

DATA SHEET – SKIMCOTE C

Amended 01/06/2015

DESCRIPTION:

Skimcote C is a seamless screed floor, showing slight movement that offers natural beauty and an “old world” appeal. This product is for domestic interior use only.

This new improved cementitious flooring system is designed to give a thin coloured coat with a relatively smooth surface finish.

SUITABLE SURFACES FOR APPLICATION:

Ideal for recoating old screed floors, tiled floors etc., provided the substrate is sound. Can also be applied over wood floated or steel trowelled new mortar screeds.

SURFACE PREPARATION:

Inspection:

It is recommended that a test panel be laid. Obtain the customers approval on the final colour and application, **after** the sealers have been applied. Make sure surface is in a sound condition, free of powdering, flaking materials, etc. Tap the base all over to ensure the concrete is sound. Once the Skimcote C is laid, it will be difficult to say whether the Skimcote C or the screed has delaminated.

Scrutinize the entire floor area for small stains or spillages of carpet glue, creosote (used on roof timbers) etc. as these will mirror through and possibly change the colour of the Skimcote C in the specific area. These types of marks must be removed before application of Matt Sealer and Skimcote C. The same principle applies to different concrete qualities. The colour change will not be that noticeable in different rooms, but in the same area it will be noticeable.

Some of the problems to watch out for: A section of the floor has been chopped up and a new section placed. Often the concrete or screed in the repaired section is of an inferior mix. No damp proof sheeting has been used in the area where concrete has been chopped up and replaced.

Use a **moisture metre** to test for excess water in the screed as too much that is not even visible to the eye may cause the Skimcote to darken or delaminate.

Areas where the surface is uneven or needs filling mix slurry and cement with RIVER SAND plaster sand will crack.

Direct sunlight onto a floor will heat the surface considerably. This will cause the Skimcote C to harden quicker than usual during application and may result in fine cracks. Cover windows with black drop sheets or brown paper, especially in summer time and windows or sliding doors that go to the floor.

You can lay Skimcote c on top of existing tiles make sure they are not loose, if the tile is hollow underneath make sure your client is aware of this so to alleviate them returning to you complaining that it is the Skimcote c.

The tile grout will mirror through. To minimise this possibility, first apply a generous helping of matt sealer apply a thicker mixture of either smooth cote or hard coat into the grouted areas and as it starts to set scrape off the excess product. A moisture reading of the joints should be done before work commences. Moisture content of screeds or joints should be a reading of 8 or below.

Any dirt, fine grains etc. left on the floor before application will affect the final finish. Sweep the area thoroughly or best use a vacuum cleaner.

Apply 2 coats of matt sealer as per the data sheet. If you have laid smoothcote and matt sealer wait 2 days before applying Skimcote again check your moisture metre. If you have any areas that are over 8 on the gauge Skimcote can be applied but you cannot seal with twin pack if over 8. Please remember that when applying over tiles the products take longer to dry!

All screeds, and especially high porosity screeds, **must** receive a minimum of 2 coats of Africote Matt Sealer prior to application of the Skimcote C to reduce absorption. The Matt Sealer is vital to ensure pin holing is reduced and the screed stays workable during application. Either throw the Skimcote c with the matt sealer still slightly wet, or wait till the next day.

Leave windows slightly open to give enough air if they are closed condensation will build up on the windows and drip onto the floor and once sealer has been applied these spots will show up.

Vertical surfaces such as steps or overhangs plaster the lip to give it a thicker step as these get worn off with constant walking brush on matt sealer then some Skimcote again apply matt sealer. Allow to dry thoroughly.

SURFACE APPLICATION:

Mixing:

Avoid mixing quantities less than a full bag, as the product contains graded aggregates that can separate. Ensure the batch used in the test panel is the same batch for the complete job to ensure colour consistency. The consistency when mixed correctly will be like cream, if it is still too thick add up to and no more than 300ml at a time, don't pour the entire 300ml in to your mix as just a drop can change the consistency quite dramatically. If white spots appear in the can you have put too much water in this will make the same white spots on the floor.

It is essential to use an impellor driven by a powerful electric drill. Hand mixing will not remove the tiny lumps that result from adding the powder to water. Consistent mixing as to method, intensity and time is important to achieve consistent results.

