



Expert Installers of Liquid Screed

Liquid Screed Aftercare Guide





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Site Conditions

The performance and finish achieved by EJS Floor Solutions is dependent on the conditions in which it is installed and for a period thereafter. It is essential the following site conditions are provided during a screed pour and 24 hours thereafter:

The entire area where the screed is to be installed must be frost-free and not subject to temperatures of less than 5°C or more than 30°C. The surface of the screed must be protected from severe draughts and direct sunlight.

The temperature of the area where screed is placed should not fall below 5°C.

The first 48 Hours

Post Installation up to 48 hours screed, having been installed into a suitably sealed building envelope should be protected from ingress of water and extremes of temperature. External windows and door openings should remain closed in order to allow the screed to set. The screed may be trafficked by light foot traffic after 24 to 48 hours from installation. Screed is self curing and therefore does not require a curing membrane. The finished screed should not be excessively heated during this period although keeping the environment at or around 20oC is beneficial. Significant air movement across the screed should be avoided in order to reduce the risk of plastic shrinkage cracking.

A typical 40mm thick screed can be expected to dry to 0.5% moisture content in 40 days under ideal conditions. This can however be greatly affected by actual conditions.

48 hours to 7 days

After 48 hours the screed is ready to begin drying. It is of significant benefit at this stage to provide as much ventilation as is reasonably practicable whilst maintaining protection for the screed from ingress of external water. Windows and doors can remain open for as long as possible, assuming conditions allow, during the working day to provide good air exchange thus removing moisture from the air above the screed allowing the residual moisture to escape. After 72 hours dehumidifiers may be introduced to assist the drying process if desired. Between 72 hours and 7 days any surface laitance should be removed if present by lightly sanding with a rotary floor sander and a medium grit sanding disc or other suitable means of removal. Foot traffic can continue during this period.

After 7 days

The screed can now be loaded and the work area returned to full service. Underfloor heating can be commissioned and run and unlike cement based screeds which cannot be heated for 28days or force dried at all, screeds can be force dried either using the underfloor heating, or using space heaters and fans. The commissioning process starts

with a water temperature (UFH manifold) of 25°C, which is maintained for three days. The water temperature is then raised to the maximum value (max. 55°C) and kept at this level for at least 4 days.

Allow for plenty of ventilation by opening windows on each side of the building.

In either case it is important to remove the moisture from the air above the screed either by ventilation, extraction or dehumidification in order to allow the screed to dry properly. This assists greatly with early preparation for floor coverings. If space heaters are used these should not be of the fossil fuel variety e.g. gas burners as the burning of gas emits moisture back into the air reducing the benefit of heating significantly. Electrical or forced air movement heaters are suitable. Protection during the remainder of the construction period should continue in order to protect the screed from re-wetting which could delay the drying period. It is not however desirable that the screed should be covered with impervious sheeting during construction

Please note: it is essential that the building receives sufficient air changes in order to achieve low air humidity (65% Relative Humidity).

Continue with above procedures until a moisture content of 0.5% (tiling/vinyl) or 1% (carpet) is achieved. Please refer to industry guidance on moisture testing for further information.

Utilising a dehumidifier

After 7 days of the installation of the liquid screeds, introduce heat and utilise a dehumidifier with enough capacity for the m³ area of the building. Use several dehumidifiers if required.

Keep windows and doors closed in order for the dehumidifier to work efficiently.

Continue with above procedures until a moisture content of 0.5% (tiling/vinyl) or 1% (carpet) is achieved. Moisture testing by a CM Tester or by Hair Hygrometer can be arranged upon request at an additional charge.

Floor Preparation Prior

Prior to Floor Covering Installation In accordance with the relevant National Standards for floor coverings the surface of the screed should be inspected and should satisfy the following

- 1. It should be clean and free from chemicals likely to interfere with adhesion
- 2. It should be sound, hard and free from fractures other than planned joints
- 3. It should be free from dust, construction debris and loose surface contamination e.g. mud, building adhesive and bricklaying mortar
- 4. It should be suitably dry or an approved method of moisture management such as a damp proof membrane or uncoupling technology employed (see additional notes)
- 5. Any Underfloor heating must have been commissioned and run.

