

# TOPCEM

Special hydraulic binder for normal setting, fast drying (4 days) and controlled shrinkage screeds



## WHERE TO USE

Formation of bonded, unbonded and floating screeds on both existing and new concrete prior to the installation of PVC, linoleum, ceramic tiles, natural stone, carpet or timber flooring where rapid drying is required for short installation times. Suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

### Some application examples

- Formation of screeds set to light foot traffic after 12 hours and completely dry after 4 days for laying resilient and timber flooring.
- Formation of screeds on which ceramic tiles can be installed after 24 hours and natural stone after 2 days.
- Patching and repairing floor screeds where rapid restoration is required.
- Preparation of screeds incorporating underfloor heating systems without the need for polymer additives.

## TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Topcem** is a special hydraulic binder which, when mixed with graded aggregates and water, can produce mortars that can harden in approximately 24 hours, and dry in approximately 4 days.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Do not mix **Topcem** with other cement, lime, gypsum or **Mapecem** etc.
- Do not leave **Topcem** dry-mixed with aggregates, immediately add the correct quantity of water to the mix.
- Do not mix **Topcem** just with fine sand, use aggregates graded from 0 to 8 mm.
- Do not mix **Topcem** with an excessive quantity of water.
- Do not add water and remix **Topcem** after it has started to set.
- It is recommended to incorporate saw cuts to one third of the depth of the screed thickness when installing large bay sizes.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

### Preparing the substrate

For an unbonded or floating application, all substrates are suitable for receiving a **Topcem** screed. Isolate the substrate with a sheet of polyethylene or similar.

For bonded applications, the substrate needs to be dry, resistant to compression and tension, free from cracks, dust, loose material, oil, paint, wax and traces of gypsum. In the case of rising damp provide a suitable waterproof membrane. Existing joints in the substrate must be carried through the screed.

For resilient installations, relative humidity and pH level readings must be carried out on the concrete substrate in accordance with AS 1884 (2012). If required, a moisture vapour barrier (such as **Primer MF** or **Mapeproof 1K Turbo**) should be applied above the screed.

## UNBONDED SCREEDS (Minimum 35 mm thick)

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## Preparing the mix

Carefully mix **Topcem** with graded aggregates 0-8 mm in diameter and water, in a mixer or batcher for at least 5 minutes. The mix must be spread, tamped and levelled in the shortest possible time and in any event not more than an hour after preparation. Particular care must be taken with the quantity of water which must be such as to obtain a mix with a "damp earth" consistency that under a float finish will compact to produce a closed and smooth surface without water bleed.

**Topcem**, aggregates and water can be mixed using:

- a drum mixer;
- an ordinary concrete mixer;
- a screw mixer;
- a truck mixer;
- an automatic pressure pump.

Mixing manually with a shovel is not recommended as it does not permit good dispersion of the components of **Topcem** resulting in the need to increase the quantity of water in order to obtain the right mix. Where it is not possible to use a mechanical mixer and for small areas that require mixing by hand, it is recommended to thoroughly dry mix the **Topcem** with the aggregates before adding the water in small amounts, turning the mix until a "damp earth" consistency is obtained.

**On compressible substrates or where the thickness exceeds 60 mm, incorporate galvanized metal reinforcement in accordance with AS 3958.1.**

## RECOMMENDED DOSAGE

**Topcem** one 20 kg bag Graded aggregates 0-8 mm in diameter 120-140 kg Water 10-12 kg for dry aggregate.  
The amount of water could vary depending on the moisture in the aggregate

## Spreading the mix

The **Topcem** mix should be spread in the same way as a normal screed. A polyethylene isolating sheet (or other similar material) must be laid to create a separating layer between the screed and the supporting substrate.

This separating layer also provides the function of a vapour barrier, preventing damp rising from the substrate and also dehydration of the **Topcem** screed due to rapid absorption of water; the absorbed water, rising subsequently would retard the drying process.

**Topcem** screeds are prepared using the same techniques as for ordinary cement screeds, preparing levelling strips, laying the mix, carefully compacting it and then tamping for the required surface finish.

Where it is necessary to incorporate piping or sheathing in the **Topcem** screed the upper layer which must not be less than 2 cm thick, should be reinforced with galvanized steel mesh of not more than 30x30 mm.

Around the perimeter of the area and around columns etc., it is advisable to form an expansion joint about one centimetre wide between the wall and the screed with a flexible material (such as felt board, cork, polystyrene, etc.).

If the installation of the screed is interrupted away from a construction joint cut the day joint in the screed straight down and insert pieces of 3-6 mm diameter, steel rods 20-30 cm long, they should be spaced 20-30 cm apart to ensure perfect bonding and to avoid cracks and differing levels when work is resumed.

