

# The Force Drying Process-Best Practice

Day 1 When the screed arrives, carry out the slump test prior to the pour, record result via photo, carry out the Pour, ensure the area is protected from rapid drying / draughts for the first 48-72 hours, Light foot traffic only after 48hours.

Day 4-5 Introduce Dehumidifiers & ensure they are emptied regularly, consider drip tray under catchment tank. Ensure doors frames and ceilings are all sealed to aid the process. Failure to do so will prolong the drying time

Day 6 Carry out Moisture test to establish the relative humidity 0-100% & record results – Measure using - Air Hygrometer, Tramex meter, Protometer, Carbide Bomb Test(destructive method)

Day 7 Sand floors to remove laitance (delaying this process could result in diamond grinding the surface as the laitance hardens over time) Introduce Force Dry Boilers at 20 degrees (or the lowest manifold temperature) Important! Manage Dehumidifiers – Ensure doors frames and ceilings are all sealed to aid the process. Failure to do so will prolong the drying time. Check dehumidifiers and empty catchment tank regularly.

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Day 8-13 Increase the boiler temperature by 5 deg per 24hr period until 50 degrees is reached then Hold temperature for 7 days.

Day 14-20 For 40-50mm screed, maintain 50 degrees for 7 days. NOTE- For screeds over 50mm thick e.g. 75mm hold for 14 days.

Day 21-26 Reduce boiler temperature by 5 degrees per day down to 20 degrees. Carry out moisture test prior to disconnecting boiler. If RH <75% is not achieved continue drying process.

Day 27-28 Maintain dehumidifiers and carry out final moisture test, Aim for relative humidity of 75% or less before applying floor coverings. Follow screed Manufacturers instructions for suitable surface sealer / primer.

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Remember;

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Removal of laitance, Good ventilation using Dehumidifiers and Force-Drying – is critical to the drying/commissioning process which can be achieved in 25 days for a 40mm screed.

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Open doors and windows, spaces that are not enclosed will delay the drying process.

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Moisture ingress – Water ingress, Spillages & Using water to damp down will delay the drying process. Consider Hepa type filter vacuums

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Screeds dry at 1mm per day up to 40mm and 0.5mm per day above 40mm, but can take longer, as this is in good weather conditions which are rarely achieved in the UK.