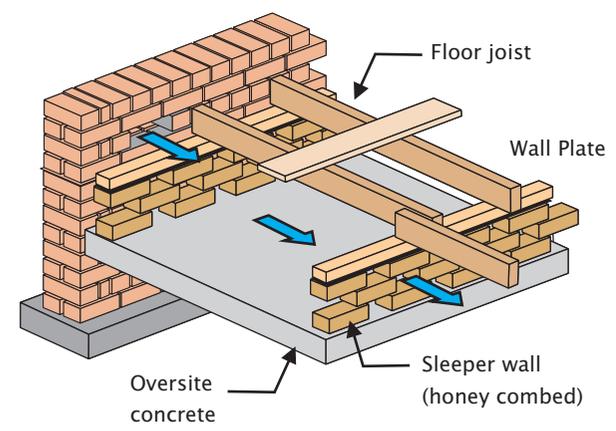
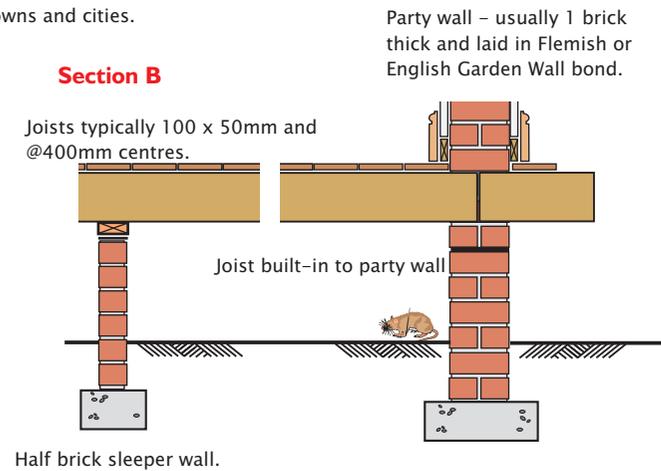
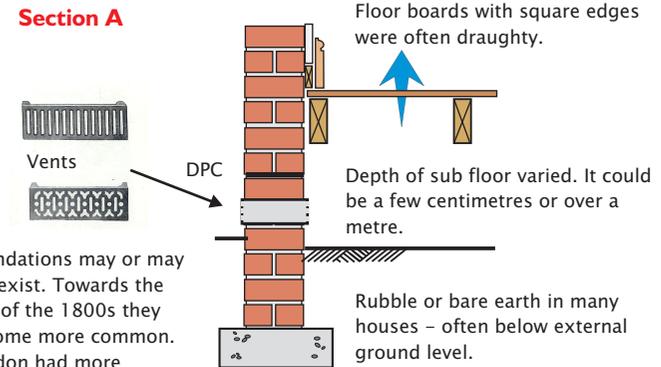
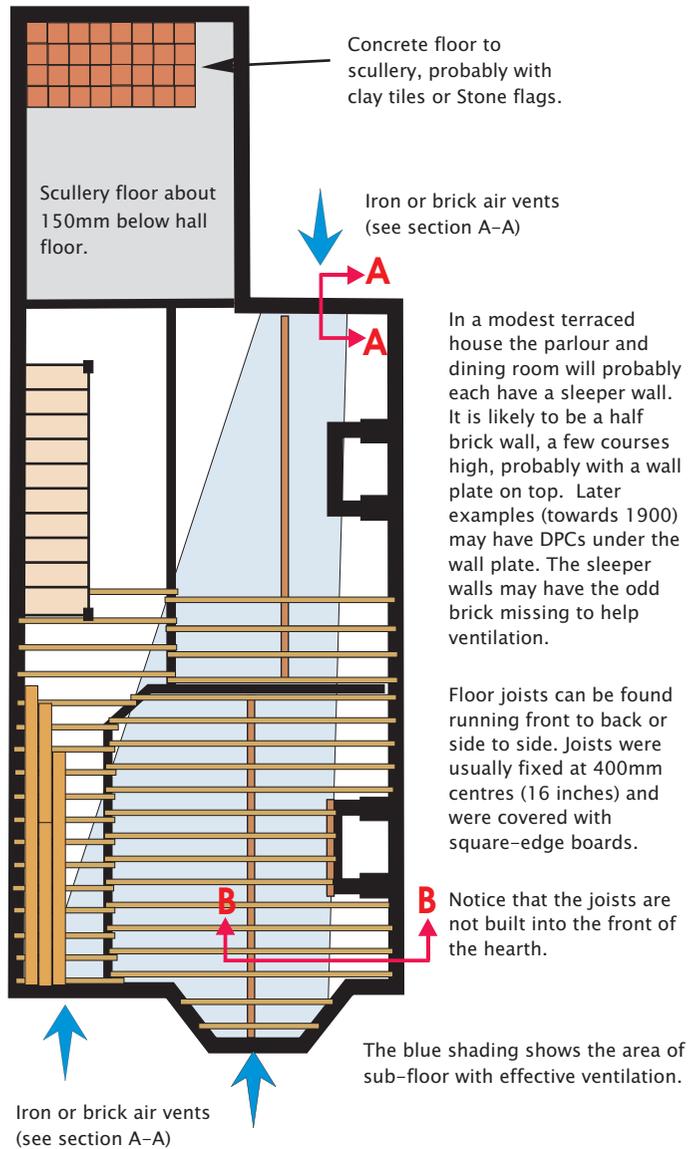
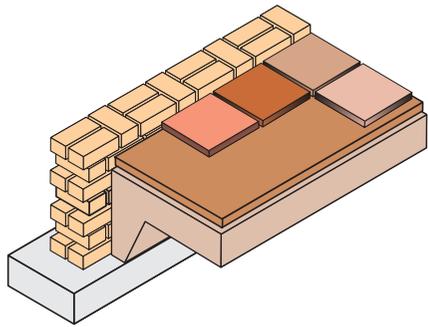