Using a metal container not plastic, the drill chips away plastic filings. Make sure your container and mixing tools are clean. Add 5 litres of water to a 25kg of Skimcote c. Put the water in your metal container first then slowly add your Skimcote c. **Mix for 10 minute, this must be timed. Leave the product to rest for 5 minutes. This must be timed. Mix for a further 2 minutes, this must be timed.** The consistency of Skimcote c must be the same as cream if it is too thick add NO MORE than 300ml of extra water, If you see white spots in your bucket then you have put too much water DO NOT USE THIS throw away and mix a new bag.

As soon as you have finished mixing thoroughly apply your product, do not wait and re stir. Although the liquid Skimcote C mixture will last up to 15 minutes in the container, (pot life) leaving it longer will have an effect on the colour.

Application:

Throw parts of your mix on your surface and work quickly with long strokes left to right with a rounded steel trowel. Each applicator should have a maximum of 1.5 meter width to trowel.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO KEEP THE PRODUCT ALIVE (don't leave an area unfinished as it will dry out and you will see a colour difference) Finish the area in one continuous operation. **Once mixed the pot life of the product is 15 minutes.** Time the mixing of additional pockets to ensure the work flows smoothly without stops. Trowel with an even or sweeping action to give 1 to 2 mm thickness.

For Vertical Surfaces such as Steps: As the product is self-levelling it is easier to paint the product rather than trowel the product. Work from top step down to bottom step. Be careful of run marks and pooling of product where the vertical surface meets the flat surface. Use a sponge to remove run marks.

When you get to an area that the sun is shining on you must work quicker, this is because the Skimcote c will dry quicker.

The product does not require lots of trowelling as it is self-levelling just a few strokes to guide it.

If Skimcote has been dropped on any areas prior to laying give it a coat of matt sealer using a brush.

Make sure when you apply that you finish off at an exit door.

Note that a few trowel marks will show. A skilled applicator will be able to minimise the trowel marks. It is more of a slow pulling action than trowelling.

As a general tip if you have an hour to spare remove your masking tape it comes off so much easier than once it is fully cured.

SECOND COAT (if applicable)

Only if the original floor is rough and uneven should it be necessary to apply a second coat of Skimcote C.

Allow the first layer of Skimcote C to dry for a minimum of 7 hours.

The mixing procedure is the same as for the first coat.

Apply 1 to 2 coats of **Africote** Matt Sealer to the first layer of Skimcote C. Let the sealer dry for about 3 Hours before applying the 2nd layer of Skimcote C.

Do not let the Matt Sealer become covered with dust or get contaminated in any way. It is acceptable for the Matt Sealer to stand overnight.

Apply the Skimcote C using the same method as described for the first coat.

CURING of SKIMCOTE C

In warm conditions the floor may be sealed 72 Hours after application. The longer you wait the better!

In cold conditions Skimcote C may still look "wet" the following day. This is not a cause for concern; just allow extra time to cure properly. In cold and/or moist conditions it may take up to 3 days for Skimcote C to cure and

dry properly. If Skimcote is laid on top of tiles be aware that the product takes longer to dry allow a minimum of 3 days. Test the area again with a moisture metre it **MUST** be below 8 before you can apply twin pack.

SANDING THE FLOOR

Although it is not necessary, Skimcote C can be sanded. Use fine (200 grit) sandpaper.

Sanding will change the colour of the finished floor.

Prior to sealing, the floor will appear lighter after sanding. After sealing the sanded floor, the colour will be darker than standard.

Do not sand small areas. Once sealed, the small, sanded areas will be very noticeable.

Sand the entire surface with the same grit and to the same extent.

Ensure the surface is completely dust-free before sealing.

SEALING THE FLOOR

Minimum drying time for the Skimcote C before sealing is **72 hours** in summer.

Any liquid or rainwater reaching the Skimcote C before it has been sealed will leave marks.

The surface and the air must be dust free before applying sealer. Use a vacuum cleaner **ESPECIALLY** by the skirting's, cupboards as the dust collects here and when you apply the sealer your roller picks up this dust and you end up rolling it back down, this is not visible at first but as the sealer dries it becomes very unsightly. Do not apply any sealer to a sun-baked or hot surface.

If Twin Pack sealer is applied directly to the Skimcote C without first applying a coat of Matt sealer, the final colour will be darker and have more movement.

Method 1) to keep the floor colour with a minimum of darkening, apply 1 coat of Matt Sealer followed by 1 (ONE) coat of Twin Pack Polyurethane Sealer. Allow a minimum 6 hours for the Matt sealer to dry before applying the Twin Pack Sealer.

