

TECHNICAL BULLETIN No. 42

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this Technical Bulletin is to describe the available procedures for the preparation of sub-floor where old vinyl floor coverings have been uplifted, leaving a bitumen adhesive residue.

1. INTRODUCTION

There are two methods that can be considered, one which is the preferred and more technically correct and successful approach, albeit more costly, and a second that has been adapted to accommodate situations where budget constraints may present a challenge, and specification criteria may not necessarily be that rigorous.

It must, however, be appreciated that the latter of the two may not constitute good flooring practice but has proved to be successful on many occasions. With this approach, no guarantee is however given or implied.

2. METHODS

2.1 Preparation by mechanical means combined with a cementitious self-levelling compound.

2.1.1 It is recommended that a person who is qualified or experienced in cementitious finishes be consulted on this matter prior to pursuing this as an option, as it does carry a certain degree of risk.

2.1.2 It is also highly recommended that this approach once adopted, should only be carried out by a contractor who is capable and qualified to undertake this scope of works.

2.1.3 The sub-floor needs to be mechanically prepared either by scarifying and then diamond grinding, or just diamond grinding the substrate to ensure it is smooth and free from bitumen residue or other defects.

2.1.4 Once complete, it may be necessary to apply a reliable moisture barrier in order to prevent any moisture leaching to the surface as this will impact negatively on the adhesive and the new floor covering.

2.1.5 Once the moisture barrier has cured then a reliable self-levelling compound can be applied to the surface and left to cure.

Note all points as stated in 2.1 above are not our area of expertise, therefore, it is strongly recommended that all products and processes adopted are applied strictly in accordance with the respective manufacturer's policies and procedures for carrying out the referred scope of works.

2.2 Preparation by other means combined with a cementitious smoothing compound (Pavelite).

2.2.1. Uplift existing vinyl floor covering.

2.2.2. Remove all bitumen adhesive by using a paint scraper or any other suitable device.

2.2.3. Sweep or vacuum the sub-floor thoroughly to remove all dust and grit.

2.2.4. Apply FloorworX No. 33 bonding liquid to the sub-floor by means of a sheepskin paint roller. Work in well in both directions. Allow to dry for approximately 45 minutes.

2.2.5. Apply FloorworX Pavelite mixed with FloorworX No. 33 bonding liquid and water. (Follow mixing procedures as stated below in section 3).

3. MIXING PROCEDURE FOR PAVELITE

3.1.1. It is advisable not mix more than 20kg (1 x bag) of FloorworX Pavelite at any one time.

3.1.2. Firstly mix the water and FloorworX No. 33 bonding liquid together. Thereafter mix in the FloorworX Pavelite Powder.

3.1.3. **Mixing ratios/Areas of application:**

Residential / Medium 20kg Pavelite + 4lt water + 1lt bonding liquid

Heavy 20kg Pavelite + 2.5lt water + 2.5lt bonding liquid

Commercial 20kg Pavelite + 5lt bonding liquid

- 3.1.4. Ensure that the mixture is mixed to a lump-free and smooth creamy texture.
- 3.1.5. Do not allow to stand for more than 5 minutes before application.
- 3.1.6. Apply the first coat of FloorworX Pavelite with a flat steel plaster trowel, ensuring all areas are covered. Expected coverage is in the vicinity of 12.5m² per 20kg bag of Pavelite at 1.0mm thickness, dependant on the condition of the sub-floor. DO NOT try to float the Pavelite as you will end up with a lot of trowel marks.
- 3.1.7. Allow the first coat of FloorworX Pavelite to dry for approximately 2 hours depending on the ambient temperature.
- 3.1.8. Apply the second coat of FloorworX Pavelite as per above ratios at approximately 1mm thickness and allow to dry overnight. If necessary apply a third coat as per the above ratios.
- 3.1.9. When the FloorworX Pavelite has dried thoroughly rub down any trowel marks or high spots using a carborundum stone or similar.
- 3.1.10. Sweep or vacuum thoroughly to remove all dust and grit.

4. ADHESIVES AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

4.1 Note the addition of FloorworX No. 33 to FloorworX Pavelite will harden the surface, extending the flash off period of adhesives. Cognisance must be taken of this prior to installation of floor coverings.

4.2 Apply appropriate FloorworX adhesive. After flash-off of the adhesive is achieved, lay the specified floor covering.

(See FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 35: FloorworX Adhesives.)

Follow the applicable installation procedures and maintenance instructions relative to the floor covering being installed.

For maintenance, see FloorworX Technical Bulletin No. 38: Cleaning and Maintenance of FloorworX floor coverings.



For more information please contact the **FloorworX TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT** by sending your query to technical@floorworx.co.za



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