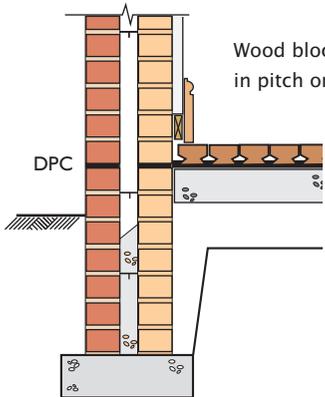
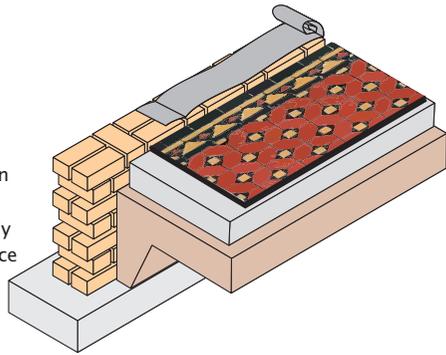
# A Very Brief History of Floors



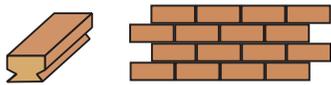


Stone flags or clay tiles laid in mortar on a bed of hardcore, ashes, or rammed earth.

Black, white and multi-coloured floor tiles were popular until the 1930s. They were normally laid in mortar on a concrete base. Their high cost meant they were usually reserved for hallways and entrance lobbies.

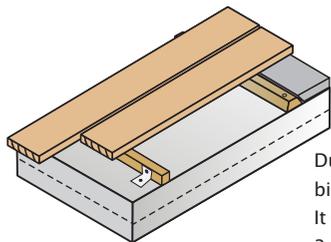


Wood blocks laid in pitch or bitumen



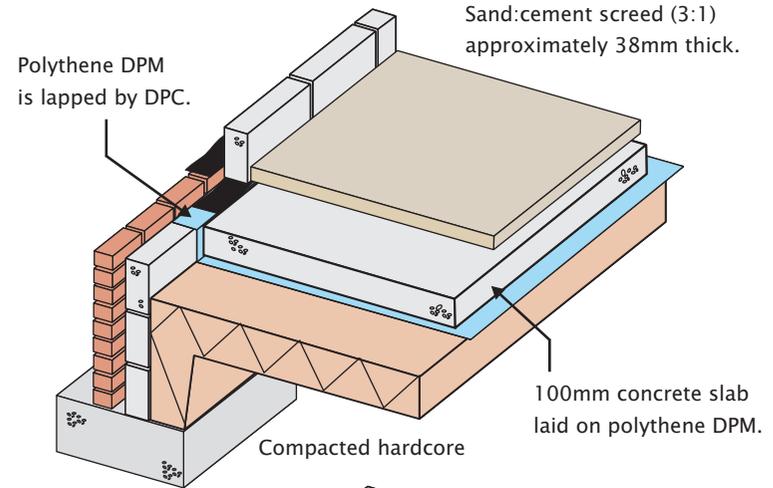
'Brick' and herringbone were both popular patterns

Timber boards nailed to battens fixed to slab or secured by dovetailing into screed.



