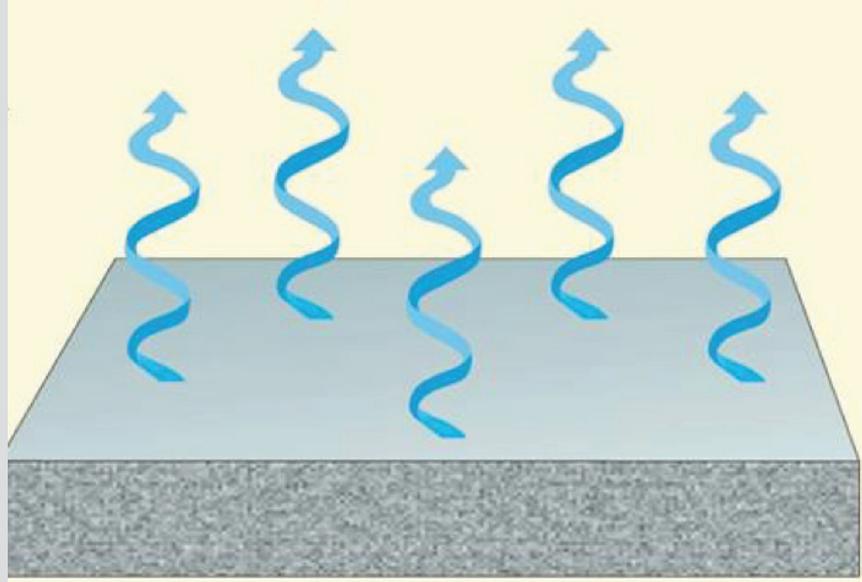




Guidance on the Drying of Cemfloor Flowing Screed



Cemfloor Information Sheet

As with any material, the exact time taken to dry depends on the conditions in which the drying is taking place, in particular the humidity and temperature. To maintain suitable humidity, it is important that there is air movement.

The normal requirement prior to the installation of impermeable floor coverings over a screed is for the moisture in the screed to be no higher than that which produces a relative humidity of no more than 75% (as per hygrometer test defined in BS8201, A.1). Some floor coverings can tolerate a slightly higher level.

The actual required moisture content in the screed (as a % by weight) that produces the required relative humidity will be different for different types of screed. For Cemfloor it is 4%, for some other types of screed, and in particular most flowable screeds, it is necessary to achieve a much lower absolute moisture content so that the drying time would be extended.

Cemfloor has been clearly shown over many years to dry reliably and not to be greatly susceptible to rewetting from damp conditions or spillages etc as are most other screeds.

The following periods are required for a 40mm to 50mm thickness of Cemfloor –

- Before application of tiles using “green screed” adhesives – 7 days.
- Before application of tiles with standard adhesives – 14 to 28 days
- Before application of moisture sensitive or impermeable finishes (such as vinyl) – 21 to 28 days

Time before application of Wooden floors should be as advised by the manufacturer / supplier of the system but would not be more than 28 days (often less).

The above assumes that conditions will be reasonable for drying and that there is sufficient air movement to maintain a relative humidity of no more than 60% RH (after an initial 24 hours curing period during which the screed should be protected from severe draughts). Plainly it is necessary also for there to be no ingress of water from spillages etc.

Cemfloor can, if necessary, be force dried after 7 days by the use of heaters and or dehumidifiers. Underfloor heating, if present, can be commissioned and raised to temperature slowly and will greatly assist drying.

Screeds greater than 50mm in thickness may require slightly extended drying times.

If it is necessary to overlay the screed with a floor finish very quickly, and before it can be dried, then it is possible to apply a DPM (damp proof membrane) to the surface. This will have no detrimental effect on the strength or performance of the Cemfloor.



IRE Tel: 00353 94 9553900

UK Tel: 0044 1415 30 7587

E: info@Cemfloor.co.uk

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