

# General Screed Requirements



## Important points for screeded subfloors.

### Quality and Thickness

- The relevant standard is BS EN 8204-1: 2003/9 – “Screeds, bases and in-situ flooring.”
- Also BS EN 8204-6 gives guidance on flatness and surface regularity according to use.
- The screed surface needs to be flat and smooth, according to BS8204-6 ( +/- 5mm deviation from a 2m straight edge)
- The surface must be good quality (not dusty and friable), free of holes and voids and free of plaster splatters.
- Screeds should be laid in one piece and incorporate stress relief cuts.
- If the surface is sandy, fissured or not smooth it may be possible to apply a levelling material for an extra charge. Please do not use latex, or low quality levelling materials. Ask us for advice.
- For domestic use the screed should be 55mm thick with 30-35mm cover to underfloor heating pipes.
- For commercial use the screed should be 65-75mm thick. Consult the standard.
- Polypropylene screed fibres can be used to control drying shrinkage cracks.
- A steel reinforcing mesh can be used, such as A142 6mm x 200mm x 200mm to assist in shrinkage control.
- A polymer additive can be used to improve strength, quality and reduce water content.
- Pre-mixed, quality controlled sand and cement is always a better option than site batched mixes..
- Always ensure that your screeder can deliver good quality and understands that you are using a seamless, slender, resin floor on top which will reflect the quality of the screed underneath.

### Drying

- A damp proof membrane under the screed is imperative to prevent rising moisture.
- For sand:cement screed the max moisture content is 2.5% (CM Method – Tramex CME)
- Drying typically takes 1.5 weeks per cm of screed, longer in basements.
- Drying can be speeded up by using Flexidry additive. Ask your builder.
- Two weeks before installation the subsurface must

be dry, and remain completely dry.

- Moisture measurements by Senso are only an extra check and do not transfer responsibility for this key point to us.

### Cracking

- Stress relief cuts are advised to prevent uncontrolled cracking in the subsurface.
- The position of stress relief cuts must be determined by the engineer or screeder. Use bay sizes <40m<sup>2</sup>.
- Cracks visible at installation can be pre-treated by Senso, this may be chargeable.
- Cracks may remain visible as a vein as the Senso floor is bonded to the screed. Despite this being a small risk, we are not able to guarantee that this will not happen.
- Anhydrite (gypsum, calcium sulphate) screeds have lower shrinkage, flatter surface and less cracking. Please be aware however that they dry far more slowly and they must be bone dry (to 0.5%) before installation. (typically 8-12 weeks)

### Underfloorheating

- If pipes are embedded in screed ensure at least 30-35mm cover with sand:cement screed.
- Pipes are potential lines of weakness due to the reduced cover across them.
- Underfloor heating must have been fully commissioned before our installation, not only to dry the screed, but also to identify any lines of weakness or stress. If cracks develop in your subfloor, we can agree a plan with you for pre-treating them. This may be chargeable.
- The heating shall be fully cycled 2 or 3 times, after allowing the screed time to strengthen.
- Please leave the heating on low setting, for the commencement of our installation.

### General

- Screed quality is important - if in doubt please ask us for advice.
- Visible veins are an inherent risk with cast resin flooring on screeds
- Ensure your builder and screeder have read this checklist!