During the 1930s and 1940s sandwich bitumen or pitch membranes were common. It was poured hot, to a thickness of about 3mm.

Typical construction from the 1970s and 1980s.

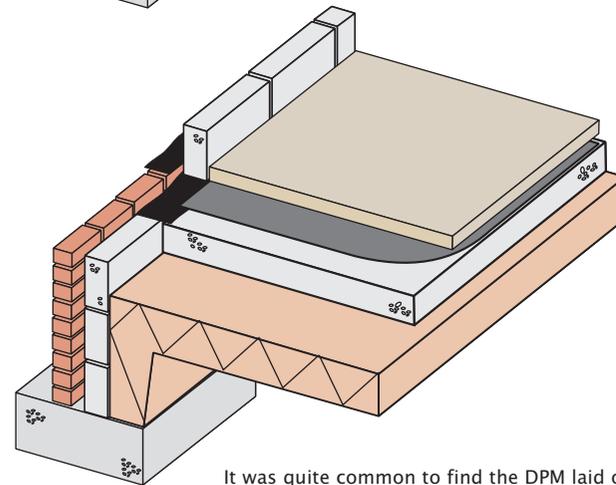


Polythene DPM is lapped by DPC.

Sand:cement screed (3:1) approximately 38mm thick.

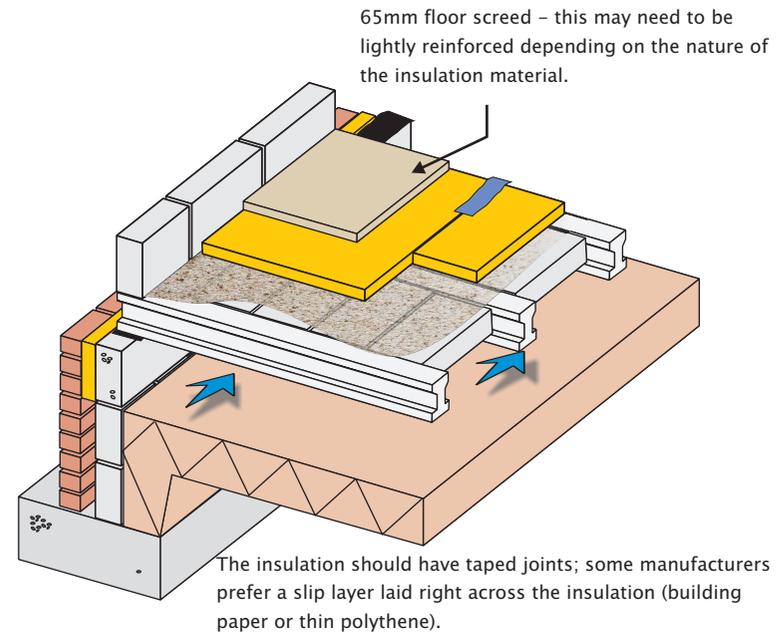
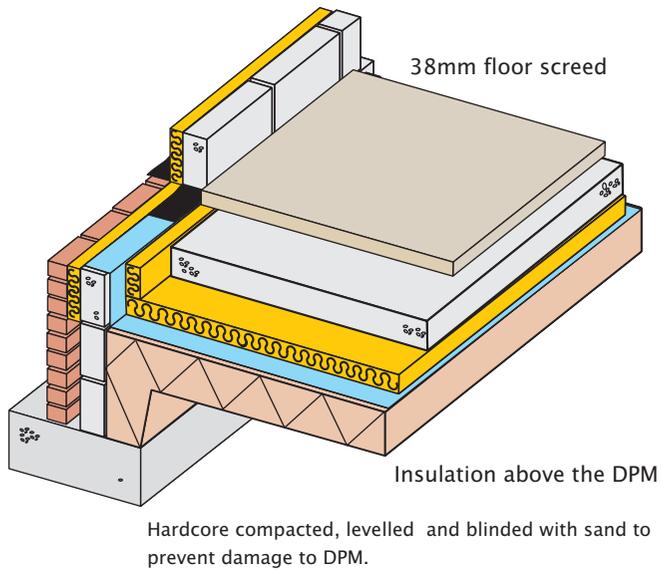
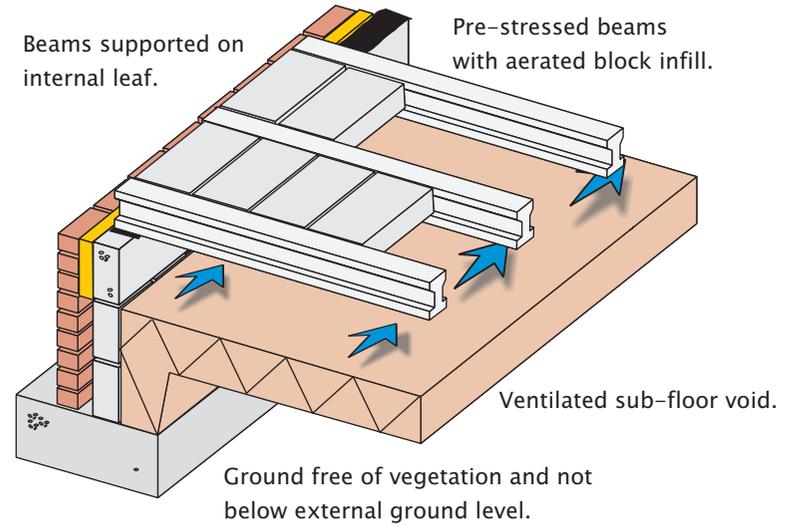
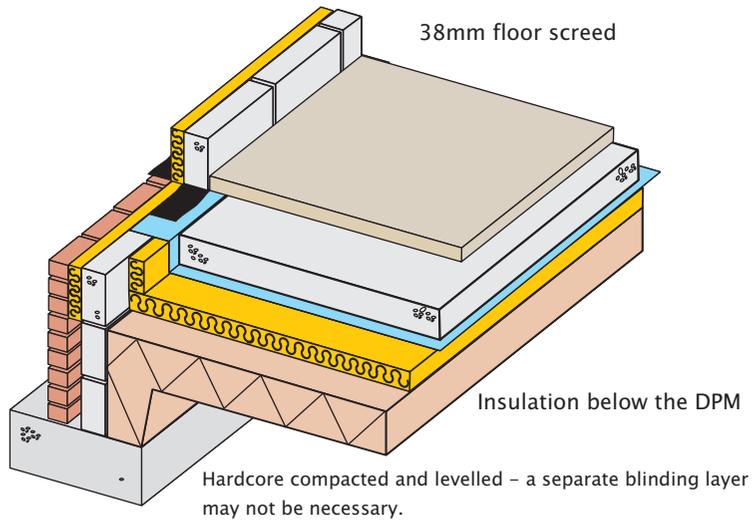
100mm concrete slab laid on polythene DPM.

