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Gypsum Type Screeds for Flooring and Inherent Problems

There are a lot of variants of these screeds and you can read more about understanding them by clicking on the image opposite.

There are alternatives to these screeds and we always recommend staying away from them because of the inherent problems. We always insist on a site visit before any of our flooring is delivered or installed.



The image on the left shows testing one of these screeds after a vinyl floor (not wood) starter lifting and “bubbling” .

You can see a report from Malone Associates by clicking the image to the left and testing of these screeds needs to be done at the lower level by removing core samples. There is also a comment from the professionals at Sika below. This is why we are always nervous with such screeds.

The problem is that gypsum is not moisture tolerant which is why it is going soft. If you apply a DPM over the top it will continue to degrade only at a faster rate and will eventually turn to mush. Gypsum materials must ALWAYS be applied on top of a subfloor with a functioning DPM i'm afraid. If you seal it in with Sikabond Rapid DPM it will fail shortly afterwards depending on the amount of water in the substrate.

Kind Regards

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Mick Hooper DipM, ACIM Flooring Manager

