

Floor Finishes

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

- Ensure floor finish levels relate to lift thresholds and staircase top and bottom risers. Levels at door openings are also critical
- Check movement joint details: may require stop-ends
- Is base suitable – level, flatness, moisture, movement joints and construction joints?
- Generally cement / sand screeds up to 50mm thick dry 1mm per day. More than 50mm takes much longer
- Consider using an epoxy DPM where the finish will seal the floor (vinyl / rubber)
- Generally carpet tiles or hessian-backed carpet will allow any vapour through without problem (loose laid or using partial adhesive system)
- Ensure that a full coverage of the specified sand is added to the final coat of any DPM to provide a key for the levelling compound
- Beware using moisture sensitive finish on screed, concrete, polythene or metal. What appears dry now may change over time
- Concrete bases should be six weeks old before laying rigid tiling, and cement / sand screeds three weeks old
- Joints in ceramic tiles should coincide with joints in screed / concrete. Normally 5-10mm max (max area 40m), but 8mm max on heated screeds (3.5mm max if over isolating membrane). Never exceed a 2:1 ratio for bays. Consider extra joints at doorways or other restraints
- Hard finishes generally require soft joints at perimeters
- Ensure that vinyl has acclimatised in the laying area for 24 hours before installation
- Ensure that details prevent any water (cleaning etc.) from reaching under finishes, e.g. from behind toilet panels. Use correct sealant

Note: Vinyl requires a very smooth finish, only normally achieved with smoothing compound. Spreading adhesive on screed tends to pick up sand particles causing bumps under the vinyl

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by delivering exceptional customer service



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- Ensure correct ambient laying temperature as manufacturer's recommendations
- Ensure that weld joints are fully grooved and welded within 24 hours of laying the vinyl to prevent dirt / water ingress underneath

Application

- Ensure joints in concrete and screed base still in line with joints in rigid tiles – if not, correct this. Movement and day joints will reflect through
- Check the quality control when laying semi-dry bed (e.g. mix, mixing, and slab preparation)
- Ensure bedding or adhesive does not bridge movement joints
- Ensure top of semi-dry mix or backs of tiles fully 'grouted' before bedding tiles (terrazzo / marble)
- Ensure solid bedding for rigid tiles fixed with adhesive
- Ensure suitability of latex screed onto underfloor heating screed
- Ensure suitability of adhesive when laying on underfloor heating e.g. temperature
- DPM requirements to suit sub-floor and adhesive coverings
- Check moisture content of sub-floor

Important

Supplier to provide protection to finished areas. In inclement weather vinyl sheet materials require a controlled / heated environment for the execution of the work. The material must be pliable.

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