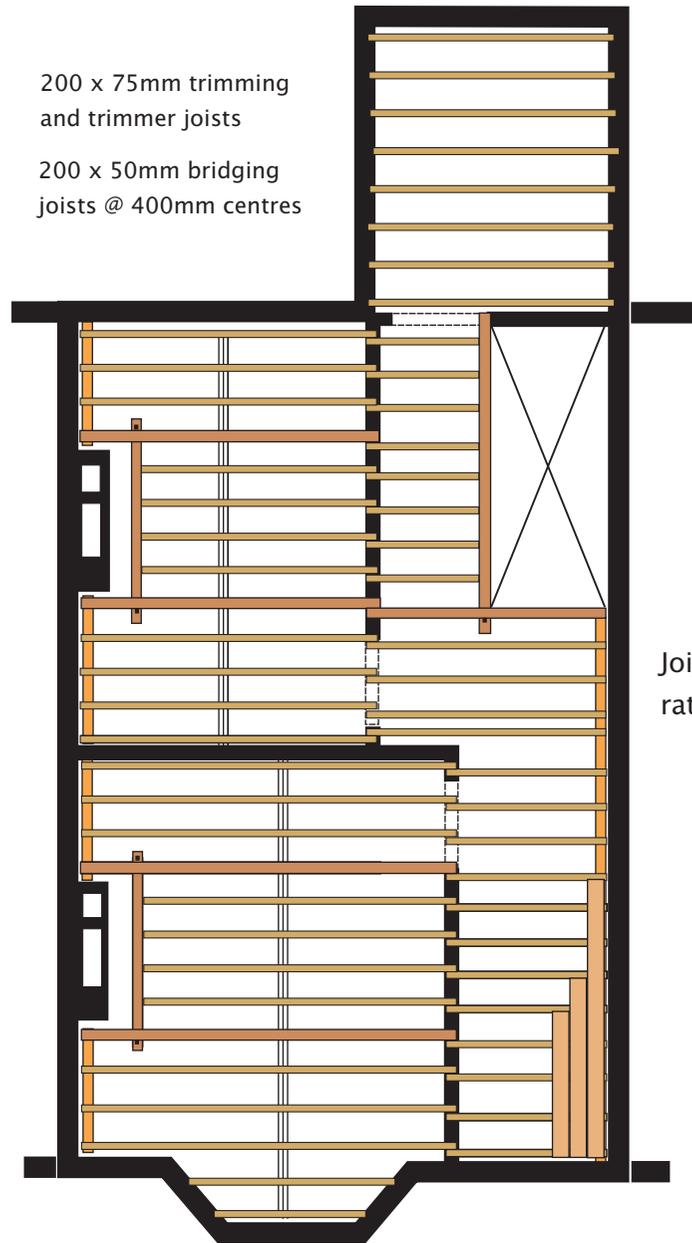
Compacted hardcore



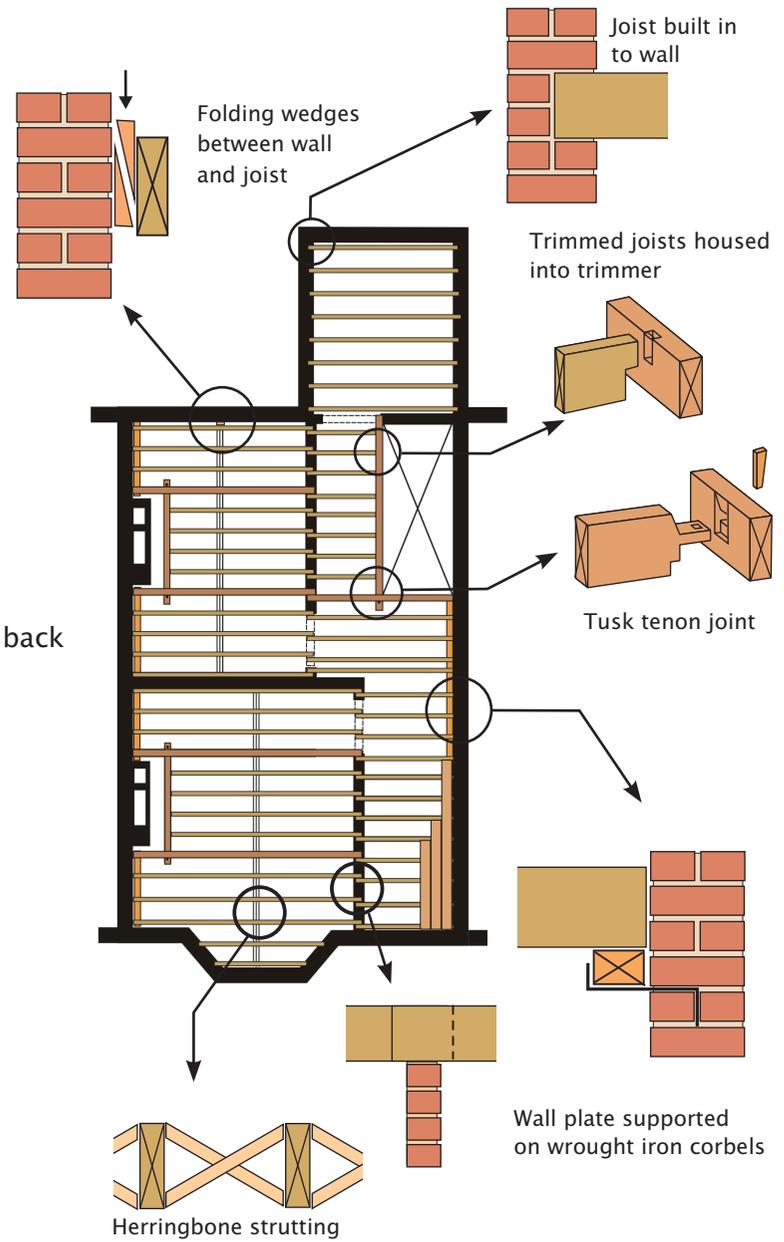
It was quite common to find the DPM laid over the slab. A thicker screed is normally required in this situation - say 50mm.

