



Martin Cummins on his Christmas wish list

Here's what I would really like for Christmas

Dear Santa,

I know it's a very busy time for you, but as technical training manager at Laybond I've been a very good boy this year – no, honest I have, and in return I have put together a short list of Christmas presents, which I hope you will consider. I don't ask for much, but if you could see your way to letting me have just a couple of them I would be very grateful.

Last year you kindly gave me a bicycle so I could get round and chat to all my friends and I have found this very useful. Although bicycles may not be the best way, would you please **get manufacturers to communicate** with each other; I know they do this better than contractors, but I still think there is room for improvement. Manufacturers are instrumental for instance in setting standards but they can't do this in isolation. Using our combined knowledge would help speed up change and go some way to solve the industry ills.

Although I appreciate the tangerine you left me last year, maybe this year you could help contractors to start putting **quality and workmanship** above fighting for the pound per sq m.

Next I would like the government to step in and resolve once and for all the **retentions** issue suffered by contractors. I know the National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC) has successfully lobbied MPs such that all big

government contracts are now paid in 10 days. The government doesn't ask for retentions; it's more that the main contractors won't pay the sub-contractors – sitting on thousands of pounds. The government should enforce payment.

I know I stubbed my toe on the desk leg the other day and many unprintable words were expressed at the time, but despite this I would still like to see a more sensible approach to **health & safety**. I know it is very important and I am not for one moment suggesting that it should be sidelined or devalued, but really – carpet fitters using a Stanley knife should not be forced to wear chainmail gloves surely?

Since I took delivery of my three different coloured waste bins at home to separate my rubbish, it has focussed me more on waste and the like so now I would like a concerted effort to be made by all to examine the **green issues** in a realistic light.

There are many great ideas out there, but they need thinking through and examined logically and realistically, but perhaps more importantly from a perspective of **incentive rather than punishment** that typically means higher costs for everyone. Credit them for doing something good rather than punish them for not!

Priming – Yes Santa, I know I ask for this every year, but you can never have too much

can you? Now if only the contractors would use it when it's needed, a lot of other people's Christmases would be happier.

Now what about a nice new train set or better still a concerted industry effort towards training? Can you see to it that **training** is truly highlighted on the agenda rather than just be a buzz word? Everyone seems to agree training is important yet so few really embrace it, or consider it a continuous development tool. What was learned five years ago may have changed considerably and many products certainly have and will change again five years forward. Can anyone really say they know it all?

With the snow and rain outside there is nothing I would like more than to curl up in front of the fire with a quality bottle of Burgundy to wet my whistle, which reminds me. Talking of moisture – I'd like a consensus approach to the merits and demerits of various **moisture testing methods**, so we can come to some agreement regarding the readings from each and what they mean in real world situations of moisture. After all, we are meant to be helping contractors not confusing them!!

I know I don't ask for much and I'm sure you can see your way to putting a smile on my face on Christmas morning – can't you? **CFJ**

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Neil Sanders on flooring adhesives

What you want to know about adhesives

HERE are some of the most frequently asked questions on flooring adhesives:

Q: Why are so many types of flooring adhesives available on the market?

Different floorcoverings and site conditions each require a particular set of performance characteristics from an adhesive.

As the range of floorcovering types expands, so too has the range of adhesives available to secure them. This has resulted in the leading flooring adhesive manufacturers offering a comprehensive range of specialist adhesives.

Selecting the most appropriate adhesive is essential to ensure the long-term performance of a floorcovering installation and avoid remedial work.

However, specifying the most appropriate adhesive for each individual project can be a challenging process, partly due to the broad selection of products

available, for almost all conceivable applications. Moreover, as adhesive technology continues to advance, the number of products on the market is constantly increasing.

When it comes to selecting an adhesive, always consider products specifically developed for particular applications, rather than general purpose systems.

In addition, take into account several factors prior before specifying an adhesive, including its compatibility with the subfloor and the floorcovering, and properties required for ease of installation.

Service conditions, such as CDM regulations and environmental constraints, should also be considered.

For the most up-to-date information when identifying the most appropriate adhesive for a specific application, contractors should consult manufacturers' recommended adhesive guides.

Q: What type of adhesive should be used to install a vinyl floorcovering in a conservatory?

The popularity of conservatories or large window areas to provide natural light means that high temperatures should also be considered when selecting adhesives for resilient floorcoverings.

Conservatories can quickly heat up with the sun, generating high temperatures which can result in dimensional instability of a floorcovering, causing it to 'tent' or shrink.

As such, adhesives should be chosen that offer a high resistance to heat and a high bond strength, reducing the potential for movement when a floorcovering is subjected to significant variations in temperature.

High performance water-based adhesives are available alongside traditional reactive products, and

both options are suitable for high temperature areas.

Offering high bond strength and a rigid bond once cured, these adhesives effectively prevent the floorcovering from moving.

Q: Which adhesives are recommended for use on heavy-duty areas that are subject to surface water?

F Ball recommends using reactive, or single component moisture-curing polyurethane adhesives for heavy duty, wet areas. These types of adhesive are chemically curing and not susceptible to surface moisture or the ingress of moisture.

Despite being water resistant and suitable for use outdoors, moisture-curing polyurethane adhesives are not intended as a substitute for a damp proof membrane. **CFJ**

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