Method 2) Dilute the first coat of Twin pack sealer by 20%. (Using the same amount of solvent as hardener is equal to 20%)

Apply the 2nd coat of undiluted Twin Pack Sealer after a minimum of 24 hours. Allow 2 to 3 day's interval if the weather is cold and damp.

When applying Skimcote over tiles it shows up more trowel marks than usual, by applying a coat of matt sealer it conceals these trowel marks better.

Apply the Twin Pack sealer according to manufacturer's instructions. We recommend a white mohair roller, upon purchase remove from its packaging and wash, allow to dry before using. (This removes any loose hairs that are visible upon drying.

Use a **clean** or new brush or roller to apply the Twin Pack sealer as solvents in the sealer will dissolve dried paint and leave unsightly streaks.

Extra energy and care must be taken when applying sealers. Even slightly uneven coats can be seen in reflected light.

Apply small areas at a time. Work with a system and stick to the same pattern of application.

Apply the sealants by rolling in all directions; always finish off by rolling in the same direction to ensure as even a coat as possible.

APPLICATION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY QUALIFIED AND TRAINED APPLICATOR.

If the Skimcote C is not laid according to these instructions, Africote will not entertain any claims.

Due to the unique appearance of SKIMCOTE C a test panel, using the same batch, is to be laid to obtain the customers approval. Africote will not entertain any claim on colour or finish without the customer's approval of the test panel. Test panel to be not less than 1 x 1 meter.

CLEANING OF SKIMCOTE C

Dust and dirt particles that are hardly visible act as an abrasive. The best method to remove dust is with a vacuum. Vacuum once or twice a week.

Mopping with a damp (NOT wet) mop using Africote GP degreaser diluted as per manufacturers instructions. For areas where there is more dirt and spillage, a mop must be rinsed regularly otherwise the dirt is just spread

around. Replace the water in the pail regularly.

CAUTION Where the Skimcote C meets and stops at a wall, there is generally a point of access for moisture. As the mop squeezes against the wall, moisture can be left behind. This will get under the Skimcote C. The result is a slow but steady darkening of the Skimcote C along such "joints" This is especially true by exterior doorways. Wipe up any spills at once.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

High heels will leave marks in the surface.

Chairs with a small footprint and/or sharp edges on the foot-piece may leave marks. "Rocking" on a chair intensifies the pressure on the floor.

Cover the foot-piece of the furniture with carpeting or a plastic cap.

Do not drag heavy furniture across the floor.

Take care in areas where moisture can penetrate, like full length windows exposed to rain, showers and skirting's. The water/moisture penetration occurs where the Skimcote ends, and the wall or vertical glass starts.

Any moisture penetration will cause the floor to darken considerably in these areas. The darker area is most noticeable.

When dropped, heavy knives and cutlery can penetrate the sealer, leaving a small and almost invisible hole.

If the floor is regularly cleaned with a mop, water penetration will occur at these tiny holes and dark spots will appear.

Skimcote C is not suitable for outdoors.

USES:

Use	:	Interior only
Appearance	:	Seamless floor with slight movement and trowel marks
Drying Time	:	12 hours in summer
Recoat Time	:	72 hours do a moisture test first
Spread Rate	:	7m ² to 8m ² per 25kg applied at recommended 2mm thickness
Colours:	:	25 standard colours available.
Cleaning	:	Wash with clean water

PACKAGING:

STORAGE: Store in dry, cool conditions and ensure bucket is sealed airtight.

CLEANING OF TOOLS: Wash immediately after use with clean water.

SHELF LIFE: 6 Months

COLOURS: 28 standard colours

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Skimcote C is not flammable. Skimcote C contains fine cement and aggregates. Avoid inhalation. Contact with product may cause irritation to sensitive skin. Wear suitable protective clothing, gloves and eye/face protection. In case of insufficient ventilation, wear suitable

FIRST AID

EYES Do not rub. Flush with plenty of water. Seek medical advice.

SKIN Wash thoroughly with soap and water.

Wash immediately after handling. If condition develops seek medical advice.

NB: **No** claims will be entertained where applications are done using other manufacturer's products in combination with Africote products. This includes bonding liquids, filler coats, sealers, undercoats etc.

<p>NB: Due to ongoing research and development undertaken on our coatings and the application process, coupled with technological advances in the industry, please consult our factory to ensure you have the latest Data Sheet.</p>
