

Firestopping to garage walls

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Question

Should the wall between an integral garage and the house be built up between the floor joists to the underside of the floor decking?

Considerations

- 30 minutes' fire separation to rooms above and around the garage should be provided.
- There should be no pathway for fire through the construction.

Answer

The wall does not need to be built up to the underside of the floor decking where the ceiling construction provides the full 30 minutes' fire resistance on its own. Otherwise, the wall should be built up to the underside of the floor decking with a non-combustible material such as glass fibre fitted between the top of the wall and the underside of the decking.

* Some typical ceiling constructions that provide the full 30 minutes' fire resistance are as follows:

- Two layers of 12.5mm plasterboard with staggered joints, taped and filled and 150mm glass fibre laid between joists. (Ensure all joints in second layer are located over a joist or nogging).
- One layer of 12.5mm fire resistant plasterboard with joints taped and filled and 150mm glass fibre laid between joists. (Ensure all joints are located over a joist or nogging).

Other constructions may be acceptable. If in doubt, please seek advice from the NHBC Building Surveyor.