

# Floor Covering Media

Your Gateway to the Floor Covering Industry

## Flooring installation failures



[Setcrete](#) is sharing valuable information for flooring installers: common reasons why flooring installation typically fails when using floor levelling compounds and adhesives during the course of installing carpet, resilient and hardwood floors.

The most common cause of flooring installation failure? Surface dampness without remedial action prior to installation. Excess dampness typically presents in a subfloor. It is in the form of residual construction moisture within the screed. Another reason? Rising dampness.

Subfloor moisture is treatable with a rapid set epoxy resin damp proof membrane. Failure to protect a surface against excess moisture may result in blistering during the installation of resilient floors; warping when installing hardwood floors; and can detach the flooring from the subfloor.

However, that's not all. There are other causes: one is failure to prime the surface before installing a levelling compound. Others are failing to apply adhesive to a subfloor and improper selection of levelling compounds.



Why exactly is priming considered an essential step during a flooring install? For starters, it optimizes the bond between the adhesive or levelling compound and the subfloor. It also prevents rapid drying of the adhesive or levelling compound; when applied over an absorbent subfloor. Failure to prime is likely to compromise the integrity of the surface installation.



Incorrect levelling compound selection are problematic in cases where specific performance characteristics are required. A flexible levelling compound for use over plywood or raised access subfloors may create tiny fibres in the

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formulation. These fibers act like steel rods in reinforced concrete and allows for slight movement of the compound without it cracking.



Deep base levelling compounds are designed to be applied up to 50mm thick, compared to a maximum 15-20mm for conventional compounds. There are some levelling compounds designed for application over older adhesive residues; in cases when replacing aging flooring obviates the need to remove the residue beforehand. Visit Setcrete for more info.



Floor Covering Media publishes  
press releases called Flooring Updates.

## Flooring Updates



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