

Flooring - Industrial Flooring Supplement February 2010

In today's economic climate, the cost of essential services and products certainly come under the microscope. For clients involved in the industrial flooring market, the decision to install or replace a floor can have a major impact on the running of the business. When this involves essential repairs and maintenance to a flooring area, without which normal production or work activity could not continue, not only choosing the right system but also making sure it is installed correctly, is absolutely vital.

Every industrial flooring environment is unique in terms of its characteristics and requirements. Refurbishment projects for example, may have the added complication of a contaminated substrate which requires special treatment prior to any flooring system being applied. The actual performance criteria of the flooring system may have to be matched exactly to a specific environment such as resistance to a range of chemicals, tolerant to temperature variation, static dissipative or provide a hygienic and slip resistant surface. Today's resin flooring systems show the true versatility of this type of industrial flooring, both in terms of their exceptional ability to perform in an aggressive environment, but also in terms of their decorative and aesthetic appeal. Hard wearing and durable they definitely are, but resin floors no longer need to be dull and boring. By using a wide range of colours, the incorporation of coloured aggregates, and company logos, a resin floor will completely transform the industrial environment.

In all cases, the best way to choose any flooring system is to seek specialist advice from the experts. As the association dedicated to seamless resin flooring, and the renowned centre of technical knowledge on this specialist area, FerFA leads the way in providing advice and guidance. The FerFA website (www.ferfa.org.uk) is a quick and easy way to start the selection process where a series of Guidance Notes provide up to date information and practical advice on the specification, performance, application and maintenance of Resin Floors. The FerFA Classification (based on BS8204-6) shows the various types of resin flooring, from Type 1 to Type 8, their areas of use and anticipated life dependent on product thickness, quality of the substrate and service conditions

Type	Name	Description	Intended duty	Typical thickness
1	Floor seal	Applied in two or more coats. Generally solvent or water borne.	light	up to 150 µm
2	Floor coating	Applied in two or more coats. Generally solvent free.	light to medium	150 µm to 300 µm
3	High build Floor coating	Applied in two or more coats. Generally solvent free.	medium	300 µm to 1000 µm
4	Multi-layer flooring	Aggregate dressed systems based on multiple layers of floor coatings or flow-applied floorings, often described as 'sandwich' systems.	medium to heavy	> 2 mm
5	Flow applied flooring	Often referred to as 'self-smoothing' or 'self-levelling' flooring and having a smooth surface.	medium to heavy	2 mm to 3 mm
6	Resin screed flooring	Trowel-finished, heavily filled systems, generally incorporating a surface seal coat to minimize porosity.	medium to heavy	> 4 mm
7	Heavy duty flowable flooring	Having a smooth surface.	heavy to very heavy	4 mm to 6 mm

8	Heavy duty Resin screed flooring	Trowel-finished, aggregate filled systems effectively impervious throughout their thickness.	very heavy	> 6 mm
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All FeRFA publications are RIBA CPD approved, are free to download and provide an invaluable source of reference when choosing a resin flooring system. Further advice should then be sought from a specialist resin flooring contractor, such as a FeRFA member, who will be able to match the functional needs of the floor to the project's programme requirements.

The installation of resin floors is a specialist skill area and FeRFA as the Association representing Resin Flooring fully endorses a qualified workforce through the achievement of NVQ Level 2, leading to a FeRFA ID Badge and the CSCS Blue Skilled Card. A qualified workforce raises standards in the industry and gives the client the assurance and evidence of the contractor's ability to undertake the work involved.

For more information on resin flooring in the industrial environment, FeRFA and its members, please contact us on Tel No 01252 714250 or www.ferfa.org.uk