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Debbie Kavanagh
 ■ T: 01300 320620
AMTICO Resilient fitting courses.
 Marie Lane. ■ T: 0121 745 0821
FORBO has one-day installation
 courses. ■ T: 01592 647396
NORA RUBBER FLOORING
 Shaun Howarth ■ T: 01455 200500
KARNDEAN ■ T: 01386 820170
MAPEI ■ T: 0121 508 6970
POLYFLOR ■ T: 0161 767 1111
TARKETT TRAINING ACADEMY
 ■ T: 01622 854040

SURFACE PREP

ARDEX Luke Kingston
 ■ T: 01440 714939
F BALL
 ■ T: 01538 361633
LAYBOND Martin Cummins
 ■ T: 07740 278631
INSTARMAC Karl Brannigan

■ T: 01827 872244
MAPEI
 ■ T: 0121 508 6970
SPE
 ■ T: 01673 860709
THE PREPARATION GROUP
 Introduction to surface preparation
May 5, Jun 4; floor removal
 processes **Jun 9**; know your
 surfaces **May 19**; advanced
 operators **May 28, Jun 24**; machine
 operation & maintenance **May 26-**
27; polishing & grinding techniques
May 13, Jun 17; general
 maintenance (½ day) **Jun 11**.
 ■ T: 0870 224 3606
UZIN Kenton Penny
 ■ T: 01235 534106
FLOORING GUILD
 ■ T: 0800 072 3223
 ■ www.flooringguild.co.uk

● DIARY DATES ● DIARY DATES

DOMOTEX MID EAST

May 12-14
 Dubai, UAE
 www.domotex.de

SUBCON

June 9-11
 NEC Birmingham
 www.subconshow.co.uk

THE FACILITIES SHOW

May 12-14
 NEC Birmingham
 www.thefacilitiesshow.com

PROCUREMENT SHOW

June 9-10
 Earls Court One, London
 www.procurementsolutions.gov.uk

SAFETY & HEALTH EXPO

May 12-14
 NEC, Birmingham
 www.safety-health-expo.co.uk

IN STORE SHOW

June 30-July 1
 Grand Hall, Olympia
 www.instoreshow.co.uk

DESIGN PRIMA

June 2-4
 Business Design Centre, London
 www.designprima.co.uk

NATIONAL FLOOR SHOW

September 8-10
 Harrogate
 www.nationalfloorshow.co.uk

● CPD courses ● CPD courses ●

Flooring firms offering CPD courses:

Altro ■ T: 01462 489568
 Amtico ■ T: 0121 745 0821
 Antron ■ T: 07876 577317
 Ardex ■ T: 01440 714939
 ASCER ■ T: 0207 467 2385
 BAL ■ T: 01782 591100
 Ball & Young ■ T: 01536 200502
 Bona ■ T: 01908 399740
 Bonar Floors ■ T: 01773 744121
 Brintons ■ T: 01562 635110
 Burmatex ■ T: 01924 276333
 Desso ■ T: 01235 554848
 Dulux Trade ■ E: dtc@ici.com
 FeRFA ■ T: 01252 739149
 Flowcrete ■ T: 01270 753000
 Forbo ■ T: 01592 643777
 F Ball ■ T: 01538 361633
 Florprotec ■ T: 01325 269800
 Gradus ■ T: 01625 428922
 Heckmondwike ■ T: 01924 410544

Interface ■ T: 01274 690690
 Instarmac ■ T: 01827 872244
 Isocrete ■ T: 01270 753000
 Junckers ■ T: 01376 534700
 Gerflor ■ T: 01926 401500
 Isocrete ■ T: 01270 753000
 Kingspan ■ T: 0870 7894000
 Laybond ■ T: 07740 278631
 Mapei ■ T: 0121 508 6970
 Matworks ■ T: 01924 413634
 Milliken ■ T: 01942 826073
 Maxit UK ■ T: 01928 515656
 Nora Flooring ■ T: 01455 200500
 Paragon ■ T: 0845 601 0431
 Polyflor ■ T: 0161 767 1111
 Rehau ■ T: 01989 762600
 Remmers ■ T: 0845 373 0103
 Sika ■ T: 01707 394444
 Tarkett ■ T: 01622 854040
 Thortex ■ T: 01609 780170
 Westex Carpets ■ T: 01274 861334



Sid Bourne on training

'I can help you to get an NVQ and maybe also funding'

ARE qualifications worth it? I think they are, in fact I know they are. An NVQ is available for installers of carpets, impervious floors and wood.

I support this NVQ 100% because it proves if a floorlayer is competent. If not I will advise and help them to get the correct training.

Some installers of my age ask why they need a qualification? That's up to them, but having an NVQ puts you in the same league as qualified electricians, plumbers, builders, etc.

If anyone asks me why they need an NVQ, I reply by asking if they are afraid of being tested? You can easily overcome any doubts by working with a good assessor who makes you comfortable and is on the same level as you. In one way, an NVQ gives floorlayers the Corgi stamp of approval.

Let me tell of an installer I know very well. His workmanship is excellent and he is very passionate about his work; he spends bucket loads of money on courses, which have paid off for him. But he never had an NVQ.

One of his installations recently went very slightly wrong. It could have been resolved in 30 minutes, but the customer took issue and asked about his qualifications. He proudly reeled off all the courses he had attended.

However, the customer replied that courses didn't prove he was competent. Letters from other customers saying what a great job he had done also failed to impress. This installer may have won in court, but all he really required was a nationally recognised qualification like an NVQ.

A second incident involved a herringbone installation which had gone badly wrong. It was in a large property and walking over it was like being on the old fairground ride where you step over a moving floor which goes up

'If you are a floorlayer without an NVQ, don't delay!'

and down.

I asked the customer why she had allowed the builder to install the floor instead of a professional floorlayer. She replied that she couldn't find a qualified floorlayer; the builder was a qualified tradesman so she thought he would do the job correctly. She assured me that she would have employed a floorlayer with an NVQ if she could find one.

NVQs are fully funded and in most cases will cost you nothing so what have you got to lose, other than business by not having it? Some fitters think an NVQ is only for the contract market; they are so wrong.

Many retailers only employ NVQ qualified installers because it confirms competence. Ask people on the High Street; most will know about an NVQ and respect it.

The British Wood Flooring Association is offering a 50% discount for membership to anyone who takes the NVQ through them. BWFA members with NVQs will be put forward to customers as priority.

www.bwfa.co.uk

If you are a floorlayer without an NVQ, don't delay. You need the qualification now, not in five years when funding may have stopped.

I am here to help, and more than happy to talk, sometimes too much but always available.

If you are prepared to make the effort, I will gladly guide you along the path to an NVQ, whether it is for the carpet, impervious or wood qualifications. Just contact me. I will also let you know if you can get full funding. **CFJ**

■ **sidbourne@blueyonder.co.uk**
 ■ **M: 07841 500 940**