

To achieve the best from your screed installation, please adhere to the following conditions:

- + Establish a sealed space. Ensuring the doors are closed and windows are shut to eliminate draughts and shield against direct sunlight, frost and rain. This will help maintaining a dry, controlled environment with a constant temperature. After 7 days, windows and doors can be opened intermittently to remove surplus moisture by means of draught free ventilation.
- + Impose restrictions on foot traffic and additional construction activities while the floor attains the requisite strength.

## DRYING TIMES

Screed drying times are strongly dependent on a number of key factors, namely temperature, humidity, ventilation, screed thickness and the presence of underfloor heating. As general guide, the screed will dry at 1mm per day for the first 40mm of the screed thickness and 2 days per mm thereafter. Typically the screed is ready to receive foot traffic after 24 to 48 hours.

Residual humidity of the screed:	Drying period:
3 CM-%	Approx. 14 days
2.0 CM-%	Approx. 28 days

3 CM-% = suitable for non-resilient flooring  
2.0 CM-% = suitable for resilient flooring

The specified values above apply for 40mm non-heated screed with climatic conditions of 20°C and a relative humidity of 65%.

## MOISTURE TESTING

Before sealing or priming and applying subsequent floor finishes, the floor finishes contractor should assess the residual moisture content of the screed. This is crucial for ensuring a successful floor finish installation as any excess of moisture could damage the finish.

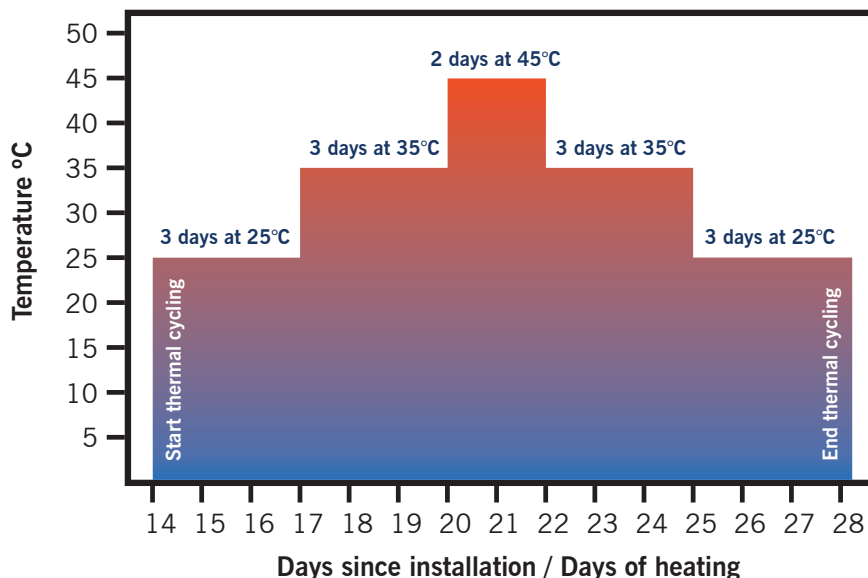
For resilient floor coverings laid on FLOWPLUS screed, the acceptable residual humidity should not exceed 2.0 CM-%, as determined by the Calcium Carbide Measurement (Carbide Bomb). In cases where the screed is installed on underfloor heating systems, the maximum allowable residual humidity is reduced to 1.8 CM-%. This ensures adherence to specific standards and optimal performance.

In situations requiring fast final floor installation, ARDEX MVS 95 Residual Moisture Vapour Suppressant may be applied when the floor registers a humidity level below 95%RH. Subsequently, ARDEX Levelling and Smoothing Compounds can be applied without the need for priming in as little as 2 hours, and receive the floor finish once they are dry. For further details on ARDEX moisture control and levelling compounds see [www.ardex.co.uk](http://www.ardex.co.uk).

Floorcoverings can be safely laid when the following moisture contents are achieved:

- ≤3.0% for vapour permeable textile floorcoverings
- ≤2.5% for vapour sealing textile floorcoverings
- ≤2.0% for PVC, rubber, linoleum, LVT etc.
- ≤2.0% for wood flooring

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING



Commissioning of the underfloor heating must not take place until the screed has undergone a minimum of 14 days curing time under normal drying conditions. The water temperature flowing through the pipes must be carefully controlled during a thermal heat cycle, as follows:

3 Days at 25°C, 3 Days at 35°C, 2 days at maximum operating feed temperature e.g. 45°C, then back down to 3 Days at 35°C and finally 3 Days at 25°C.

The UFH water circuit temperature must not exceed 45°C. Installation of floor finishes must not take place until the screed has undergone this thermal cycle and is completely dry.

Note, the method/guidance example given above is for demonstration purposes. The commissioning of screeds containing water-fed heating and cooling systems should commence in line with the requirements of the detailed instructions provided by the underfloor heating manufacturer/supplier.

For further help on FLOWPLUS or any ARDEX products contact us on 01440 714939 or visit the website [www.ardex.co.uk](http://www.ardex.co.uk).