

Crack repairs

Anhydrite screeds can crack where the drying has been too rapid due to excess heat, direct sunshine, or where the building has not been fully weather tight prior to the screed being poured.

Minor cracking is largely aesthetic and does not require repairing. Where the cracking is more severe or where movement can be seen in the screed, the cracks should be repaired using the following procedure. Repairs should only be carried out once the screed has fully dried. Minor cracks of up to 0.5mm width may close during this time.

The cracks should be filled with an Anhydrite compatible filler such as Uzin KR416 or similar. An outline Method Statement would be as follows:-

- 1 Rake out any loose spalled edges of screed from the sides of the crack and vacuum clean any dust or debris that is the cracks.
- 2 Where the cracks are severe it may be necessary to use screed clamps. Grooves should be cut in to the screed at right angles to the crack, in to which the clamps are placed, ready to take the filler.
- 3 Mix the filler, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- 4 Pour this mixture into the cracks (a small plastic measuring jug is ideal for this).
- 5 Use a steel trowel to work the material down into the crack.
- 6 Return to the crack as necessary to top up. If the crack is proving impossible to completely fill, mix up some more material of a thicker consistency and try again.
- 7 Scrape off excess material level with the screed surface using a steel trowel.
- 8 Clean up and dispose of any rubbish to bins provided by others.

Surface Laitance

Unlike most screeds, Screedflo does not usually suffer from laitance. However, in the event that laitance does form, it can usually be removed with a stiff brush, but may require a light sanding with an industrial sander. This should be carried out 1 to 2 weeks after the screed has been laid.

Priming Anhydrite

In common with all screeds, Anhydrite screed must be sealed using a primer, prior to the use of adhesives or levelling compounds. This prevents moisture from being drawn out of any adhesives or smoothing compounds too quickly. Primers are not required where unbonded floor coverings, such as carpets or floating timber floors, are being used.

If a primer is required, it is essential that the surface of the screed is thoroughly cleaned, and all dust or friable material removed. This can usually be accomplished with a stiff brush. The screed should then be swept and vacuumed to remove any remaining dust.

Where the surface of the screed has been contaminated with paint or plaster, this should be completely removed prior to application of the primer. This can be done by scraping, but may require a light sanding of the screed. The surface should then be cleaned as above.

Primers, such as Uzin PE360 or Isocrete Iloseal, should be applied using a brush or roller. The primer should generally be installed by the floor covering contractor to avoid contamination occurring after installation.

When using primers, care should always be taken to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Levelling compounds

When laying some floor coverings, such as vinyls, the use of a levelling compound, such as Uzin NC110 is generally required. These compounds should only be applied once the floor has been primed as described above.

Tiling Adhesives

Most tile adhesives are cement based. As such, they cannot be applied directly to Anhydrite screeds. A primer, as described above, must always be applied prior to the use of cement based tile adhesives.

While care has been taken in the preparation of this document, Screedflo Ltd cannot be held liable for any incorrect information contained within it. The manufacturer's instructions for use and application of the products described should always be followed.

