



# 'GOING-ON' @ GYVLON

JUNE 2011

## Joints are not just for Sundays !

One of the issues we come across when discussing screeds is the need for joints.

Most people should now be aware that **Anhydrite screeds require fewer joints than traditional Sand and Cement screeds**. This clearly has huge advantages when considering acoustic transmission pathways, and also aesthetic considerations for floor coverings. Floor coverings should reflect any joints in the screed, so the fewer the joints the better. Larger bay sizes should also help reduce labour and material costs

These larger bay sizes should also be taken into account when considering layout and programming the days work. Typically Sand and cement bay sizes are 36m<sup>2</sup> in unheated screeds with maximum linear length of 5-7 meters. Heated bay size of 15m<sup>2</sup> is normally acceptable. Bearing in mind that Sand and Cement screed will crack, shrink and curl from all the joints formed in it, this leads to more costs in the remedial work that should be carried out.

**Anhydrite screeds do not curl, have minimal shrinkage, and are highly crack resistant, this clearly offers a huge advantage over Sand and Cement screed.**

Gyvlon bay sizes are considerably larger. In an unheated screed you could have a bay size of 1000m<sup>2</sup>, not exceeding 45 linear meters. In heated screeds UFH manufacturers will have their own guidelines for joint layouts, but we would expect them to be in line with 300m<sup>2</sup> not exceeding 25 linear meters providing this is a single heated zone. There clearly should be joints between independent heating circuits.

**JOINT MOVEMENTS**

On larger pours the following guidelines may be of use when considering the layout of any day-work or bay joints during screed placement.

**Max. 40m**

25m 1000m<sup>2</sup>

25m 1000m<sup>2</sup>

**NORMAL SCREEDING CONDITIONS**  
A bay joint is required at this position as the total screed area is in excess of 1000m<sup>2</sup>

**Note:** if construction joints are present in the base then additional jointing will be necessary

**SCREEDING CORRIDORS**  
In areas with large aspect ratios, such as corridors Lafarge Gyvlon recommend a maximum bay length of 40m before installation of a construction joint.

20m

15m 300m<sup>2</sup>

**UNDERFLOOR HEATING**  
Lafarge Gyvlon recommends that the maximum bay size when used in conjunction with underfloor heating is 300m<sup>2</sup>. Underfloor Heating manufacturers have their own guidelines for the positioning of movement joints within the screed; however it is important to note that a joint should be present between two independent heating circuits to allow for thermal movement within the screed and differential temperature gradients.

Common sense if nothing else should dictate that construction joints should always be reflected in the screed, but room shape should also be a consideration.

It is also necessary to note that the shape of the room can also affect the requirements for bay joints. The following guidelines highlight our recommendations with regards to placement of joints in relation to the shape of the room and area screeded

1000m<sup>2</sup>

B 1000m<sup>2</sup>

C (500m<sup>2</sup>)

No joint required as the proportional section is the main bay and the corner reflects into the main bay

Joint required as the corner reflects outwards

No joint required unless specified as a construction or day joint

**If you are unsure where joints should be placed then contact the Gyvlon team for advice, or to arrange a RIBA approved CPD Presentation.**



For more information on GYVLON visit our website

[www.gyvlon.co.uk](http://www.gyvlon.co.uk)

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