

Site Conditions

- During **the first 48 hours** post installation, the building space must remain watertight and free from draughts. The ambient temperature must be between 3°C and 30°C.
- **After 48 hours**, the screed area should be **ventilated by opening windows and doors**. These should be closed overnight and reopened the following day. Removing moisture aids the drying of the screed. Cold air and humidity delay the drying process.
- If windows cannot be opened, dehumidifiers can be used after 72 hours to remove moist air and support drying without the risk of screed cracking or curling in the screed.
- Foot traffic is permitted after 24 to 48 hours.
- If Under Floor Heating (UFH) is installed, site commissioning can start after 7 days.
- Erection of non-load bearing partitions can start after 7 days.
- Small MEWPs and other heavy objects used by subsequent trades may be used after 7 days, but the use of plywood to spread their weight is required. Please refer to your local ANHYDRITEC representative for guidance.
- **Do not hose down the screed with water** to clean the building space, as that will prolong the drying process.



 Loading the screed with plasterboard and site materials is permitted after 7 days

but covering it for any amount of time could prolong the drying process.



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Drying Times

The most critical part of the screed drying process is the site environment, rather than the treatment of its surface (sanding). Best practice tips:

- ☒ Good ventilation 48 hours after installation greatly improves drying time.
- ☒ Low temperatures inside the building significantly prolong drying time.
- ☒ The use of underfloor heating 7 days post-installation reduces drying time.
- ☒ High humidity levels (> 70% relative humidity (RH)) negatively impact drying time.

According to the industry screed standard BS8204, the drying rates for standard traditional and flowing screeds are **approximately 1 mm / day up to a thickness of 40mm** and then ½ mm/day for thicknesses thereafter, in optimal conditions (20° C and 65% RH).

☒ Our proprietary Fast-Drying (FD) and Early-to-Cover (E2C) technology, added to select Gyvlon screed brands, cuts drying time in half compared to our older-generation screeds. These screeds are compatible with DPMs (damp-proof membranes) and MVS (moisture vapour suppressants), allowing tiles and vinyl to be laid at higher moisture contents. This means the screed no longer needs to fully dry out to the standard 0.5% MC / 75% RH before covering, significantly reducing overall covering times (see the **Floor Covering** section for details).

ASSISTED DRYING

⚠ Accelerating drying times must be done with caution, as forcing moist air out of the building at the wrong time can cause curling or cracking of the screed. Rules of thumb:

- Dehumidifiers can be used 72 hours after installation to aid drying.
- Fossil fuel fired heaters (e.g. gas heaters) must not be used as they increase humidity.
- If underfloor heating (UFH) is installed, commissioning can commence 7 days post-installation.
- Using the main heat source or temporary mobile heating units accelerate screed drying.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING (UFH) COMMISSIONING

All UFH must be commissioned before the application of floor coverings. According to BS1264 and manufacturer's warranties, a heating engineer must issue a signed record on the initial heating and the subsequent commissioning to all relevant parties.

UFH COMMISSIONING SEQUENCE:

1. Start at ambient floor temperature, approx. 20° C and maintain for 24 hours.
2. Increase the temperature at the manifold by 5° C every 24 hrs until the maximum commissioning water flow temperature is reached (up to 45° C).
3. Maintain maximum temperature for 5 days.
4. Reduce by 5° C per day back to the starting point.
5. The system should be turned off and allowed to cool for 48 hours prior to moisture testing.



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Moisture Measurement

Most common testers seen are the electronic resistance meters which measure from the surface down. These vary wildly in accuracy and abilities and therefore **can only be used as a rough guide** (wet or dry).



Relative humidity testers are a British standard test for most screeds, but as stated in BS8204 P7, they are not accurate for Calcium Sulphate screeds at higher moisture contents (above 85% RH).



The best way to get a definite value on a Gyvlon screed is to use the BS8204 P7 recommendations for either a CM (Carbide Method) on-site test (BS EN 13892-10) or oven drying at 40° C to give % moisture content (% MC). Oven-dry samples should be wrapped in plastic immediately after sampling and sent to us.



A rough guide to conversion between %MC & %RH is in the table below.

%RH	%MC
90%	1.5%
85%	1.0%
80%	0.7%
75%	0.5%



Screed Preparation

Standard Gyvlon screeds (ECO, XTR, THERMIO and FINIO)

Should be sanded ideally 3 to 10 days post installation depending on the site conditions, to open the surface and remove any loose friable material (laitance) that may have formed and aid the screed drying process of the screed.



