

Help and advice



Ian Knifton on protecting tiles in educational establishments

Tips on moving to the top of the class

BECAUSE of the high footfall from students going to lessons and lectures, flooring contractors working on ceramic tiling applications in schools and universities invariably select heavy duty tiles.

But unless appropriate tile protection systems are also incorporated at the design stage, there is a very real danger that the installation will still fail through tiles cracking, splitting and debonding from the substrate.

This month I will explain how to ensure the long-lasting integrity of tiled floors in education buildings.

Q: I've been asked to tile a large dining area for around 1,200 pupils at a secondary school. The architect left it to us to select appropriate movement joints. What's the best way to decide which is the right profile?

A: There are many types of movement joints on the market, but if the one used isn't capable of doing what is demanded of it, the tiles can still crack and debond from the substrate.

The correct width and material – brass, aluminium, stainless steel

or pvc – must be specified to take the expected degree of movement and traffic into account.

The amount of movement that can be absorbed, and therefore the degree of protection given by the joint, depends on the size of the profile and the compressible material used.

Pre-formed surface joints will usually accommodate movement up to 20% of the movement zone width. For example, one of the larger joints, at 15mm wide, with a movement zone of 11mm, will accommodate up to 2.5mm of tile movement.

Q: Part of our flooring contract involves tiling the shower area in a school gym and sports hall. Will the water-resistant tile backing system and grout we're using be enough to waterproof the entire installation?

A: Absolutely not. If they're water-resistant, it means they are unaffected by the water themselves, but they don't stop it eventually seeping through into the fabric of the building, causing long-term damage.

When waterproofing – or tanking



– between the tile and the substrate, the British Standards Institution (BSI) recommends using impervious membranes which stop the water from going any further, protecting the installation.

BS5385 states that filling the joints with impervious grout, 'cannot be guaranteed to eliminate entirely the passage of liquids downwards...in the case of suspended floors, water passing downwards may cause dampness on walls and ceilings below, and in the worst cases leads to flooding.'

It says the most satisfactory

method of preventing this is by: 'Providing a membrane between the base and the tiling.'

Q: I'm tiling the main thoroughfare of a new block at a university. I know what's needed in terms of movement joints to create individual tile fields to protect against movement, but how should I protect the edges of the tiles where they meet the wooden or carpeted floors in the lecture rooms?

A: A transition profile is the best way of protecting the edges of tiles where they abut other surfaces.

Certain types of profile are required for meeting hard surfaces such as wood and laminate at the same height, other profiles are designed for where tiles meet soft floors like carpet, and another range has sloping arms for where the neighbouring surface is a different height from the tiles. **CFJ**

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Dids MacDonald on defeating the copycats

There's a new way to protect designs

IN a world where design theft is prevalent, it is good to register designs where possible.

This offers design protection and a monopoly right, but can also help in raising finance and may be used as a basis for brand expansion through licensing, franchising or design collaboration.

Any potential new business partners are always more assured if IP rights created by new designs are registered.

As from January 1 2008, all companies wishing to protect industrial designs nationally, within the 27 European Union countries and internationally can increase the scope of design protection by this simplified single international application, which can be made through:

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) www.wipo.int

Although the UK is not party to the 'Hague Agreement' and The Geneva Act enabling a single registration, UK nationals can use

a single application through the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

A key benefit is that you only have one renewal date which covers you for national European and International protection. Overall, there will be a financial and administrative saving.

National and European design protection, if preferred, is still available through:

UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) www.ipo.gov.uk

T: 08459 500 505

EU Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) www.oami.europa.eu

What is an industrial design?

WIPO describes it as 'the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article. The design may consist of three-dimensional features, such as the shape or surface of an article, or of two-dimensional features, such as patterns, lines or colour.'

Industrial designs are applied to a wide variety of products of industry and handicraft: from technical and medical instruments to watches, jewellery, and other luxury items; from housewares and electrical appliances to vehicles and architectural structures; from textile designs to leisure goods.

'To be protected under most national laws, an industrial design must appeal to the eye. This means that an industrial design is primarily of an aesthetic nature, and does not protect any technical features of the article to which it is applied'.

Like copyright, unregistered design is an automatic right to prevent others from copying without permission.

However, registering a design provides additional protection so you do not have to prove copying if infringement occurs.

The design registration certificate basically says you 'own' that design. This is a significant

factor because it simplifies the process of taking legal action.

Unregistered design:

Companies without a budget to register all new designs need a design audit trail when taking any legal action.

ACID members can access the ACID Design Data Bank as a free benefit. All new designs provided they are 'novel' and have 'distinctive character' automatically create rights in their unregistered design.

Designers can send their design to the ACID Design Data Bank free and rely on independent evidence of the date they are received by the ACID office which can be used to substantiate design ownership. Around 90% of ACID's 240 settlements were based on unregistered design rights. **CFJ**

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