

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

## PRESCRIBED SCREED

### Product Data Sheet No. 110/02

#### INTRODUCTION

Tarmac prescribed ready-to-use cement:sand levelling screed is a correctly proportioned factory produced levelling screed for flooring and roofing applications. Available from factories situated throughout mainland United Kingdom, Tarmac screeds normally contain a retarding admixture in order to remain workable for 8 – 12 hours.

#### PRODUCT CONFORMITY

Tarmac traditional prescribed ready-to-use cement:sand factory produced screed materials conform to in house quality and operating standards. Produced screed materials conform to the requirements of BS EN 13813.

Prescribed screed should be used in accordance with the recommendations of Codes of Practice BS 8000:Part 0/9 and BS 8204:Part 1.

#### COMPOSITION AND MANUFACTURE

Tarmac prescribed ready-to-use cement:sand screeds are thoroughly mixed accurately controlled blends of the following materials:

- Well-graded fine aggregate (sand) conforming to BS EN 12620/ BS EN 13139.
- Portland cement conforming to BS EN 197-1.
- Limestone fines for use with Portland Cement conforming to BS 7979.
- Retarding/water reducing admixture conforming to BS EN 934-2/3 giving the optimum working

time, normally usable for 8 – 12 hours from the time of mixing.

- Water conforming to BS EN 1008, to give the optimum semi-dry consistency for easy laying and thorough compaction.

Where it is intended to pump the material, notify your local sales office allowing reasonable time before work is due to commence.

#### DENSITY

Typical Test Results	Density kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Fresh wet un-compacted	1,850 – 2,000
Compacted set and air dried	2,000 – 2,200

#### PERFORMANCE

Results based on prisms made, cured and tested in accordance with the requirements of BS EN 13892-2.

Tarmac traditional prescribed screed, Results based on cubes, made, cured and tested in accordance with in-house standard operating procedures.

For more details contact:  
**03701 116 116**  
[mortar.internalsales@tarmacbp.co.uk](mailto:mortar.internalsales@tarmacbp.co.uk)

The information given in this technical data sheet is based on our current knowledge and is intended to provide general notes on our products and their uses. Tarmac endeavour to ensure that the information given is accurate, but accept no liability for its use or its suitability for particular application because of the product being used by the third party without our supervision. Any existing intellectual property right must be observed.

## Strength

Designation	Traditional prescribes proportions	Minimum Compressive strength at 28 days N/mm <sup>2</sup> to BS EN 13813	Flexural strength N/mm <sup>2</sup> to BS EN 13813
A	1:3	30	3
B	1:4	20	2
C	1:5	16	1

Table 1 – Screed material strength classes. These results are indicative and may be subject to change.

## Typical Hardening Times

Light foot traffic 4 days. Site traffic 7 days\*.

\*Where site trafficking is anticipated from following trades before flooring is laid, protection must be provided. Levelling screeds are not wearing surfaces, therefore the surface should be given adequate protection against damage or wear during subsequent building operations and until the flooring is laid, this protection would be in the form of plywood boards.

For information regarding point loading of screed the please refer to our Site Guide No.8.

## Typical Drying Times

Allow approximately one month per 25mm of thickness. Where the screed is above 50mm, any thickness above 50mm should be allowed to dry for two months per 25mm of thickness. Where the concrete base has excessive moisture content these times should be increased. High humidity or low temperature will also delay the drying out process. As the drying times indicated apply from the completion of any curing operations, the flooring contractor must check the moisture content of the screed prior to laying the final floor finish\*\*.

**\*\*NOTE: Do not use hot air blowers, underfloor heating, or any other means of accelerating the drying of the screed. In all cases the room should be heated and not the screed.**

## Fire Protection

Tarmac prescribed ready-to-use cement sand levelling screed contains less than 1.0% organic material and is non- combustible.

## Effect of Freeze Thaw

In cold conditions adequate precautions must be taken against freeze thaw. No antifreeze chemicals or accelerating admixtures should be added to the screed material.

## Compatibility

Tarmac prescribed ready-to-use cement:sand levelling screed is compatible with all normal building materials, but wet cementitious materials may attack certain metals e.g. aluminium.

