

FLOORING

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q&A

ARE THERE SPECIFIC MAXIMUM VALUES FOR MOISTURE CONTENT IN CONCRETE FLOORS, PRIOR TO LAYING EPOXY FLOORING?

Testing concrete screeds for excess moisture is a common epoxy flooring requirement, where epoxy (impermeable membrane) coatings are to be installed over them. While several standard moisture test methods are available, no single test shows everything that should be considered in choosing the timing of when an epoxy coating can be applied.

Fortunately, experience and some simple tests can help determine if the moisture content in a screed is within an acceptable range for the application of epoxy coatings.

The simplest way of testing is to take several sheets of clear plastic about 150mm x 150mm and seal around the edges with insulation tape. Leave these sheets overnight and inspect the next day. If the screed is darker under the plastic and there are water droplets under the plastic sheeting then this represents moisture still present in the screed.

The rule of thumb in my opinion is anything over 4% is too high to apply epoxy coatings over. Some experts will argue that 5% is still acceptable. Always remember that this is a moisture percentage and not a moisture level.

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