

2. Laying of Screed

- 2.1. Establish common reference line (usually marked on the wall at 1m) to determine the correct level for the flooring to be laid.



- 2.2. Set out level pegs at regular interval.



- 2.3. Apply a bonding agent (e.g. slurry coat) as per manufacturer's instructions.



- 2.4. Tamp down the screed to remove any void and finish with trowel float and ensure no undulations.



- This is to prevent any mismatch in levels, for example between timber flooring in bedrooms and ceramic /marble/granite flooring in living room.
- The finished level of floor screed for timber flooring should be controlled so that the timber strip could be laid at least 1-2mm higher than the divider strip.
- These pegs help to control the thickness and level of the floor screed.
- Floor screed should be applied before the slurry coat loses its tackiness.
- To achieve a good and consistent mortar mix, pre-packed mortar is preferred over the conventional cement and sand mortar mix.
- The screed mortar is preferred to be polymer latex fortified.
- For floor screed of thickness more than 50mm, a non-oxidising metal-mesh should be placed in the middle as reinforcement.
- Steel trowel float is recommended to achieve the required smoothness of the floor screed.



Preparatory Works

2.9. Check moisture content of the screed.



Remarks

- The moisture content should be within the tolerance specified by timber manufacturer. Moisture content should be measured using meter (e.g. concrete encounter meter) designed for measuring moisture content of floor screed.
- High moisture content of floor screed can cause defects in the timber flooring.

3. Sorting of Timber Strip Flooring

3.1. For timber species with large colour variation, it is advisable to sort the timber strips into different colour categories before installation. Timber strips with obvious tonality difference should not be used.



- Timber strips within a unit should be selected from the same category to minimise colour variation.

4. Conditions that must be fulfilled before laying Timber Flooring

4.1. The building envelop should be enclosed and weather-tight, with all the external windows and doors installed. The window glazing should be installed and kept closed at all times.



4.2. All wet trades at the surrounding areas, including masonry, plastering, tiling, etc should be completed and thoroughly dry before laying of timber flooring.

- It is a bad practice to use only plastic sheets to seal up window openings as these are ineffective in preventing ingress of rain water.

- It is important to note that construction dampness is hazardous to timber flooring.