**On average there is more time available for laying and working with Topcem screeds compared to traditional cement screeds. However the ambient temperature influences the setting and drying times.**

## BONDED SCREEDS (10 to 100 mm thick)

Preparing the mix, proportions and spreading the mix are exactly the same as for unbonded screeds, but first apply a **Planicrete SP** bonding slurry onto the perfectly clean substrate.

## DOSAGE OF THE BONDING SLURRY

**Planicrete SP:** 2 parts by weight

**Topcem:** 3 parts by weight

To ensure adhesion, spread the slurry onto the surface at a thickness of 2-3 mm thick to be covered immediately before the **Topcem** screed (fresh screed on fresh slurry).

For bonded screeds above 50 mm thick, it is recommended to incorporate galvanised mesh reinforcement in accordance with AS 3958.1.

## FLOATING SCREEDS (minimum 55 mm thick)

The screed mix is prepared and applied in the same way as an unbonded screed. The difference being that the floating screeds incorporate insulation or heating systems.

The separating layer should have a high resistance to compression and not depress more than 3 mm under the anticipated final load. Where underfloor heating pipes are incorporated, they should be located a minimum of 25 mm below the surface of the screed. Additionally reinforcing mesh should be placed over the pipes.

The underfloor heating may be commissioned after 4 days.

## MEASURING THE MOISTURE CONTENT

Because of the particular composition and character of **Topcem**, ordinary electric moisture meters, do not give reliable values; residual moisture can only be recorded with a carbide hygrometer.

## Cleaning

Tools can be cleaned with water.

## CONSUMPTION

Consumption varies in relation to the thickness of the screed and the dosage of **Topcem**. For doses of 200-250 kg of **Topcem** per m<sup>3</sup> of aggregate consumption is 2-2.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>/cm of thickness.

## PACKAGING

20 kg paper bags.

## STORAGE

**Topcem** can be stored for 12 months in a dry place in the original packaging.



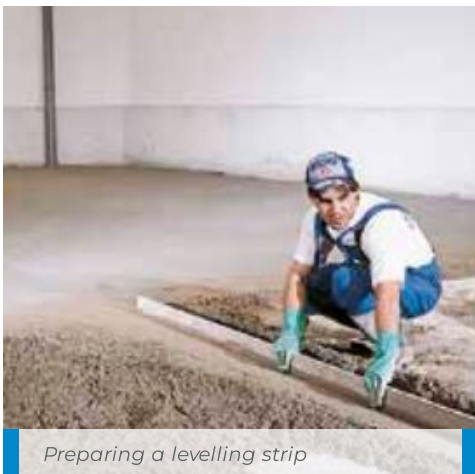
Mixing Topcem in a mini-batcher



Mixing Topcem with an automatic pumping unit



Batching a Topcem mix



Preparing a levelling strip



Screeding Topcem



Power floating the surface of a Topcem screed

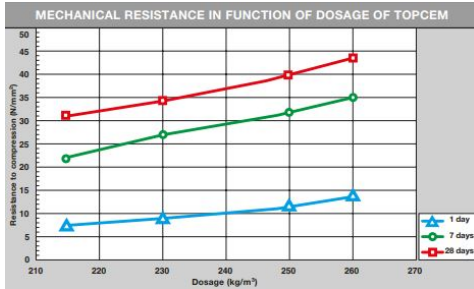




Detail of a Topcem screed with reinforcement rods



Spreading the anchoring slurry for bonded Topcem screeds



## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION

**Topcem** contains cement that when in contact with sweat or other body fluids causes irritant alkaline reactions and allergic reactions to those predisposed. During use wear protective gloves and goggles and take the usual precautions for handling chemicals. If the product comes in contact with the eyes or skin, wash immediately with plenty of water and seek medical attention. For further and complete information about the safe use of our product please refer to the latest version of our Safety Data Sheet.

PRODUCT FOR PROFESSIONAL USE.

MECHANICAL RESISTANCE EN 13892 AND MOISTURE IN SCREEDS WITH TOPCEM (20 kg), GRADED DRY AGGREGATE 0-8 mm (160 kg) AND WATER (11 kg)			
TIME (days)	MECHANICAL RESISTANCE (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )		MOISTURE at +23°C - 50% R.H. Measured on samples 4x4x16 cm
	COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH	FLEXURAL STRENGTH	
1	> 8	> 3	< 3.5
4	> 15	> 4	< 2.0
7	> 22	> 5	-
28	> 30	> 6	-

**Topcem** is not a rapid setting binder, therefore workability is like a normal cement screed.

## WARNING

Although the technical details and recommendations contained in this product data sheet correspond to the best of our knowledge and experience, all the above information must, in every case, be taken as merely indicative and subject to confirmation after long-term practical application; for this reason, anyone who intends to use the product must ensure beforehand that it is suitable for the envisaged application. In every case, the user alone is fully responsible for any consequences deriving from the use of the product.

Please refer to the current version of the Technical Data Sheet, available from our website [www.mapei.com.au](http://www.mapei.com.au)

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