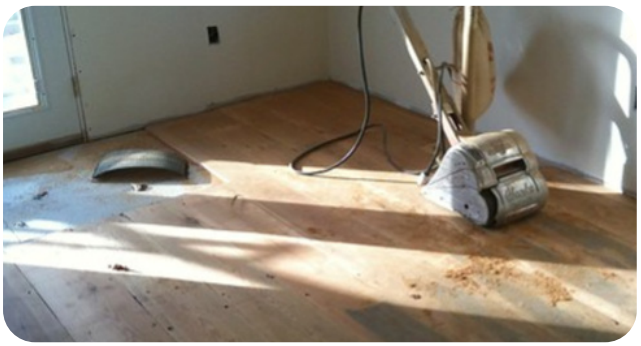
Initial checks:

- Check for rotten floorboards and replace any found.
- Check for any floorboards that are loose or creaky and secure or replace any that are. Use a pipe or cable detector to determine any water pipes or electric cables that could be causing the floorboard to creak. Use screws as opposed to nails to secure the floorboards. Alternatively, ply sheets can be laid to provide a flat stable surface.
- If you have any plumbing or wiring issues that you need to fix, this is the time to complete the repairs before you place the plywood sheets down.
- Proud or loose nails or screws should be taken down further to ensure that no issues are caused when bonding the Rapid Response boards.

Levelling the floor:

It's common to lay 6 mm plywood over the floorboards to even out any unevenness, fixing any squeaky or loose boards first.

Alternatively, you may also find that you might have to sand or plane uneven floorboards that have risen slightly. This could be in preparation for your plyboards. Or it might fix your problem of uneven floorboards.



Laying the ply sheets (optional):

- Make sure that you lay the plywood at a right angle to the existing floorboards.
- Leave an expansion gap between plywood and skirting, make sure that you set the nails around 13mm in from the edges of the sheet.
- Work in from the main door, as you don't want to end up with a thin strip at the threshold.

Use your offcuts: Don't waste any material and start the new row with the off cuts from the previous row. This will ensure that the joints are staggered and will reduce waste. Continue until the floor is covered.

C Preparing an existing tile/non-porous floor for a Rapid Response® installation

If you're attaching Rapid Response® boards to a non-porous surface like existing tiles, start by thoroughly cleaning the tiles. This step is crucial because any grease, dirt, or residue can prevent the adhesive from sticking effectively, leading to poor adhesion of the Rapid Response® boards.

Clean the surface: Use a degreasing agent, such as a mix of methylated spirits and wire wool, to scrub the surface clean.

When applying adhesive: Before laying the Rapid Response® boards, spray Wunda adhesive on both the tiles and the back of the boards. Make sure to coat both surfaces evenly. Allow the adhesive on both surfaces to become tacky. Once tacky, carefully press the boards onto the tiles. It's a good idea to test a small patch first to ensure compatibility.

STEP 3

Remove doors and skirting boards

If you haven't already, remove the skirting boards and any doors that need trimming to accommodate the Rapid Response® boards and final floor finish. You have the option to remove the skirting boards or leave them in place. If you choose not to remove them, the skirting boards will be shorter due to the build-up. If you do remove them, make sure to fill or repair any visible damages or gaps at the base of the wall behind the skirting boards, especially if you plan to use a self-levelling compound on the Rapid Response boards. Use filler or caulk for this purpose.

STEP 4

Ensure the surface of the floor Is dust free

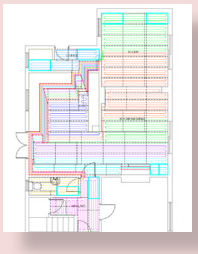
Vacuum the floor to ensure all the dust has been removed. In some cases a damp mop may be useful to collect any remaining dust. Allow your floors to fully dry before attempting to bond any Rapid Response panels.

STEP 5

Check your tools and materials immediately upon delivery and before starting installation

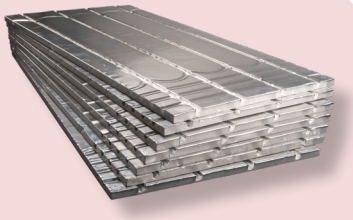
Check your Wunda order and ensure you have the necessary of the following to hand for your install

Materials supplied with order can include:

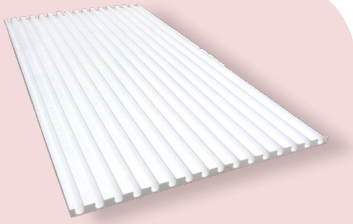


Digital pipe layout drawing

WundaSpray board adhesive



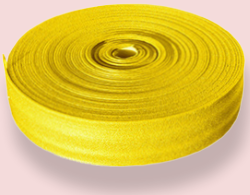
Wunda Rapid Response® boards (20/16mm)



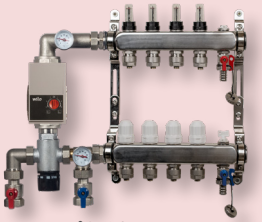
Transitional boards

Wunda pipe (16/12mm)

Pipe cutter & reaming tool



Perimeter strip (Optional)



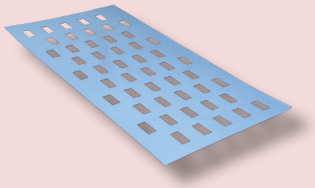
Manifold & pumpset
(Or in-line isolation valve)

Wunda controls

Floor limitation probe
(Only required for temperature sensitive floors)

Pipe conduit (optional if running pipe through walls)

Additional supplied materials (depending on floor finishes):

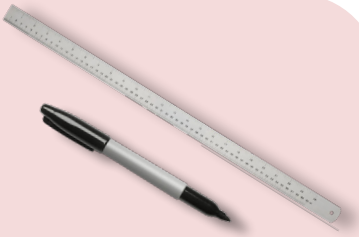


3mm XPS breathable underlay (For laminate & wood)

7mm duo boards intermediate layer (For off the roll finishes such as carpet & lino)

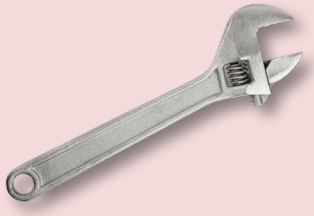
Additional Tools/Materials Required for You To Source:

Face mask, eye protection & work gloves



Straight edge rule & marker pen

Fine tooth saw & craft knife



Adjustable spanner

Router with suitable routing bit (pipe diameter 16/12mm) for cutting extra channels.

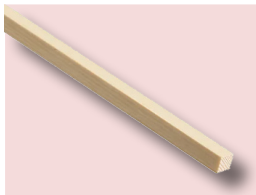
Screws & wall plugs

Drain hose & bucket

Rubber mallet & screwdriver

Masonry drill bit & hole saw (if you choose to pass pipe through the wall)

Optional



20/16mm batten for the perimeter if needing to fit carpet gripper

Tile adhesive: Either Mapei Kerabond T & Isolastic or Ultra PRIME IT & Proflex S2

Levelling compound & primer for (LVT, Carpet, Lino ...):

Either Mapei Eco Prim Grip & Ultraplan Renovation Screed, or Ultra Prime IT & ProLevel Ultimate

Once phase 1 is complete, proceed to phase 2.

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