

# Subfloor Levelling

**A GOOD SURFACE IS THE KEY** no matter what kind of covering is being installed or the end use.

## Applications

- Domestic

Domestic situations require a flat and even floor suitable for subsequent floorcoverings. Most flooring products come with a manufacturer's recommendation regarding subfloor tolerance.

Anything outside those tolerances would need to be rectified by either subfloor removal ( mechanical grinding – shotblasting ) or floor levelling. Using self levelling compounds to rectify an uneven subfloor is the most common choice and more often than not the more economical solution.

- Commercial

Commercial areas are much the same as Domestic but more stringent. There are a few more rules to follow when dealing with commercial spaces due to public access and the volume of people using these areas.

### Australian Standards – Domestic & Commercial

#### Carpet & Vinyl applications

- AS 1885 – 2012

( When a straight edge 2000mm long is placed at rest at two points 2000mm apart on the surface, no part of the surface shall be more than 4mm below the straightedge)  
4mm over 2m + / -

#### Tile & Stone applications

- AS 3958 – 2007

( When a straight edge 3000mm long is placed at rest at two points 3000mm apart on the surface, no part of the surface shall be more than 5mm below the straightedge)  
5mm over 3m + / -

Important note: Australian Standards are a minimum excepted tolerance and some manufacturers installation recommendations go over and above AS standards and must be followed for warranty purposes.

- Industrial

Industrial concrete sometimes need to be levelled for one reason or another. If a levelling compound is required, a high strength finished surface product capable of handling light vehicle traffic through to forklifts is recommended.

A standard Domestic / Commercial grade self levelling compound ( underlayment ) is not designed for this type of application.

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## The right product for the job

- Condition

Concrete floors should be fully cured, structurally sound, clean, dry, and free of surface contaminants and dust for Eg.

Concrete must accept water penetration. Test by lightly sprinkling water on various areas of the substrate. If water penetrates, then a good bond with a selected primer can be achieved. If water beads and fails to be absorbed by the concrete surface, contaminants are present ( Curing Compounds ) therefore loss of adhesion may occur.

Contaminates that are present should be mechanically removed before installation.

- Product selection

Once the substrate has been inspected the suitable products / systems can be chosen from the suppliers range. One of the most important choices is the products. Make sure you choose good quality products that are fit for purpose. Read the most current Product Data Sheet ( PDS ) to verify suitability. If in question speak to the supplier for further information.

- Priming

Correct amount Sikafloor Level PRO Primer should always be applied to the prepared substrate giving good penetration and film build. Thin applications may result in pinholing ( air bubbles ) in finished surface or debonding levelling compound from the substrate. Do Not allow primer to pool while drying.

On particularly porous ( mechanically prepared ) surfaces or where the initial prime coat is absorbed immediately a second coat is recommended.



- Mixing

When mixing your Sikafloor Level PRO levelling compound make sure your water supply is clean and cool. Warm water will change the flow and working time. Use ice in water supply if necessary.

Always mix with the recommended water volume and time line ( 2 – 3 min ). Mixing at high speeds releases the active polymers and not mixing for the correct amount of time may result in product failure.

- Self-levelling Compound / Underlayment

As soon as the primer has dried and product mixed you can begin to pour or pump Sikafloor Level PRO then spread with a long handled gauged spreader to heights as required. Make sure the room / area has good ventilation so the liquid compound can hydrate. Poor ventilation can slow or even retard the curing.