

LEVELLING TIMBER SUBSTRATES



On occasion there is a requirement to level timber substrates, if it is the case of simply raising a floor level it is invariably easier and more suitable to simply oversheet the floor with a suitable thickness of plywood or other construction board. However, when a levelling compound is required to be used, it is important to ensure the correct product is used and the necessary preparation made.

Larsen recommend the use of Professional SLC1550 Fibreflex for this application. It is a Universal single pack, fast-drying, fibre-reinforced, cement-based underlayment manufactured from a controlled blend of special sands, cements and synthetic polymers to give a high quality flooring product which is self-levelling and smoothing. As well as being fibre reinforced, it is polymer modified ensuring a high flexural strength and a good bond to timber substrates. The following recommendations will ensure a successful installation over timber substrates.



PREPARATION

Timber floors must be free from deflection and be suitably stable. All timber should be conditioned to the environment in which they will be used, adequately ventilated beneath and free from barriers to adhesion. Edges of all timber sheets should be supported by joists or noggins and where possible timber sheets should be tongue and groove. Boards should be laid in a brick bond pattern and joints should not align with those in underlying boards.

Existing floorboards - should ideally be overlaid with minimum 15mm exterior grade plywood, screw fixed at 300 mm centres. Where this is not possible all boards should be screwed to all joists to provide a rigidly fixed, flat surface free from excess deflection. All joints between boards must be filled and sealed. The boards should be sanded, vacuumed and primed with NP Keycoat or Acrylic Primer applied neat.

OSB may be used on floors but must be flooring grade, rigid and screw fixed at 300mm centres, the surface should be sanded to remove any wax or similar treatment, vacuumed and then primed with NP Keycoat or Acrylic Primer applied neat.

'WBP plywood' is now a loose term and as such there may be variability in quality, therefore extra care should be taken. It is recommended that WBP sheets are sanded, vacuumed and then primed with NP Keycoat or Acrylic Primer applied neat.

It is recommended to apply a 5-10mm PE foam expansion strip around the perimeter of the screed. Further joints need only be considered when room shape is complex, involves obvious stress points or aspect ratio exceeds 6:1 or when bay dimensions exceed 10m.

PRIMING

All timber substrates should be primed with NP Keycoat or Acrylic Primer applied neat. Allow primer to dry to a transparent tacky film before applying SLC1550.

REINFORCEMENT

Where timber substrates will be subject to medium to high levels of traffic, when applying thick sections on timber or when the substrate is narrow 'traditional' floorboards, it is recommended to incorporate a reinforcing mesh. Mesh should be suitable coated glass fibre with mesh size between 4x4mm or 8x8mm and should be mechanically fixed to the substrate after priming. When reinforcing mesh is used it is recommended to apply a minimum thickness of 10mm SLC1550.

APPLICATION

Add 4.75 -5.25L of clean water per 25kg bag (sufficient to achieve target flow without bleed or settlement). Mix with a heavy duty drill and paddle for 1-2 minutes. Excess water will cause a loss of strength. Pour or pump the mixed product over the floor. SLC 1550 will level out to a smooth finish. Where necessary, release air bubbles with a trowel or spiked roller. This practice must be carried out within 5 – 10 minutes of application. SLC 1550 can be applied up to 50mm (minimum of 3mm). The screed must be protected from draughts within the first 6 hours, if necessary doorways and windows should be taped up with polythene. Subsequently, ensure the room has sufficient ventilation to allow the screed to dry out. After installation protect the screed from following trades. SLC 1550 will accept foot traffic after 2 - 4 hours. Floor coverings can be installed after 24 - 72 hours depending on thickness of SLC 1550, substrate and site conditions. Should any trowel marks remain, remove with a wet trowel after 1-1½hrs.

RESTRICTIONS

All substrates must be suitable for the intended duty and traffic without excessive deflection. All substrates must be sufficiently strong and stable to bear the weight of screed and covering, this is particularly important when applying thicker layers. Room and substrate temperatures should be above 5°C during application. SLC1550 should not be applied to timber substrates externally or in wet areas.

The information and recommendations above are given in good faith based on our current knowledge and experience of the products when properly stored, handled and applied in accordance with current best practice, national standards and our recommendations. As we have no control over site conditions or methods of application, no liability can be derived from the contents of this information sheet, or from any written recommendations, or from any other advice offered. The user of the product is solely responsible for the product's suitability for the intended application and is recommended to test the suitability prior to use. We reserve the right to change the properties of our products without notice. All orders are sold subject to our current terms of sale and delivery. With the publication of this Technical Information Sheet all previous editions are no longer valid.

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