

Workmanship on building sites —

Part 9: Cementitious levelling screeds and wearing screeds — Code of practice

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

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- Association of Concrete Industrial Flooring Contractors
- Association of Lightweight Aggregate Manufacturers
- British Cement Association
- Concrete Society
- Contract Flooring Association
- Federation of Plastering and Drywalling Contractors
- Federation of Resin Flooring Formulators and Applicators (FeRFA)
- Mastic Asphalt Council Ltd
- Mortar Producers Association Ltd
- National Federation of Terazzo-Marble and Mosaic Specialists
- National Specialist Contractors Council
- Quarry Products Association
- Society of Chemical Industry
- Co-opted members

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Subcommittee B/507/6. It supersedes BS 8000-9:1999 which is withdrawn.

The main changes in this revision take account of the following.

- a) The terms used for the types of screeds take account of developments in European standardization. Screeds are designated “levelling screeds” where they are to receive a final flooring and “wearing screeds” where they serve to provide the finished surface.
- b) Bases to carry rigid insulation boards beneath floating screeds are to be levelled by filling depressions so that the boards do not rock on high spots.
- c) The specifications for materials have been updated. In particular European Standard specifications for cements now include a number of cement types and standard strength classes.
- d) The use of higher slag content cements (> 35 %) and the equivalent combinations have been excluded from levelling screeds due to limited experience of their use.
- e) The bags of cement now supplied by the manufacturers have been halved in weight to 25 kg so mix calculations have been modified.
- f) Slurry bonding of the edges of day work joints is recommended before laying fresh screed material to help reduce curling at butt joints.
- g) Items of work to be checked during progress, as well as on the finished screed, are listed.
- h) The recommendations given in BS 8204-1 and BS 8204-2 are referred to for curing when using cement lower than strength class 42.5 N.

This British Standard makes recommendations and gives guidance on basic workmanship for conventional types of building work. The recommendations given are not necessarily comprehensive; particular project documents, e.g. project specifications, may need to cover recommendations not dealt with by this code of practice.

This code of practice is unique in that unlike other British Standards, it draws together recommendations given in other codes of practice.

The purpose of this code of practice is to encourage good workmanship by providing the following:

- 1) the most frequently required recommendations on workmanship for building work in a readily available and convenient form to those working on site;
- 2) assistance in the efficient preparation and administration of contracts;
- 3) recommendations on how designers' requirements for workmanship can be satisfactorily realized;
- 4) definitions of good practice on building sites for supervision and for training purposes – this guidance is not intended to supplant the normal training in craft skills;
- 5) a reference for quality of workmanship on building sites.

It is recognized that design, procurement and project information is conducive to good workmanship on site.

This code of practice has generally been arranged in accordance with the *Common arrangement of work sections (CAWS) for building work* [1].

BS 8000 comprises the following parts:

- *Part 1: Code of practice for excavation and filling;*
- *Part 2: Code of practice for concrete work;*
- *Part 3: Code of practice for masonry;*
- *Part 4: Code of practice for waterproofing;*
- *Part 5: Code of practice for carpentry, joinery and general fixings;*
- *Part 6: Code of practice for slating and tiling of roofs and claddings;*
- *Part 7: Code of practice for glazing;*
- *Part 8: Code of practice for plasterboard partitions and dry linings;*
- *Part 9: Cementitious levelling screeds and wearing screeds — Code of practice;*
- *Part 10: Code of practice for plastering and rendering;*
- *Part 11: Code of practice for wall and floor tiling;*
- *Part 12: Code of practice for decorative wallcoverings and painting;*
- *Part 13: Code of practice for above ground drainage and sanitary appliances;*
- *Part 14: Code of practice for below ground drainage;*
- *Part 15: Code of practice for hot and cold water services (domestic scale);*
- *Part 16: Code of practice for sealing joints in buildings using sealants.*

This part is based upon and consistent with the guidance contained in BS 8204 which covers the design aspects of the subject matter, (including design, materials and other related aspects) in addition to workmanship on site.

BS 8204-1 gives recommendations for concrete bases to receive in situ wearing screeds of concrete, polymer modified cement, terrazzo, mastic asphalt, synthetic resin and magnesium oxychloride. It also covers both bases and levelling screeds to receive flexible floor coverings, such as textiles, linoleum, polyvinyl chloride, rubber and cork and rigid floorings, such as wood block and strip, ceramic tiles and natural stone.

The text of this part of BS 8000 includes commentaries. These commentaries are printed in italics and are intended to be for guidance only and do not form part of the recommendations. They refer, unless otherwise stated, to the clause which immediately precedes each commentary.

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 15 and a back cover.

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1 Scope

This part of BS 8000 gives recommendations on laying cementitious levelling screeds and wearing screeds.

This British Standard does not cover laying concrete bases or direct finished concrete wearing surfaces, recommendations for which are given in BS 8204-1 and BS 8204-2 respectively.

Recommendations on design aspects of levelling screeds and wearing screeds are given in BS 8204-1 and BS 8204-2 respectively.

NOTE This code of practice includes supplementary elements in the form of commentaries to assist in its use and understanding. Compliance with the commentaries is not necessary in order to be able to claim conformity with the standard.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS EN 13318, Screed material and floor screeds — Definitions.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 8000 the terms and definitions given in BS EN 13318 and the following apply.

3.1

base

flooring element that provides the support for a screed and floor finishes

3.2

flooring

uppermost fixed layer of a floor that is designed to provide a wearing surface

NOTE Layers in a ground-supported concrete floor and a suspended concrete floor are illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively.

3.3

direct finished base slab

concrete flooring element that is suitably finished to provide a wearing surface or to receive directly the flooring to be applied without the need for a levelling screed

3.4

screed material

mixture comprising cement, aggregates, water and, in some cases, admixtures and/or additives

3.5

screed

layer of material laid in situ, directly onto a base, bonded or unbonded, or onto an intermediate layer or insulation layer, for one or more of the following purposes:

- to obtain a defined level;
- to carry the final flooring;
- to provide a wearing surface

3.6

levelling screed

screed suitably finished to obtain a defined level and to receive the final flooring

3.7

wearing screed

screed that serves as a flooring

NOTE This term was formerly known as high strength concrete topping or granolithic topping.