



## **SUBSTRATE PREPARATION**

### **for PUMP-APPLIED CEMENTITIOUS FLOORING & SCREEDS**

**If a Slab is only as good as the Ground it is sitting on, then a Screed is only as good as the Slab it is laid on!** - bottom line: Preparation ! **PREPARATION !! PREPARATION !!!**

It matters little whether the screed is 100mm thick Concrete, 50mm thick Sand/Cement or a 10mm thick Polymer Modified Cementitious pump applied screed, poor preparation will almost certainly result in failure – usually by debonding.

In 1993, as part of their “*In-situ floorings*” standards, the BSI published **BS8204, Part 3** –  
“*Code of practice for polymer modified cementitious wearing surfaces*”  
and Section 7 is dedicated to: “*Surface preparation*” !

For ‘**New concrete bases**’, Clause 7.2, paragraph 2, states: “The laitance on insitu bases and any surface sealers or curing compounds should be entirely removed by suitable mechanized equipment, e.g. shot blasting or scabbling, to expose cleanly the coarse aggregate”. It goes on to say, in paragraph 4, that “All loose debris and dirt should be removed preferably by vacuum equipment. These operations should be delayed until shortly before the flooring is laid to avoid the risk of further accumulation of dirt.”

For ‘**Old concrete bases**’, Clause 7.3 enlarges on the above by including “All surface contamination, e.g. oil, paint and rubber, ..’ and promotes the use of a planing machine to achieve the required ‘.. sound and stable surface of exposed coarse aggregate.’

Clause 7.3 also suggests the use of the ‘Water Drop Test’, whereby a droplet of water is applied to the prepared surface from a height of 10mm. If the droplet forms a convex ‘blob’, which does not spread laterally or soak into the concrete surface within a few minutes, then contamination may still be present and further floor preparation may be necessary.

The Concrete Advisory Service, the Concrete Society and Product Manufacturers, also endorse the above BSI recommendations.

**CG Flooring Systems Limited**, on their part, have adopted these BSI recommendations as part of their ‘standard method of operation’ for the application of polymer modified cementitious pumped screeds.

We also pay particular attention to the application of primer bonding agents, as experience has shown that surface priming / sealing is as important a part of the ‘preparation’ as the quality and cleanliness of the concrete substrate.

Attention to detail and compliance with the BSI and product manufacturers recommendations, is the basic policy of **CG Flooring Systems Limited** for the application of pump-applied cementitious screeds and as a result, - ‘*we probably lay the best pump-applied flooring and screeds in the country!*’

***For more information on our Company, Products and range of Services, please call, or visit our website.***