SITE GUIDE

SCREED

SITE GUIDE No 2: TARMAC SCREEDS, TRUSCREED AND TRUSCREED HD

INTRODUCTION

Tarmac ready-to-use cement: sand screeds are produced to the highest standards. The materials are factory-mixed, ready for site application and normally workable for 8-12 hours from the time of mixing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE GUIDELINES TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULTS

- Tip screed into a clean banker with a sealed base and keep sheeted. Keep surface damp in hot weather[1]
- Avoid tipping new deliveries onto a dry, porous surface or the remains of a previous load
- Where good bond is important, the concrete surface should be scabbled to expose the aggregate
- Sweep the base concrete clean and remove any gypsum plaster, dust, oil or grease.
- Thoroughly wet the base, preferably by soaking overnight.
- Brush a thin film of cement water slurry evenly over the damp concrete surface
- For best results use a slurry of cement/Tarmac SB Admixture applied to the wetted base
- Use three volumes cement: two volumes SB admixture
- Lay the screed before the cement slurry sets or dries out
- Compact the screed thoroughly over the full thickness by tamping, vibrating or rolling
- Bring to a finish using the minimum of trowelling to achieve the required finish
- Cover the screed with waterproof sheeting as soon as possible and leave in place for at least seven days
- Protect screed from site traffic in its early stages
- Ensure that screed is fully dry before the application of impervious finishes or commissioning of any underfloor heating system

[1] *Refer to weather considerations*

WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

HOT WEATHER

When screed is laid in hot temperatures it must be protected from the heat and sun because this could increase the risk of cracking and shrinkage.

The risk can be reduced by covering the screed (using tarpaulins or plastic sheeting) and care should be taken to prevent any wind tunnelling effect that could cause rapid drying.

COLD WEATHER

The surface temperature of the laid screed (not the air temperature) should be maintained above 5 °C during construction and for 4 to 5 days after laying.

The screed must be protected when laid to prevent damage to the surface due to low curing temperatures, which may extend the screed setting and drying times.

In buildings that are not watertight to prevent the possibility of water leaking onto the screed surface, the screed must be covered after laying.

Post care installation - protection and curing is key

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The tables below give screeding recommendations and advice on how to avoid problems

Action Required
Protect the screed, using a cover for e.g. before installation, reducing the risk of drying out, protection from rain and freezing
Reason
Screed may dry out, cement could be washed out or mix might freeze
Problems Avoided
Lumps in mix
Poor compaction
Weak areas

Action Required
Expose aggregates in base thoroughly e.g. by scabbling for bonded screeds
Reason
Weak surface laitance on base must be removed
Problems Avoided
Poor bond

Action Required
Clean base thoroughly*
Reason
Contaminants can reduce bond or attack cement
Problems Avoided
Poor bond
Sulfate attack from gypsum plaster

Action Required
Wet base before grouting
Reason
To control suction
Problems Avoided
Poor bond and hollowness

Action Required
Apply cement/water slurry**
Reason
Good contact and bond
Problems Avoided
Poor bond and hollowness
Possible lifting

Action Required
Lay screed before grout sets
Reason
Set grout will not work
Problems Avoided
Poor bond and hollowness

Action Required
Compact screed thoroughly (heavy tamping or mechanically)
Reason
To avoid loss of strength and increased shrinkage, surface damage / breaking up from trafficking
Problems Avoided
Poor impact resistance
Cracking

Action Required
Cure the finished screed for 7 days after laying (i.e. cover with plastic sheeting to retain water)**
Reason
All cement-based products need enough water to set and harden properly
Problems Avoided
Cracking
Curling
Dusting
Surface damage

Action Required
Do not overwork surface
Reason
Tends to bring fines to surface
Problems Avoided
Crazing
Dusting
Delamination of floor coverings

*Where bond is especially important, a cement SB admixture slurry may be used.

**The screed surface may be lightly wetted down first, but do not saturate.

REFERENCES

- BS 8204-1 ‘Screeds, bases and in situ floorings’
- BS 8203 ‘Installation of resilient floor coverings’