Guidelines For Placement of Cemfloor Screed During Cold Weather

Introduction

Cemfloor screeds are cement based flowing screeds and therefore care must be taken during placement in winter months when the temperatures can drop below 5°C. European standards stipulate (EN8204 Part 7:2003 section 7.2.2 - temperature) that the temperature of both the base slab and the air in the area that concrete or screed is to be installed should always remain in the range 5°C to +30°C. This applies to the period of time that the material is being installed and also subsequently for at least 72 hours.

Please note that in cold conditions it can take some time to raise the temperature of a cold concrete base.

NHBC regulations 2017 (section 9.3.4) also advise that concrete and screed should not be installed during weather conditions which could adversely affect the finished construction, and suggest that in cold weather, they should not be installed. Material that is damaged by cold weather should be removed and replaced.

Temperatures to Monitor

Three different temperatures have to be considered when working with Cemfloor in cold weather, i.e. that of the ground, of the concrete itself and the ambient air temperature.

- **Ground Temperature:** Fresh Cemfloor should not be placed on frozen substrate or against other frozen surfaces.

- **Concrete Temperature:** The temperature of Cemfloor on delivery shall not be less than 5°C. The temperature of the Cemfloor should be maintained above 5°C for at least the first 48 hours after placing, to enable it achieve sufficient strength to resist frost damage. Temperatures less than 5°C in hardened Cemfloor will severely reduce strength development.

- **Air Temperature:** Cemfloor screeds should not be installed at ambient air temperatures below 5°C on a falling thermometer or below 3°C on a rising thermometer.