



SITE PREPARATION

Prep Guide & After Care

TLA poured insulation and floor screed

What we need in place before we arrive, and how to look after the floor once it is down.

PART A

TLA poured insulation

TLA is poured onto the prepared subfloor, self-levels around pipework and cables and cures into a continuous insulating layer. Two things decide how well it goes down: a clean subfloor, and the right membrane above and below it.

1200 gauge MEMBRANE OVER HARDCORE	500 gauge MEMBRANE OVER CURED TLA	24 hrs CURE BEFORE SCREEDING
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1 Clear any debris from the floor

Subfloors must be clear of debris before a TLA pour. Dust on the floor will not affect the TLA. If the TLA is being poured onto compacted hardcore, lay a minimum 1200 gauge membrane in advance of the pour.



Prior to TLA pour



After TLA pour

2 Lay a separating membrane over the TLA

Once the TLA is poured, a minimum 500 gauge membrane is required on top of it before underfloor heating is laid and in advance of the screed pour. A perimeter expansion strip is still required for the finish screed. This can be 25mm PIR or 12mm polyjoint.



After UFH is laid



Ready for screed, no UFH

BEFORE WE ARRIVE

Screed can be poured once the building is weather tight. Roof sealed, windows fitted, and the area dry.

PART B

Floor screed preparation

1 Insulation

The floor beneath the insulation should be clear of debris that may affect proper placing of the boards. Avoid voids underneath or between sheets. Place suitable insulation onto the structural floor and mechanically fix it if required. Install edge insulation along the perimeter of walls and columns to avoid cold bridging and to allow the floating floor to expand.



Insulation laid and edge strip fixed



Boards tight, no voids between sheets

2 Lay a plastic membrane

Before underfloor heating pipes are placed, and in advance of laying screed, a minimum 500 gauge plastic membrane must be installed directly onto the insulation boards or poured floor insulation, and returned up the walls. This stops screed leaking away and allows it to dry consistently throughout. Joints are taped, and upturns fixed at 150mm above screed level. Upturns can be trimmed back after the pour. The membrane is laid whether or not underfloor heating is used.



Membrane laid over the insulation



Joints taped, upturns returned up the walls

NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR BUILD-UP

Send us the section drawing and we will confirm the build-up and the depths before you order. If anything on site does not match what is set out here, call us before the pour is booked.

PART B CONTINUED

3 Underfloor heating pipes

Pipes are placed over the plastic sheeting and fixed at 500mm centres, clipped or railed to the insulation boards. Fixings need to be no more than 500mm apart, with extra fixings at bends and returns so pipes do not float during the pour. The heating system should be put on test while screed is being placed so any pipe failure is identified straight away. Discuss this with your heating contractor.



Pipes clipped at 500mm centres



Extra fixings at bends and returns

4 Floor screed pour

Avoid leaving debris that may float to the surface of the screed. Vacuum clean if necessary. Before placement we set adjustable tripod depth gauges by laser level to an agreed datum, usually taken from your door threshold, so there is no requirement for datum lines on walls. This gives a level floor throughout the building. The area must be weather proofed, roof sealed, windows fitted and in dry condition. Ideally internal plastering is completed first. Exact screed quantity is confirmed when the tripods are set on site using the datum given, so there may be an additional charge for material used.



Screed placed to laser-set datum



Level finish across the building

READY FOR THE POUR

- Roof sealed, windows fitted, area dry and weather tight
- Subfloor and insulation clear of debris, vacuumed if needed
- Membrane laid, joints taped, upturns fixed 150mm above screed level
- Perimeter expansion strip installed, 25mm PIR or 12mm polyjoint
- UFH pipes fixed at 500mm centres and on test
- Clear access for the pump and a wash-out point agreed



AFTER CARE

Looking after the finished floor

The first week decides how well the screed cures. Close the building up, then ventilate on a schedule.

7 days CLOSED UP AFTER THE POUR	24 to 48 hrs BEFORE FOOT TRAFFIC	Then DRAUGHT FREE VENTILATION
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First 7 days, keep it closed

Immediately after installation keep all windows and doors closed. This protects the surface of the new screed from frost, direct sunlight, wind, rain and water ingress.



After 7 days, ventilate

Windows and doors can be opened intermittently to remove surplus moisture by means of draught free ventilation. Failure to do this will prevent the screed drying effectively.



Foot traffic

Typically the screed is ready to take foot traffic 24 to 48 hours after the pour under normal drying conditions.



Moisture test before coverings

A moisture test is advised before floor coverings are laid. Talk to us about expected drying times for the mix supplied on your job.

AT A GLANCE

Membrane over hardcore	1200 gauge minimum, laid before the TLA pour
Membrane over TLA and insulation	500 gauge minimum, upturns 150mm above screed level
Perimeter expansion strip	25mm PIR or 12mm polyjoint
UFH pipe fixings	500mm centres, extra fixings at bends and returns
Building condition	Weather tight before the pour, roof sealed and windows fitted
Closed up after the pour	7 days, then intermittent draught free ventilation
Foot traffic	24 to 48 hours under normal drying conditions

Questions before your pour

National Screed

Windmill Hill, Rathcoole, Naas Road, Co. Dublin, D24 HT32

01 624 0004 · info@nationalscreed.ie

nationalscreed.ie · Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm

Volume calculator and quick quote form at nationalscreed.ie