

## Preparation & Finishing Details

Whatever the flooring system, the correct preparation of the substrate is vital.

Conren's Technical and Site Survey Departments offer consultation on individual project requirements and ensure that the appropriate method of preparation is selected.

### **IMPORTANT FACTORS**

Consideration must be given to the age and condition of the substrate.

New concrete or cementitious substrates should have been placed for at least 28 days but, most importantly, give a Protimeter reading of less than 75% RH (Relative Humidity).

Surface laitance must be removed, as should any surface sealer or curing membrane, by mechanical means i.e. shotblasting or diamond planing / grinding.

Existing concrete should be free from any surface contamination such as oil, grease, paint and rubber that will otherwise impair the bonding capabilities of the system.

There are several recognised methods of preparation both by chemical means and mechanical methods :-

### **ENCLOSED DUSTFREE SHOTBLASTING**

This method of preparation is extremely effective over large areas of concrete, both old and new. The shotblast system is dustfree and can be used safely in hygiene sensitive areas such as food production plants prior to the installation of Conren's food safe flooring systems.

# Preparation

### **DIAMOND PLANING & GRINDING**

For smaller areas of floor, or areas which are inaccessible to the shotblasting equipment, a handheld diamond planer or grinder can be used. Again, a dust extractor unit is fitted. In addition, large scale specialist diamond grinding techniques are also available.

### **WATER IN CONCRETE**

It is important to take into account the moisture content in new powerfloated concrete slabs prior to the installation of a coating or screed.

The drying rate of a 150mm - 200mm powerfloated concrete slab can run into many months. Where fast track construction requires early application of coatings and screeds, it is essential that steps are taken to ensure the moisture within the slab does not have a detrimental effect on the system.

Conren have developed WD Aquatect water suppressant / surface DPM to overcome the problem of excess moisture in the new concrete, or old slabs where the presence of a DPM is suspect. It is applied to shotblasted concrete before installation of the surface finish.

Conren's Field Surveyors offer a moisture investigation service, and guidance notes on **Moisture in Concrete** are available on request from the Technical Service Department.

### **OIL CONTAMINATION**

Lightly contaminated areas may be removed with Conren XD80 Degreaser. However, any residue of oil within the slab can prevent the effective adhesion of floor coatings and screeds. Conren offer a tried and tested method of preparation to combat the problem of oil contamination. Please consult the Conren Technical Service Department for advice.

## ***TIMBER, METAL & OTHER SUBSTRATES***

Most epoxy and polyurethane systems can be applied to other substrates including metal and timber. However, it is advisable to check with the Conren Technical Service Department for the recommended preparation requirements for each substrate.

## ***REPAIRS***

It may be necessary to carry out repairs to the concrete prior to installing a floor system. Conren Patchfast is ideal for isolated areas, including the repair of arriss edges and crack repairs.

In addition, Conren offer a range of screed systems suitable for larger areas.

## ***DETAILING & FINISHING***

For many projects, particularly where hygiene issues are paramount, those all important detailing and finishing touches enhance the chosen floor system.

Coving can be formed using Conren's high performance coving grade screeds and finished in the chosen floor system to provide uniformity to the floor.

In many instances, it is necessary to accomodate drainage channels and gullies. Typical examples / diagrams of such detailing can be found under this section in the *Surface at its Best* brochure.

## ***JOINTS***

Conren offer joint systems to suit all manner of construction methods, including crack induced / sawn joints and preformed expansion joints.

It is important that movement joints are incorporated throughout the entire floor system. Correctly installed flexible joint systems provide an aesthetic finish to the floor and improve wear and tear on arriss edges.

## ***CONTRACTING SERVICE***

Conren's *Total Responsibility* contracting service offers a complete installation service. Our skilled operatives will carry out all aspects of preparation and detailing, through to the completion of the chosen flooring system. As part of this quality service, a full Risk Assessment is carried out and a detailed Health & Safety, COSHH and Method Statement incorporated into a site specific Working Manual prior to commencement of work on site. All our operatives are fully trained in all aspects of flooring and, in addition, we operate an ongoing programme of training in areas such as Environmental Health & Safety Awareness, confined space working and use of specialist preparation equipment.

## ***FURTHER ASSISTANCE***

Conren has over 30 years' experience in the manufacture and installation of resin floor systems. We are available to contend with most problems in the field and our contracting service is backed by a comprehensive technical and after sales service.

As the information given in this data sheet is necessarily brief, more detailed notes on **Moisture in Concrete** and a copy of the FeRFA Guide to Specification and Application of Synthetic Resin Flooring are available from the Technical Service Department.

Conren is a member of FeRFA (The Resin Flooring Association) and The British Coatings Federation and is an ISO 9002 accredited company.

## ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

Further information on preparation and correct specification of resin flooring systems is also available from the following:-

### **FeRFA (The Resin Flooring Association)**

**Tel: 01252 342072 Fax: 01252 333901**

*'FeRFA Guide to the Specification and Application of Synthetic Resin Flooring'*

### **CFA (Contract Flooring Association)**

**Tel: 0115 941 1126 Fax: 0115 953 2888**

*'Guide to Contract Flooring'*

### **BRE (Building Research Establishment) via CRC Publishers**

**Tel: 0207 505 6622 Fax: 0207 505 6606**

*'Floors and Flooring' and various other reference notes available.*

For assistance and advice on all aspects of Preparation and Finishing Details contact the Technical Service Department.

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