

SITE GUIDE

SCREED

SITE GUIDE No 2: TARMAC SCREEDS, TRUSCREED AND TRUSCREED HD

INTRODUCTION

Tarmac ready-to-use cement:sand screeds are produced to the highest standards. The materials are factory-mixed, ready for site application and normally workable for 8-12 hours from the time of mixing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE GUIDELINES TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULTS

- Tip screed into a clean banker with a sealed base and keep sheeted. Keep surface damp in hot weather
- Avoid tipping new deliveries onto a dry, porous surface or the remains of a previous load
- Where good bond is important, the concrete surface should be scabbled to expose the aggregate
- Sweep the base concrete clean and remove any gypsum plaster, dust, oil or grease.
- Thoroughly wet the base, preferably by soaking overnight.
- Brush a thin film of cement water slurry evenly over the damp concrete surface
- For best results use a slurry of cement/Tarmac SB Admixture applied to the wetted base
- Use three volumes cement:two volumes SB admixture
- Lay the screed before the cement slurry sets or dries out
- Compact the screed thoroughly over the full thickness by tamping, vibrating or rolling
- Bring to a finish using the minimum of trowelling to achieve the required finish
- Cover the screed with waterproof sheeting as soon as possible and leave in place for at least seven days
- Protect screed from site traffic in its early stages
- Ensure that screed is dry before the application of impervious finishes

The tables below give screeding recommendations and advice on how to avoid problems

Action Required

Protect before use from drying out, rain and freezing

Reason

Mix may dry out, cement could be washed out or mix might freeze

Problems Avoided

Lumps in mix
Poor compaction
Weak areas

Action Required

Expose aggregates in base thoroughly e.g. by scabbling for bonded screeds

Reason

Weak surface laitance on base must be removed

Problems Avoided

Poor bond

Action Required

Clean base thoroughly

Reason

Contaminants can reduce bond or attack cement

Problems Avoided

Poor bond
Sulfate attack from gypsum plaster

Action Required

Wet base before grouting

Reason

To control suction

Problems Avoided

Poor bond and hollowness

Action Required

Apply cement/water slurry**

Reason

Good contact and bond

Problems Avoided

Poor bond and hollowness
Possible lifting

For more details contact:
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Action Required

Lay screed before grout sets

Reason

Set grout will not work

Problems Avoided

Poor bond and hollowness

Action Required

Compact screed thoroughly (heavy tamping or mechanically)

Reason

To avoid loss of strength and increased shrinkage

Problems Avoided

Poor impact resistance

Cracking

Action Required

Cure the finished screed for 7 days after laying (i.e. cover with plastic sheeting to retain water)**

Reason

All cement based products need enough water to set and harden properly

Problems Avoided

Cracking

Curling

Dusting

Surface damage

Action Required

Do not overwork surface

Reason

Tends to bring fines to surface

Problems Avoided

Crazing

Dusting

**The screed surface may be lightly wetted down first, but do not saturate.

*Where bond is especially important, a cement SB admixture slurry may be used