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TIMBER SUPPORTS FOR HOT WATER HEATER AS PER SANS 10254

We are currently receiving several questions regarding the timber supports of the geyser drip tray and the standard requirement for a 114 x 50 timber support.

SANS 10254 B.2.1 Installation of drip tray says the following

The drip tray shall be installed and mounted in the following manner:

- a) *It shall be placed on the tie beams, over a load-bearing wall and be supported by timber that complies with at least grade 5 of SANS 1783-2, and of size at least 114 x 50mm, spaced not more than 500mm apart and that complies with SANS 10400-L*

This has caused a major confusion and a cost implication that is not covered by most plumbers. The required timber of 114 x 50mm is not a standard off the shelf timber product and this will mean that you will need to increase the timber size to at least a 225 x 50mm. This cost is almost double that of a standard 114 x 38mm timber that is currently used by most plumbers.

Looking at the IOPSA practical guide for Installation standards for Electric Geysers on page 22, It states that a 120mm x 30mm or bigger timber must be used at 500mm spacings.

So, what do we do now as Plumbers to ensure our installation complies to the standards?

IOPSA would like to advise its members to take the following measures when installing the drip tray supports.

1. The tray should be placed on a timber that complies with at least grade 5 of SANS 1783-2, and of size at least 114 x 38mm, spaced not more than 500mm apart.
2. According to SANS 10243 "Manufacture and erection of timber trusses" which allows 114 x 38mm "geyser decking planks" for the supports under the drip tray up to 150L with trusses spaced up to 1m apart and 152 x 38mm "geyser decking planks" for trusses spaced \geq 1m to 1.5m apart and also for all 200L and 250L.

This will mean that the tray will require a 114 x 38mm timber support under each of the geysers legs and a third timber in the centre of the tray. However still ensuring that it is placed on tie beams, over a load bearing wall. One also needs to ensure that the Truss spacing does not exceed 1m, should the truss spacing exceed 1m you will be required to upsize to the required 152 x 38mm. Should you have any further queries, please feel free to contact the IOPSA National office for further assistance.

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