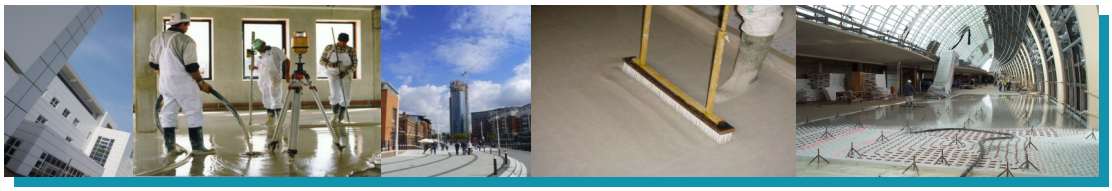

DPM with Gyvlon Screeds

" can I put a surface DPM on a Gyvlon screed? "

The simple answer to this question is

YES

(providing certain criteria are met)

Within this article we use the term 'moisture suppressing'; this describes all-surface DPM systems currently available.

In general surface applied DPM systems do not stop the passage of moisture, they actually allow the passage of moisture from the screed to the floor finishes, but at a greatly reduced rate. Best advice will always be that it would be better to dry the screed rather than use a surface DPM.

DON'T FORGET

that unlike sand/cement screed, Gyvlon can be force dried after just one week by use of good ventilation, heaters, dehumidifiers and even under floor heating, this can often be far more cost effective than utilizing a vapour suppressing DPM.

Obviously Lafarge Gyvlon cannot guarantee the performance of somebody else's DPM, indeed, reassurances should be sought from the DPM manufacturer that the product is suitable for calcium sulfate based screeds with regards to overall performance and vapor transmission rates.

We can however comment on the effect that trapping moisture within the screed has on the binder. There has always been a fear that Gyvlon degrades when it gets wet and then dries. Independent studies have been carried out on generic materials confirming that this is untrue. Lafarge Gyvlon is able to confirm that following trials of our material there is no apparent deterioration in the screed when a moisture suppressing DPM is applied at moderate background moisture levels. (see below)

Care must be taken regarding the amount of moisture trapped in the screed, as this will have an effect on the strength attainment. Applying a moisture suppressing DPM will effectively cap the strength of the screed and so it should not be applied until the screed has attained sufficient strength to be suitable for the finished application. This time period will vary depending on site conditions but bearing in mind that the strengths quoted by screed manufacturers are based on 28 day tests carried out in lab conditions, and that site conditions may be considerably worse, we recommend that the screed is at least older than this and that the moisture content is less than <1.5% (or 87% RH).

We are currently working with a number of DPM manufacturers, and if other manufacturers would like our assistance in developing their own systems, we would be happy to be involved.

Heated Screeds

Heated screeds remain a little more complex. There are currently very few DPM manufacturers who are comfortable in offering a surface DPM to go over a heated screed, whether it is a Calcium sulfate screed or sand/cement screed.

Indeed we would recommend that the underfloor heating system be commissioned and run prior to the application of surface finishes regardless of the type of screed used.

Lafarge Gyvlon have undertaken to generate some internal test results again with specific reference to the screed in order to determine the effect of moisture entrapment in the heated screed. Until this test data becomes available for analysis we are unable to offer advice on the use of Surface DPM's on heated screeds.

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