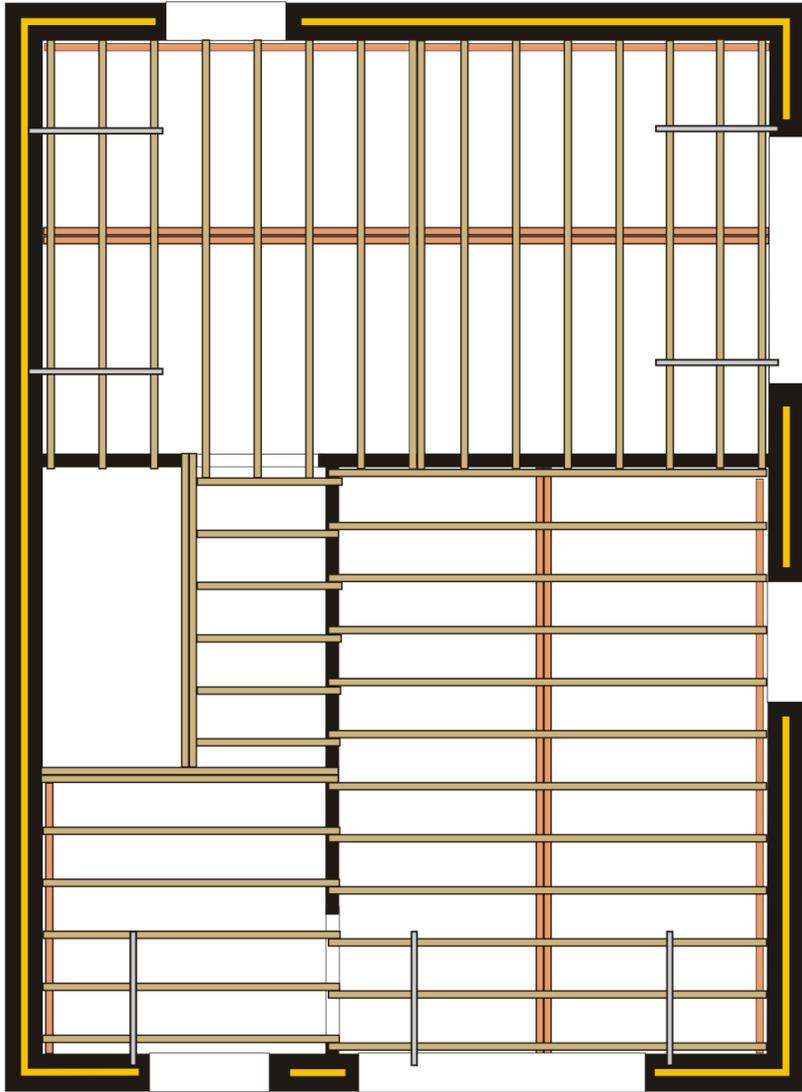
Note: not all insulation boards are suitable for use in damp conditions, ie below the DPM.



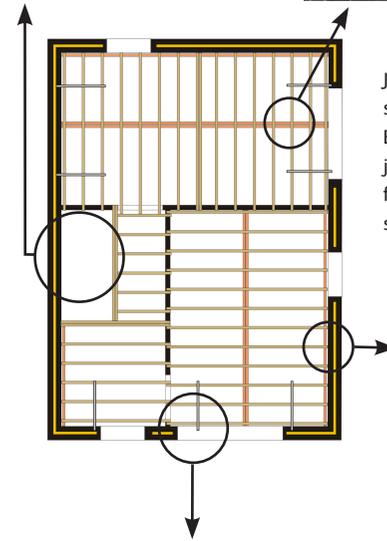
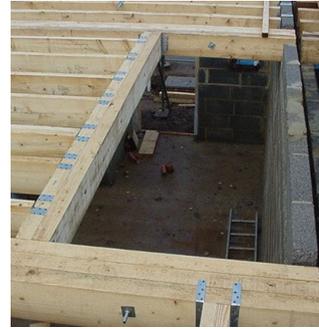


Joists often run front to back rather than side to side.





A modern upper floor is not very different from its Victorian counterpart. A floor still needs to be trimmed around an opening although nowadays metal hangers have replaced complicated carpentry joints. Strutting is still required at right angles to the joists, herringbone or staggered



Joists can be built-in or supported on hangers. Blocking or noggings between joists are usually required for flooring and plasterboard edge support.



Chipboard and strand board have largely replaced floor boards.



Restraint strapping – in this case above a window.

