

First of all, make sure that your sub-floor is fully dry, reactions can occur where there is excessive moisture content. Start off by preparing your sub-floor. Make sure it is clean, free of any sharp edges or spots that can puncture your tanking membranes. Make sure that any cavities in the lower walls or floor are filled or blocked to stop screed pushing through the membranes and leaking out.



Now you need to go about tanking the sub-floor. Use a minimum 1000 Gauge DPM and spread the DPM(s) across the sub floor, making sure that all joints are taped. Ensure that the DPM is pushed tightly down to the wall base and lap the membrane up the walls or stud work around 5-6" above your finished floor datum. Make sure that all internal and external corners are pushed in tight and neatly folded (imagine you are wrapping a present!)



You should end up with a waterproof area, free of holes or gaps for the screed to escape. Screed working its way underneath insulation or membrane will result in all your efforts floating to the top of your screed.

If you are installing Underfloor heating, you will no doubt have a build-up. The Last section still applies – you should still tank underneath your insulation.

Your Next step will be to install your floor insulation. Regardless of thickness, you need to lay these, tightly over your tanked sub-floor making sure you have no voids underneath your feet. Try to avoid having any PIR boards rocking, if they are unsteady, use some sand or similar to blind underneath and replace ensuring the rocking has stopped. You may wish to use a strong duct or foil tape to seal the joints between the boards.



Now that your floor insulation is installed, its time to install your top tanking membrane, this will create the final watertight layer between the insulation and/or sub-floor and your screed. **DO NOT STAPLE ANY UNDERFLOOR HEATING PIPES UNTIL THIS MEMBRANE IS INSTALLED. IF WE ARRIVE ON SITE AND YOU DON'T HAVE THIS MEMBRANE UNDERNEATH YOUR UNDERFLOOR HEATING PIPES, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO INSTALL THE SCREED AND CANCELLATION CHARGES AS STATED IN OUR T'S & C'S WOULD APPLY.**

The process of installing this top tanking layer is the same as the first, making sure that the membranes are tucked tight into the bottom corners and lapped up against the walls 5-6 "above your screed datum level. Screed by its moisture and sand content is very heavy. If the membrane is not tucked tight into and around corners, the weight of the screed will rip your secured membrane away from the walls. This will create voids and cavities in and around your screed.



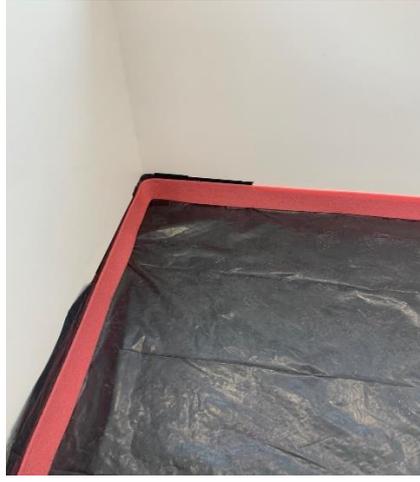
Now that you have your top tanking membrane in place, you can concentrate on your underfloor heating. Unless you have restricted depths, you should be looking to install your underfloor heating using clip rails and/or staples. Standard egg crate systems are EXTREMELY buoyant, and we strongly recommend steering clear of using them with liquid screeds as we accept no liability if they end up floating on the top of your screed – yes, it does happen! Low profile crate systems however are generally fine as long as they are secured properly and unable to lift up.

When installing your underfloor heating pipes, it is important to remember that it must be secure. When pipes are full, they are still buoyant. Try to ensure that your loops are secured with 5 staples as shown below and, on the straights, make sure you have a staple at least every 400mm. If you are using clip rails, then make sure you also have staples in between each rail for added security.

Once you have installed your underfloor heating, its time to install your expansion edging and any required expansion joints. Please read the following section to see what you require.

Expansion Edging and Crack reduction

You should install a minimum 8mm perimeter edging strip around the perimeter of EVERY area to be screeded including in and around door thresholds. This applies regardless of whether you have underfloor heating or not. Screed expands and contracts, naturally by humidity alone and it requires this expansion to be in place to do that.



Door Thresholds

Door thresholds are a weak point of the floor and require a man-made break to be installed during the process of screeding. You can use something as quick and easy as a strip of hardboard, or if you are a perfectionist, you may wish to cut some 100mm strips of 10 or 12mm shutter ply and staple some 8mm expansion edging to both sides of it.

When making these shutters, they should be a few mm's oversized so that when we have poured your screed, we can wedge them into place across your door thresholds. **PLEASE DO NOT INSTALL THESE YOURSELF, as it blocks the line of site on our floor lasers.** Please do make/prepare them though.



L-SHAPES, courtyards & swimming pool surrounds

Surround screeds and L-shaped areas tend to break on corners if stress reduction applications are not put into place. These are major stress points on a screed, and you should do all you can to prevent it. **As shown in the pictures below**, the following will start to occur on corners if reduction methods are not in place.



You should install something similar to the below pictures to stop this happening – again, use shutter ply, staple 8mm expansion edging to both sides and make sure they are secure. The screed will push through them if they are not.



Make sure once your preparation is complete, that the area to be screeded is cleaned of dust and debris as this can compromise the finished look and texture of the floor.

Preparation for the day of the screed

You must ensure that the harmful UV rays of the sun do not reach your finished floor throughout the curing process, especially through glass such as windows, bi-fold doors and Velux windows. This creates solar heat gain which, in turn, speed dries the floor causing major cracking, blemishing the finish, and compromising the integrity of the floor.

You must ensure that you have enough depth available above the underfloor heating pipes (if installed) or the floor at the very highest point. For all standard screeds this would be 30mm. Other screeds are available if lower depths are required, starting from 15mm.

Windows must be on the night lock position throughout the curing process to allow moisture to escape, but not wide open as this will cause downdraught's which can cause cracking and affect the integrity of the screed. Doors must be kept closed other than for entry and exit purposes.

On the day of the screed, we MUST have access to an OUTSIDE tap, with good pressure and a watertight area to wash out our pump, pipes, and tools. Usually, the equivalent to around 2-3 wheelie bins full of sandy sloppy muck. This can be a lined trough made out of scaffold boards, a lined skip or similar.

Our working area and the area to be screeded must be clean, clear of any mess, debris hoovered off the floor in preparation for screed. Hold ups on site may result in waiting charges.

Finally – failure to carry out any of the above may mean that we would be unable to carry out your screed resulting in cancellation charges as per our Terms and conditions.