



SIKAFLOOR® SYSTEMS MASTERING VIVARIUM FLOOR INSTALLATIONS

FIVE FACTORS FOR FLAWLESS FLOORS

You've spent hours of consultation and analysis to choose the correct Sika Flooring system for your unique environment and you think you have done all of the heavy work needed to ensure a quality floor that will last for many years. In reality, you've just started. Working with the flooring applicators prior, during and after the installation is just as important as choosing a system with the correct chemistries to match your facility's needs. Reading on, you will find some simple, although important, pointers to maximize your vivarium flooring investment. .

START OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT

It is always the best practice to involve your Sika Flooring professional and their approved installer early on in the project so that everyone connected with it understands your environment, expected usage, budget and expectations. Turn this understanding into a full set of accurately documented project specifications that are agreed to by all parties. Also, certify that the flooring applicator has the proper vivarium experience and credentials to install the flooring system.

With these simple starting steps completed you are ready for the Sika Floor to be installed – almost.

PROVE IT

The absolute best way to start off a flawless Sika Floor installation is to insist that the floor applicator create a small mockup of the flooring system. This will not only demonstrate the attributes of the system but will validate the applicator's installation skills. In addition, it presents an excellent opportunity to match your vision to the installation environment. Most applicators will urge you to create a mockup area, regardless of the facility's size, because it level-sets expectations and allows an opportunity to tweak the floor chemistries to match the environment. All top-notch applicators use a mockup to benchmark the rest of the floor installation.

You will want to select a mockup space that not only has similar environment conditions but also contains many of the architectural details – coves, door frames, drains, etc. – that will be found in most of the facility. Be sure that it is well lit, closed off to traffic and will not get wet. A pre-set time schedule for the mockup install should be established to give a completion context to the overall project.

Once the mockup is complete, take plenty of time to examine it thoroughly to ensure it matches your stated requirements for skid resistance, color, gloss, cove/wall transitions and overall consistency. Remember, this may be your last chance to change any of the floor's characteristics.

CONTROL IT

Climate change is bad – especially during the installation of any resinous floor. You must take every precaution to control the environment before, during and immediately after the floor has been applied. While some Sika Floors are designed to be installed in extreme conditions, a typical floor should be laid down between 60° and 80°F. Fluctuations in moisture and humidity can also affect the appearance of a finished floor, so it is important to try to keep the ambient temperature at least 5°F above the dew point through-out the entire installation. Also, prior to the floor application, it is important that the concrete substrate remains dry. Remoistened concrete can take twice as long to dry as its initial cure.

Of course adequate lighting, ventilation and preventing the entry of moisture during the installation will go a long way toward a beautiful floor.

MANAGE IT

In an ideal world, the flooring contractor would be the last craftsmen working in the building and the HVAC and lighting would all be running perfectly. We know it's not a perfect world, so precautions must be taken to protect the flooring work area. All it takes is one dropped

Sika's Summary

Your actions before, during and after the flooring installation will directly impact the resulting quality, appearance and lifecycle of your new resinous floor.

Actions to Take

- Certify the installer's credentials
- Create a mockup of the floor
- Properly prepare the work area
- Properly protect the work area
- Control access to the work area
- Provide adequate time for the floor's installation and curing time





wrench on a non-cured floor and the entire area must be reapplied. . Likewise, drywallers, plasterers and other finish trades create fine dust that will contaminate an uncured floor.

While moving in heavy objects and equipment take care not to drag or scrape the floor and be cautious of spilling any hydraulic fluids or oils. Coordinating all the tradesmen may seem as difficult as herding cats, but it is well worth the effort to do so.

WAIT FOR IT

As coach John Wooden said, "If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?"

The typical thinking is that once the floor is installed you are ready to throw open the doors. Not quite. Your new Sika Floor needs a little time to cure properly. Consult your Sika Floor professional or the System Data Sheet for your floor type to anticipate when it can be open to traffic. All data sheets will have estimated cure times. However, cure times can be greatly affected by ambient influences such as relative humidity and temperature. Your involvement in effectively managing the work zone during the cure time is vitally important. Trying to shave off a few hours to get the area open could very well ruin a few days of flooring work.

THE WRAP UP

In every aspect of the flooring project – the planning, mockups, installation, monitoring and cure time – the common ingredient of success is your involvement. To get the very most out of your Sika Flooring investment, you must become part of the process; insist on mockups and deftly manage the installation environment



Sika® INDUSTRIAL FLOORING



WHO WE ARE

Sika is a globally active specialty chemicals company. Sika supplies the building and construction industry as well as manufacturing industries (automotive, bus, truck, rail, solar and wind power plants, facades). Sika is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting loadbearing structures. Sika's product lines feature high-quality concrete admixtures, specialty mortars, sealants and adhesives, damping and reinforcing materials, structural strengthening systems, industrial flooring as well as roofing and waterproofing systems.



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