

ANHYDRITE SCREED

DESCRIPTION & IDENTIFICATION:

Anhydrite screeds are also referred to as Calcium Sulphate or gypsum based screeds and are a mix of fine and coarse aggregates with a calcium sulphate (gypsum) binder, and therefore look similar to a cement sand screed. Often a light colour, almost white, will indicate that the screed is likely to be calcium sulphate based. Other descriptions to identify the screed as anhydrite based can be made by referring to the flooring contractors' supplier or manufacturer, where names such as Lafarge GYVLON or Tarmac TRUFLO identify a commonly used source of this type of underlayment. Anhydrite screeds are not suitable as a wearing surface or for external or internal locations where they can become damp, frequently wet or in saturated areas. The low shrinkage properties of this system make it a preferred choice for deep bed floor levelling specifications whereby the thickness of an anhydrite screed can be typically in the range of 25mm to 80mm, ideal for embedded sub-floor heating systems.

SURFACE PREPARATION:

Before considering fixing tiles to an anhydrite screed there are several essential preparatory steps to consider. The removal of a loose friable layer of surface laitence must be carried out usually 4-6 days after application using appropriate equipment. This will also assist the drying of the screed. Screed drying time is approximately 1mm/day up to 40 mm thickness under ambient temperatures and drying conditions. This will increase for screeds thicker than 40 mm deep and in poor drying conditions. To ensure optimum surface conditions, it is essential that good drying conditions are provided from the day the screed is laid. When first laid the screed should be protected from conditions likely to cause very rapid drying and also atmospheric humidity must be low, i.e. not greater than 65%RH, and the air temperature must be adequate (e.g. 20°C). Good ventilation or the use of dehumidifiers can assist in lowering humidity.