



Tiling/Floor Covering Guidelines



Introduction

Cemfloor is a cementitious self-levelling flowing screed flooring system comprising a cement, fine aggregate, proprietary Cemfloor Binder, high-range water reducer, and water. Cemfloor is produced in quality control approved and operated plants; delivered to site via mixer trucks, it is a plant mixed product. Cemfloor should only be installed by approved contractors, who have been trained to lay Cemfloor flowing screed. Cemfloor screed can be installed as bonded, unbonded or floating. It is also suitable for use with underfloor heating. For advice on specifications and for proprietary systems contact your cemfloor representative.



Curing and Drying of Cemfloor Screed

Once the screed has been placed and finished, the room needs to be sealed for a minimum of 24 hours in the summer and up to 48 hours in the winter until the initial hardening has completed. The screed will be ready for foot trafficking at this point

After 24-48 hours, doors and windows should be opened to allow ventilation to assist in the drying process.

After 7-Days the underfloor heating system can be commissioned. See Cemfloor Underfloor Heating Guidelines Data Sheet for the UFH commissioning process.

Where under floor heating is used it must be commissioned and run prior to floor coverings regardless of how dry the screed may be, this is in line with most floor covering manufacturer guidelines and industry standards. This process forces additional moisture from the screed and conditions it to thermal movement prior to coverings being installed.

Moisture Testing

Before moisture sensitive floor finishes and adhesives e.g. (LVT, Timber, Marmoleum etc.) are laid, the moisture content of the screed should be checked to ensure that it is adequately dry. Three different tests for determining moisture levels are described below.

- The British Standards BS8203-1:2017 & BS 8201:2011 method for measuring the moisture condition of a base to receive a floor covering is to use a hair hygrometer. The figure required in accordance with these standards is 75% relative humidity (the required limit for floor finishes). For correct results, the method must be strictly adhered to, including the use of a correctly sized and insulated box sealed to the floor, a sufficiently long test for equilibrium to be reached, typically 48-72 hours, and the use (where appropriate) of an impervious sheet around the instrument.
- The European Standard for testing screeds recommends the CM (Carbide Method) of testing. A carbide moisture tester may be used, preferably a model which has an appropriate scale reading on the recording dial. Typical requirements will be 2.5% water by weight for moisture sensitive floor coverings (e.g. ceramics and adhesives). This figure equates approximately to 75% relative humidity. It is critical that the correct weight of both screed and calcium carbide specified by the manufacturer of the test meter be used during testing.
- The Tramex CMEX2 and CME4 electronic encounter moisture meters, whilst not in accordance with any applicable standards, have been correlation tested by Cemfloor Liquid Screed in comparison with both “standard” methods and against absolute laboratory results. A high degree of correlation has been noted such that Cemfloor Liquid Screed consider these meters to be the best available guide to measure moisture content. These meters should only be used as a guide for estimating the moisture content and either the hair hygrometer or carbide meter must be used to confirm the moisture content before coverings are applied.

As cemfloor is a cement based screed; some permeable floor finishes e.g. porcelain tiles can be installed when the moisture content is above the figures above using suitable flexible adhesives.

Preparation of Screed Surface:

Unlike calcium sulphate based screeds, Cemfloor does not produce a layer of laitance on its surface. This means the surface of the screed will not require sanding to remove it. It may still be necessary however, in accordance with floor finishes and adhesive manufacturers recommendations, to lightly abrade the surface to clean and remove any building residue and to ensure that there is a good key to receive primers and adhesives.

Some types of flooring products such as surface DPM's, resin flooring, microcrete etc. may require the screed surface to be further mechanically prepared to provide a textured surface to enable adequate absorption and increased adhesion between both surfaces. All dust must be removed from the surface of the screed by vacuuming. In all cases the instructions/guidelines from the manufacturer of the flooring product which is being installed must be followed.

Please contact our technical team for any queries regarding floor coverings.