## Durability

No problems should occur if the correct screed material has been specified, but Tarmac prescribed ready-to-use cement:sand levelling screed is not designed as a wearing surface and should always be covered with a flooring material.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

There is a real danger of contact dermatitis or serious burns. To prevent skin coming into contact with wet cement mixes such as fresh concrete, mortar or screed ensure that suitable protective clothing and eye protection is worn. Where skin contact occurs either directly or through saturated clothing wash immediately with soap and water. For eye contact, immediately wash out eyes thoroughly with clean water. If swallowed wash out mouth and drink plenty of water.

For further information please refer to Tarmac Material Safety Data Sheet – Screeds.

## USES

Suitable for use on the following bases:

1. Solid concrete ground floor slabs:
  - a. Directly in contact with the slab (bonded).
  - b. With suitable damp proof membrane between slab and screed (unbonded)
  - c. Over insulation layer to isolate the screed from the base (floating).
2. Precast concrete units or beams with reinforcement.
3. In situ suspended floors.
4. As a topping to lightweight screeds based on perlite or other lightweight aggregates.
5. Certain other situations – refer to the technical centre.

The above applications are subject to the minimum thicknesses given in the section on Construction/Sitework

### Economics

One tonne of screed material will have an appropriate volume of 0.43 – 0.48m<sup>3</sup>. Table 2 shows the approximate coverage area per tonne for a range of thicknesses.

Thickness mm	Coverage Area m <sup>2</sup> /tonne (approx.)	Thickness mm	Coverage Area m <sup>2</sup> /tonne (approx.)
10	45.0	45	10.0
15	30.0	50	9.0
20	22.5	55	8.2
25	18.0	60	7.5
30	15.0	65	7.0
35	13.0	70	6.5
40	11.0	75	6.0

Table 2: Approximate coverage area of screed material  
 Note: Slight variations in sub-base levels will affect the coverage

## CONSTRUCTION/SITE WORK

### Site storage

Tarmac ready-to-use cement:sand screed should be tipped on to a clean banker board with a sealed base and sheeted to protect it from the elements. Do not tip new deliveries onto the remains of the previous load.

### Preparation

The base concrete must be clean and in particular free from lime, gypsum, plaster, dust, soil, clay, oil or grease. The base concrete should be swept to remove all loose material and wetted with clean water, where the levelling screed is to be placed in direct contact with the base. Just before laying the screed, an appropriate bonding material should be brushed into the surface, care being taken that this neither forms deep pools or dries before the screed is placed.

## APPLICATION

### Bonded Construction

#### (Minimum thickness 40mm)

The bond between the base and levelling screed will depend on the thoroughness with which the base has been prepared. A bonding agent such as Tarmac SB Admixture can be used to obtain a good bond. The bonding agent should be used in a slurry with cement in place of the normal cement and water (3 volumes cement: 2 volumes Tarmac SB Admixture) and the screed is laid before the slurry dries or sets.

### Unbonded Construction

#### (Minimum thickness 50mm)

When no bond is possible between levelling screed and base, the screed should be at least 50mm thick or, if containing heating pipes a minimum of 65mm thick.

### Floating Screed

#### (Minimum thickness 75mm / 65mm for light loading)

A levelling screed that is laid on a compressible layer such as thermal or sound insulating material should be at least 65mm thick or, if containing heating pipes a minimum of 75mm thick. All conduits should be firmly fixed covered with suitable crack control mesh and given a minimum cover of 25mm. BS 8204-1 recommends that where possible pipes and conduits should not be laid within the thickness of a levelling screed.

NOTE: Levelling screeds should be divided into bays only if they are to contain under floor heating pipes or are intended to receive an in situ floor finish.

### Topping to Lightweight Screeds

A smooth surface can be given to lightweight screeds which will enable point loadings to be carried.

The normal thickness will be of the order of 10-15mm and if necessary the suction of the lightweight screed should be controlled by wetting with clean water

## Laying

Reference should be made to Code of Practice BS 8204-1.

The material should be spread on the prepared base with adequate surcharge, it is important to compact the screed thoroughly and evenly over the whole area, either by tamping or by mechanical means and then level with a screed board. For many floor finishes the screed must be finished with a steel trowel to give it a smooth dense surface. For such a finish the screed should be allowed to stiffen slightly and then worked with the trowel which will make a ringing sound when the correct action is being used. Excessive towelling should be avoided as this brings a layer of cement laitance to the surface where it may craze and dust.

To aid compaction of thicker cement:sand levelling screeds, i.e. over 50mm thickness, the screed may be laid in two layers. Both layers should be of approximately equal thickness and the identical mix and water content.

