

Screed – Cement / Sand

To facilitate this ambition of getting the quality right, these checks should take place:

- Carry out level check to ensure minimum thickness
- Check work area is adequately protected from wind, rain and cold weather. Any water penetrating or lying around insulation is impossible to remove
- If bonded screed (25-40mm), ensure base thoroughly prepared, cleaned and slurry coat applied at correct time
- If unbonded screed (min 50mm, not nominal), ensure base flat and DPM / separating layer properly laid
- If floating screed (min 75mm thickness), ensure a flat base with insulation or acoustic quilt laid to manufacturer's recommendations. Insulation to be tightly butted with joints taped. A separating layer will be needed above the insulation
- Site mixed. Cement / sand to be gauged (bucket / box) in forced action mixer and moisture content checked by 'snowball' test
- Screed to be laid in two layers if thicker than 50mm
- Screed to be compacted by roller / hand rammer. If two layers, then top layer to be laid ASAP and hand-compacted after scarifying of lower layer
- Ensure any previous day's screed cleaned back to sound vertical day joint
- Any mesh to be laid in centre of screed. Chicken wire serves no purpose. Mesh should be used in heated screeds, floating and in unbonded screeds that receive rigid finishes
- Screed to be cured by laying polythene on surface and trapped down at edge - minimum seven days for bonded and 24 days for unbonded
- Protect from the effects of cold weather
- Keep traffic off for seven days and then protect
- Arrange for testing as per specification
- Be aware that all screeds crack. Construction joints in concrete will reflect through screed. Whilst current thinking is to screed as large bays as possible, consideration must be given to the applied finish, and joint positions adjusted to suit. Plan the joint positions
- Cracks are particularly caused by sudden change in section, especially at corners
- Granolithic
- Ensure bay sizes and grano thicknesses are controlled. Thickness 20-44mm with bay sizes 15m² respectively for bonded construction. Any thickness more than 40mm should be at least 100mm unbonded
- Base concrete must be fully prepared and aggregate exposed
- Ensure the concrete is thoroughly pre-wetted and slurry coated before laying grano.
- Curing must be a minimum of seven days with close fitting polythene

Our Quality vision:

We will get it right first time on all our projects
by delivering exceptional customer service