Useful contacts

Suppliers of Gypsum compatible smoothing compounds:

Uzin Ltd.	+44 (0) 1788 530080	info@uzin.co.uk	www.uzin.co.uk
Weber Ltd.	+44 (0) 8703 330070	mail@netweber.co.uk	www.netweber.co.uk
On Screed Ltd. via CCF Ltd.	+44 (0) 8707 550686	Keith@Thermalscreed.com	www.onscreed.com
Forbo Flooring UK	+44 (0) 8000 282162	Unavailable	www.forbo-flooring.co.uk
F Ball and Co Ltd.	+44 (0) 1538 361633	mail@f-ball.co.uk	www.f-ball.co.uk
Tilemaster Adhesives Ltd.	+44 (0) 8452 080040	mark@tilemasteradhesives.co.uk	www.tilemasteradhesives.co.uk
MCP Ltd.	+44 (0) 1706 212135	sales@multicreteproducts.co.uk	www.multicreteproducts.co.uk
Sika Ltd.	+44 (0) 1707 394444	sales@uk.sika.com	www.gbr.sika.com

Suppliers of Gypsum compatible tile adhesives:

Norcross Ltd.	+44 (0) 1782 524140	sales@norcross-adhesives.com	www.norcross-adhesives.com
N&C Nicobond Ltd.	+44 (0) 2072 475432	head-office@nichollsandclarke.com	www.nichollsandclarke.com
On Screed Ltd. via CCF Ltd.	+44 (0) 8707 550686	Keith@Thermalscreed.com	www.onscreed.com
Granfix Ltd.	+44 (0) 1773 607778	sales@granfix.co.uk	www.tileadhesive.co.uk
Kerakoll Ltd.	+44 (0) 1527 578000	info@kerakoll.co.uk	www.kerakoll.co.uk
Tilemaster Adhesives Ltd.	+44 (0) 8452 080040	mark@tilemasteradhesives.co.uk	www.tilemasteradhesives.co.uk
MCP Ltd.	+44 (0) 1706 212135	sales@multicreteproducts.co.uk	www.multicreteproducts.co.uk
Sika Ltd.	+44 (0) 1707 394444	sales@uk.sika.com	www.gbr.sika.com

Suppliers of uncoupling membranes:

Schluter Systems Ltd.	+44 (0) 1530 813396	technical@schluter.co.uk	www.schluter.co.uk
Dural Ltd.	+44 (0) 1924 360110	duralukitd@netscape.net	www.dural.com
Genesis Systems Ltd.	+44 (0) 1642 713000	Unavailable	www.genesis-aps.com
Norcross Ltd.	+44 (0) 1782 524140	sales@norcross-adhesives.com	www.norcross-adhesives.com

Suppliers of wood flooring adhesives:

Kerakoll Ltd.	+44 (0) 1527 578000	info@kerakoll.co.uk	www.kerakoll.co.uk
Sika Ltd.	+44 (0) 1707 394444	sales@uk.sika.com	www.gbr.sika.com
Bostik Laybond Ltd.	+44 (0) 1785 272625	Unavailable	www.bostik.co.uk

Additional Notes

Moisture testing is carried out using a suitable approved method such as a flooring hygrometer or carbide bomb test.

Once dry the floor should be cleared of any gross debris and then thoroughly vacuumed to remove any small loose dust and debris.

Damp proof membranes can be used on screeds subject to them being unheated, below 1.5% moisture and them having achieved sufficient strength to satisfy the mechanical requirements of the application (minimum 28 days old). Due to the potential inaccuracies of using hygrometers at high humidity levels a direct measurement should be used such as Carbide Bomb or oven dried sample.

If the floor requires priming any primer should be selected for its suitability for use with calcium sulphate or anhydrite screeds. If a smoothing compound is to be used it should ideally be one made using calcium sulphate although subject to suitable priming one based on Portland cement could be used. If a cement based smoothing compound is to be used it is often beneficial to select a water dispersible epoxy primer. If the floor is to be tiled a flexible adhesive based on calcium sulphate is likely to offer the most robust combination. Again, subject to suitable priming, it is possible to use an adhesive based on Portland cement. screeds are also suitable to receive epoxy resin toppings subject to suitable preparation and priming.

Alternatively it may be desirable to use a proprietary uncoupling membrane. These are available for both soft flooring such as vinyl or for tile surfaces. It is a recommendation of BS 5385 that natural stone tiles should be uncoupled from heated screeds. The manufacturers of screeds do not generally manufacture or supply primers, adhesives, damp proofing membranes or uncoupling technology. Whilst advice is based on sound principals and qualified expertise it is recommended that in all instances the relevant manufacturer's advice should be followed in order to ensure suitable warranties are in place.

Typical Schematic