The first layer should be thoroughly compacted using heavy tamping or a weighted roller. The second layer should be laid as soon as possible, i.e. within 2 hours after compaction of the lower layer (monolithically).

**The most common cause of screed failure is poor compaction.**

## Curing

Screeds should be protected from damage after laying. To achieve the full performance of Tarmac ready-to-use cement: sand levelling screeds adequate curing is essential and the screed must be covered with plastic sheeting or other suitable material to retain moisture for at least seven days. Whilst damping down of the surface before covering is acceptable, saturation of the screed, e.g. by prolonged hosing is not recommended.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

**TARMAC.COM**

Tarmac provides a comprehensive sales and technical advisory service to specifiers and customers.

A quality system has been implemented throughout the company since 1975 and quality procedures are in conformity with BS EN ISO 9001:2015

All Tarmac factories hold third party certification from the British Standards Institution. Details of the certification status of individual factories may be obtained from the Technical Helpdesk.

## PRICES AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

Prices vary according to mix design, quantity and delivery point. For specific quotations contact your local Tarmac representative or call our National Sales Helpline on 03701 116 116.

All quotations given, orders placed and materials supplied are subject to the Conditions of Sale available via download from the Tarmac website [www.tarmac.com](http://www.tarmac.com) or upon request from your nearest Tarmac Regional Office.

## SUPPLY

Tarmac ready-to-use cement:sand levelling screed is available direct from Tarmac factories located strategically throughout mainland United Kingdom: contact your nearest Tarmac Building Product Regional Office for further details

## ORDERING

When ordering state product designation, quantity, date and time of delivery, 24 hours should normally be allowed for deliver.

## DELIVERY

Bulk loads in tipper road trucks generally up to 10-20 tonnes or 7-8 tonne steel skips (where available). The skips reduce wastage and prevent contamination.

<b>REFERENCES*</b>	
British Standards Institute	
<b>BS EN 197-1:2011</b>	Cement Part 1: Composition, specifications, and conformity criteria for common cements
<b>BS 7979 : 2016</b>	Specification for limestone fines for use with Portland cement
<b>BS EN 1008:2002</b>	Mixing water for concrete – specification for sampling, testing and assessing the suitability of water, including water recovered from processes in the concrete industry, as mixing water for concrete
<b>BS EN 12620:2002+A1 2008</b>	Aggregates for concrete
<b>BS EN 13139:2002</b>	Aggregates for mortar
<b>BS EN 934</b>	Part 1: 2008 Admixtures for concrete, mortar and grout: Part 2: 2009+A1:2012 Concrete admixtures – definitions, requirements, conformity, marking and labelling
<b>BS 8000-0: 2014</b>	Workmanship on construction site. Introduction and general principles
<b>BS 8000-9: 2003</b>	Workmanship on building sites. Cementitious levelling screeds and wearing screeds. Code Of Practice.
<b>BS 8204</b>	Screeds bases and in situ floorings. Part 1: 2003+A1:2009 Concrete bases and cement sand levelling screeds to receive floorings – Code of Practice.
<b>BS EN 13501</b>	Fire classification of construction products and building elements Part 1: 2007+A1:2009 Classification using test data from fire reaction tests
<b>BS EN 13813:2002</b>	Screed material and floor screeds – screed material – properties and requirements
<b>BS EN 13892</b>	Method of test for screed materials (A multipart standard) Part 2: 2002 Determination of flexural and compressive strength
<b>British Cement Association*</b>	
<b>Publication 48.46</b>	Construction Guide: Laying floor screeds
<b>Tarmac*</b>	
<b>Product Data Sheet no. 110/05</b>	Tarmac Truscreed and Truscreed HD
<b>Product Data Sheet no. 110/06</b>	Tarmac Tufscreen
<b>Product Data Sheet no. 110/03</b>	Tarmac Truscreed 5
<b>Product Data Sheet no. 110/01</b>	Tarmac Screeds
<b>Site Guide No. 4</b>	Tarmac SB Admixture for Masonry. Screed and Rendering Applications
<b>Site Guide No. 2</b>	Tarmac Screeds, Truscreed and Truscreed HD
<b>Site Guide No. 8</b>	Tarmac Point Loading Guidelines
<b>Tarmac Safety Data Sheet</b>	Screeds
<b>Withdrawn British Standards Institute References</b>	
<b>BS 4721 : 1981 (1986)</b>	Specification for ready-mixed building mortars.

\*Current version applicable to all references