



Preparation, application and user guide for Merlin Barrier Coat with Calcium Sulphate Screeds

Preparation

Unheated floors

Newly laid screed up to 60 millimetres thickness must be left for up to 28 days to reach an acceptable strength (refer to manufacturers data) before any preparation is attempted. Surface laitance should be removed by light sanding using a suitable pad or disc, all dust and debris should be removed by vacuum.

Heated floors

After installing the screed it must be left to dry as per the screed manufacturers instructions, typically 7 days before the under floor heating system is commissioned. Commissioning should be performed as instructed by the heating system manufacturer and screed supplier ensuring heat is applied in small increments over given period of time. Once the heating system has reached the maximum temperature the screed should be held at this level for a minimum of 24 hours before allowing to cool, again at a controlled rate. Surface laitance should be removed by light sanding using a suitable pad or disc with all dust and debris removed by vacuum.

Conditions

Before any application is considered the moisture content of the screed should be determined using an accepted method. Should the moisture level still be above that specified by the screed, adhesive or coverings manufacturer the use of Merlin Barrier Coat should be considered to provide a controlled moisture releasing membrane. From both experimental data and practical experience Merlin Barrier Coat can be safely applied to screeds with a moisture level of less than 87% RH, should the moisture level still be in excess of this please refer to the screed manufactures product data for further drying instructions. It is important that any coverings or finishes applied to Merlin Barrier Coat have a vapour transmission rate greater than 3.0 g/m²/day as determined by BS EN ISO 7783-1 Determination of Water Vapour Transmission Rate (Free films). Prior to application the surface must be clean, free of surface water or laitance. The air and surface temperature must be above 8° Celsius both during application and the curing time for Merlin Barrier Coat.

Mixing

Merlin Barrier Coat is supplied in pre weighed units to ensure the correct ratio of base to activator is achieved, the splitting of packs is not recommended. Only mix as much material as can be applied during the stated working life. Diluents or solvents must not be added to Merlin Barrier Coat in any circumstance. To achieve thorough mixing, a helical paddle attached to a slow speed drill or mixer is recommended.

The contents of the Part B container should be poured into the Part A container, removing as much Part B component as is practically achievable. Once transferred mix at a controlled speed until homogeneous. Beware excessive mixer speed or using a whipping action will result in air being entrainment in the mix resulting in increased vapour permeability of the cured film.

Application

Merlin Barrier Coat must only be used as a two coat application on Calcium Sulphate Screeds.

Apply by brush or short pile mohair roller to give an even, smooth finish, reducing the possibility of bubbles forming within the film. The use of a roller tray or scuttle is advised, as pouring the material directly onto the area to be treated then rolling out will result in uneven film thickness, low coverage rates and variable vapour transmission rates. Application of the second coat should be at 90 degrees from the direction of the first to minimise the possibility of missed areas. A minimum application rate of 4 square metres per kilo for the first coat and 6 square metres per kilo for the second are required. On very uneven or porous surfaces the practical coverage rate can be significantly reduced, also in some instances a patchy appearance is obtained in the finished coating resulting in the need to apply a further coat to achieve maximum product performance.

The procedure of broadcasting an aggregate onto the wet Merlin Barrier Coat is only recommended if there will be a significant time delay (over 6 days) before any further processes take place or the manufacturer of the subsequent flooring system specifically requires it. Should aggregate be applied, the area must not be subjected to any traffic other than that associated with the finishing of the floor. Foot traffic can lead to voids forming through or within the film resulting in increased vapour transmission. Under no circumstance should aggregate be broadcast onto the first coat.

Over coating or subsequent installations

Over coating can be performed once the Merlin Barrier Coat film has reached sufficient hardness to be walked on without the risk of causing physical damage. Typical over coating time at temperatures above 10° Celsius would be 14 hours or overnight curing.

Most polymer screeds can be applied onto Merlin Barrier Coat whilst the surface is still tacky without the need to apply a further coat of bonding primer. It should be noted that once the surface of the Merlin Barrier Coat loses its tack it will not provide sufficient adhesion for polymer levelling screeds to be applied onto it without incorporating a bonding primer as recommended by the screed manufacturer.

Coatings, adhesives and bonding primers should be applied to the cured Merlin Barrier Coat within 5 days of the application of the final coat. Should over coating not be carried out within 5 days the surface of the cured Barrier Coat must be lightly abraded to remove the surface gloss and a mechanical key obtained.

On areas subjected to under floor heating only primers, levelling compounds and adhesives specifically designated as suitable the product manufacturers should be used.

Cured film properties

Life expectancy

Merlin Barrier Coat is a permanent membrane to control the transmission of water vapour from the base slab and subject to there being no future structural movement, cracking, physical or mechanical damage will protect for the life of the floor.

Fire protection

When fully cured Merlin Barrier Coat applied using the correct coverage rates and application methods will give Class 0 Surface Spread of Flame fire protection as tested by Warrington Fire Research, January 2004. Test reports WARRES No's 136762 & 136763.

Vapour Permeability

Merlin Barrier Coat when applied at the recommended minimum film thickness will give a Water Vapour Transmission rate of less than 2.0 grams per square metre per 24 hours, as tested to BS EN ISO 7783-1 by the Building Research Establishment Ltd, February 2005, test report 219725/R1.

Bond strength

Lap shear adhesion	16 Mpa
Adhesion to damp concrete (abraded)	10 Mpa
Adhesion to wet concrete (applied through surface water)	4 Mpa

In all tests to both damp and wet concrete the bond strength exceeds the cohesive strength of 40 N/mm² concrete.

Storage Conditions

Unless stated on the product technical data sheet all Merlin products have a shelf life of up to 2 years when stored in unopened containers with normal warehouse conditions. Minimum storage temperature 5° Celsius
Do not expose to direct heat or sunlight
Keep away from sources of ignition
Keep dry
Do not allow to freeze