

BAYSET TECHNICAL BULLETIN

RESILIENT FLOORING AFTER FLOOD INUNDATION

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Following on from our recent Technical Bulletin regarding tiled floors after the recent flooding events in Townsville and the surrounding area, the effects of flooding on resilient flooring, such as sheet vinyl or vinyl planks, should also be discussed.

Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that a resilient floor will remain intact after flood event and the floor will probably have to be replaced entirely.

On timber substrates, underlay sheets such as hardboard are also likely to be irreparably damaged and will have to be replaced. In these cases, the structural timber substrate should be inspected and allowed to dry out. A moisture content of less than 15% must be achieved throughout, prior to the installation of new underlay and the floor covering. Uzin KE 2000 S Universal flooring adhesive or Uzin KE 66 High Temperature adhesive are ideally suited for these applications.

On concrete substrates, cementitious levelling compounds which may have been used prior to the installation of the floor are also likely to have been adversely affected and are likely to require removal.

The concrete substrate is likely to be too wet for the reinstallation of cementitious levelling compound soon after the removal and these floors will need to be allowed to dry sufficiently. Concrete floors are considered sufficiently dry, when measurements taken in accordance with ASTM F2170 do not exceed 75% relative humidity.

Alternatively, a moisture barrier can be applied to fast track the reinstallation of the flooring. Uzin PE 480 Epoxy primer can be applied in two coats to concrete substrates, with no limitation to the maximum residual moisture content. Once the final coat has dried, Uzin PE 280 Primer is applied prior to levelling the floors with Uzin NC 160 or Uzin NC 170 LevelStar levelling compounds. Once the levelling compounds have cured, the resilient floor covering can be installed using Uzin KE 2000 S Universal flooring adhesive or Uzin KE 66 High Temperature adhesive.

In all cases the installation must be carried out in accordance with AS 1884-2012 Floor coverings - Resilient sheet and tiles - Installation practices and the relevant Uzin Technical Data Sheet.

Other factors must also be considered before the installation begins. Flood waters may contain chemical contamination, such as pesticides, oils or solvents and high bacterial loads from effluent, dead animals and animal wastes, especially in agricultural areas. It is crucial that the affected areas are thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated prior to the removal of the flooring installations and again before the installation of new flooring systems.

IMPORTANT: This Technical Bulletin provides guideline information only and is not intended to be interpreted as a general specification for the application/installation of the products described. Since each project potentially differs in exposure/condition specific recommendations may vary from the information contained herein. For recommendations for specific applications/installations contact your nearest Bayset Office.