

## TECH TALK WITH GEOFF

**AS** part of my job I conduct regular site visits and during these visits I see tilers mixing screeds, adhesives and grouts.

**I** usually strike up a conversation with them about the product and or application, during these talks I am asked "I do this" is that ok?

**MOST** times the answer is **YES** however recently I was asked by the "lackey" mixing screed outside on a hot day the following. "My boss told me to put a cup of **Plastinex Red Label** in every mixer load of screed, as it will help bind the mix together on days like this, what do you think"?

**BEING** diplomatic my response was as follows. "You are on the right track however one cup per mix is not enough, your boss is wasting his money and you should also pre-mix the **Plastinex Red Label** with water, don't just add a cup neat to the mixer.

**THE** question I need to ask your boss is, "What is he trying to achieve a performance level or a feel good thing".

**FOR** a performance level in a screed the minimum dilution level is 330mls of **Plastinex Red Label** to 20kg of dry screed mix, at this ratio you will achieve better binding power only NOT strength.

**THE** **Plastinex** helps link the sand and cement particles together. However it must be diluted first then added to the dry mix this way.



**THE** screed should then be applied to a slurried substrate not a dry hot one this scenario will result in a "Drummy" screed, **WHY??** –the surface tension is incorrect there is no fusion between the hot dry surface and the semi moist screed material, what little moisture is present is quickly sucked into the substrate, an ideal slurry is to take some of the screed mix and add straight **Plastinex** to it mix it to a paint like consistency and vigorously brush it onto the substrate don't be afraid to use plenty and most important **DON'T** let the slurry dry.

**SOME** tilers I know prefer to use **Powerflex Grey** they mix it wetter than normal, trowel the mix onto the substrate then apply the screed straight away. This works well especially on primed cement fibre sheets. I have not mentioned strength yet, this can be obtained by hydration. "Wetting /damp curing the screed for 48 hours".

**MOST** screeds are mixed 1 part Portland Cement to 3-4 parts Plasterer's sand as per Australian Standards, and hopefully applied in the manner previously stated. To add extra strength to your screed allow it to set for 24 hours approximately then mix **Plastinex Red** or **Black Label** at a ratio of 1 litre of **Plastinex** to 5 litres of water and apply to your screed via spray system or a watering can. Repeat as required "Don't use a roller"

**APPLY** this mix twice a day for two days and your screed will achieve a performance level second to none.

**CURING** a screed properly reduces drying shrinkage, cracking and curling, especially where the screed feathers down.

## SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ON SCREEDING

- 1 Never use brickies sand **WHY??** it contains too much clay, and as some of you will know it will initially expand and then shrink causing cracking and de-lamination.
- 2 Too much water causes shrinkage, cracking and a soft screed. **WHY??** Too much water separates the particles which effects the linking process.
- 3 Curing of a screed is important, most standards quote 7 days of continuous dampening of the screed. This time frame however is not practical in a lot of cases the supervisor/ builder usually pushes the finishing trades for many reasons as you know. If you use **Plastinex** in your screed as stated this will be a big benefit to you, when push comes to shove.
- 4 Large areas that require screeding can cause problems, the main one being cracking between batches. Where possible try and lay the screed in one operation. There are company's that specialize in this field. Mix and Pour being one of them.
- 5 Don't forget to incorporate movement joints in large commercial screeds expansion joint foam is ideal for this application.
- 6 For screeds over 30mm thickness.  
1-Part Portland cement  
3-4 parts Plasterer's sand  
1- Part cracker dust  
This formula requires **Plastinex** for hydration using the **Plastinex** method as stated.

# GEOFF'S SPIEL

Dear V.I.P Tilers,

**I**n this months V.I.P mail-out it is all about screeding. I have received many calls on this topic this summer and mostly from interstate tilers working in Perth.

**T**HE registration of tilers is gaining momentum, once again I am receiving many calls about the Australian Standards in relation to the questionnaire that forms part of the registration process. I don't mind helping so keep calling if you don't know the answers. It is all part of the learning process.

**T**HE Geraldton Trade night is a goer so all you Geraldton tilers please contact Lilly at Geraldton Ceramic Centre and register. We will be dealing with the registration of tilers in depth. Also Eddie from B.A.T Trims will be there with some new products. **THANK YOU** to all the tilers for your best wishes in regards to my health, it is all good and I am back at work feeling great

**Congratulations**

V.I.P Tiler: Matt Logan V.I.P #:1283  
on winning a Raimondi Levelling Kit  
and Grout Clean Up System  
Until next time keep safe  
Cheers Geoff



# MARCH WINNER

Congratulations to V.I.P Tiler Matt Logan V.I.P#1283 on winning the Raimondi Levelling Kit and Skipper Grout Clean Up Bucket. Courtesy of B.A.T.Trims. Lucky Matt is currently on holidays overseas his photo will be in next months V.I.P Tiler



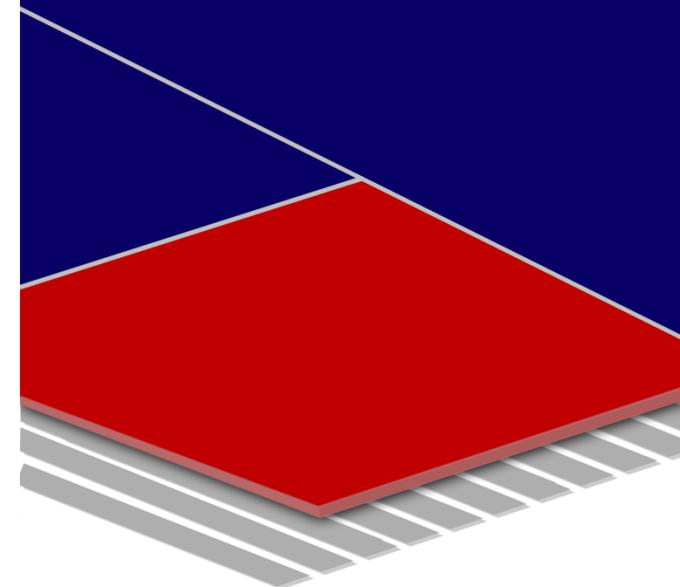
The winner for the month of April will receive a voucher to Keturah Day Spa for your lovely Wife, Partner, Girlfriend or even your Mum



# Easter

# V.I.P Tiler

## MARCH 2013



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