Advanced Gyvlon screeds (ECO FD E2C, XTR FD E2C and THERMIO MAX FD E2C) do not require sanding.

If installed correctly they should not require preparation except for the standard industry recommendations, "Contract Floor Association" recommend mechanically abrading and vacuuming the screed surface just before the floor finishes application, to remove site contamination, and provide a mechanical key for the selected priming agent.



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Floor Covering

Floor covering subfloor preparation according to CFA and British standards

All screeds and concrete require a degree of mechanical preparation to remove any surface contamination likely to affect adhesion of the subsequent coverings just before final floor laying. Contamination can include surface treatments such as hardeners or curing agents, or construction debris (mud, plaster, mortar, paint, etc).

Before applying the final floor covering and/or adhesives, the screed needs to be tested for moisture content (refer to moisture testing section on p. 3), adhering to the limits stated in Tables 1 and 2 below.

 If timescales are tight, we recommend our range of FD (fast-drying), E2C (early-to-cover) screeds with improved surface adhesion performance, which allow the use of vapour barriers at higher moisture contents to be used. Floor covering installation can commence earlier, as certified and warranted by the BBA and NHBC.

Table 1



Maximum amount of moisture content in a Gyvlon screed			
Types of floor finish		Standard range % MC	E2C range % MC
Carpets	Unbonded	1.0%	2.0%
	Bonded without a levelling compound	0.5%	1.0%
	Bonded with a levelling compound & vapour barrier	1.0%	1.5%
Vinyl	Bonded without a levelling compound	0.5%	1.0%
	Bonded with a levelling compound & vapour barrier	1.0%	1.5%
Floor Tiles (ceramic or porcelain)	Primer & Calcium sulphate tile adhesive	1.0%	1.5%
	Primer & cementitious tile adhesive	0.5%	
Engineered Wood	Bonded	0.4%	0.4%
Wood cored laminate	Unbonded	0.5%	0.5%

If UFH is installed, then it must be commissioned and recorded. If after this cycle there is still some moisture left in the screed, then continue to use the UFH until dry. If not an option, then certain vapour barriers can be applied at the following values on our FD E2C screeds: Carpets 2%, Vinyl and Tiles 1% (refer to Vapour Barrier section).



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Vapour Barriers – Damp-Proof Membranes(DPM) and Moisture Vapour Suppressants (MVS)

Vapour barrier technology has advanced over the past decade, enabling higher moisture contents to be sealed within floor screeds. Cementitious screeds have utilised this development for some time. E2C technology extends this capability to Gyvlon screeds. This has been validated through collaborative testing between adhesive manufacturers, with performance supported by BBA and NHBC warranties.

Table 2



DPM Manufacturer	Product Name	Standard range (MC %)	FD E2C range (MC %)	
			No UFH	UFH*
F. Balls	Stopgap F77	< 1.0%	< 1.5%	
Bostik	Hytec E570	< 1.0%	< 1.5%	
Palace	1 Coat DPM	< 1.0%	< 1.5%	< 1.0%
Uzin	PE425	< 1.0%	< 1.5%	< 1.0%
Ardex	DPM 1C	< 1.0%	< 1.5%	
Probond	PR268 DPM	< 1.0%	< 1.5%	< 1.0%

Other products are available and can be used within the recommended limits (Table 1 and 2), as long as you follow the Adhesive Manufacturers' guidance.

***If UFH is installed, then this MUST be commissioned & recorded.**

If after this cycle there is still some residual moisture left in the screed, continue to use the UFH until dry. If not an option, then certain vapour barriers can be applied (refer to Table 2). To ensure material compatibility, use the same manufacturer for the full adhesive build-up (primer, vapour barriers, smoothing compounds, referring to their guidelines).

Primers

We recommend most Acrylic or Epoxy primers. Regarding dilution and the number of coats to be applied, please refer to the manufacturers' guidelines.

Tiling

- Prime the surface to control suction to increase the open life of the tile adhesive. Tile with either a cementitious or calcium sulphate tile adhesive, depending on the moisture content of the screed or preference, following the adhesive manufacturer's guidelines.
- For large-format tiles, especially on screeds embedded over UFH, we would recommend the use of a decoupling mat to minimise the impact of thermal movement.
- Do not tile over joints in the screed - these movement joints (especially in UFH screeds) are present to facilitate the thermal movement of the screed.

For any queries not covered above, please refer to your local representative for more information.



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