



# Technical Bulletin No 42 - FloorworX Floor Coverings

## Preparation of Sub-floor with Bitumen Residue

The purpose of this 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

Two methods 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 before 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 work.

2.1.3 The subfloor 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 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.

- 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 a suitable bonding liquid to the sub-floor using a sheepskin paint roller. Work well in both directions. Allow drying for the recommended period.
- 2.2.5. Apply a Cementitious Smoothing Compound *mixed* with suitable Bonding Liquid and water if required.  
**(NB – Always follow the respective supplier’s mixing instructions).**

## 3. APPLICATION OF CEMENTITIOUS SMOOTHING COMPOUND:

- 3.1.1. It is advisable never to mix more than you can work with at any one time.
- 3.1.2. Always follow the Suppliers recommended mixing instructions.
- 3.1.4. Ensure that the mixture is mixed to a lump-free and smooth creamy texture.
- 3.1.5. Do not allow it to stand for more than the prescribed time before application.
- 3.1.6. Apply the first coat as recommended. Allow sufficient time to dry – this will be influenced by ambient temperature.
- 3.1.8. Apply the second coat – if necessary, and allow to dry. If necessary and only if permissible, apply a third coat as per the Suppliers instructions.
- 3.1.9. Once thoroughly dry, 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 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 floorcoverings.***

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