AN INTRODUCTION TO SCREEDING

By Brian Fortner Screed Education Month, Wet Concrete

Why are we doing Screed Education Month? After the success of our Shot blasting Education Month in April, we've decided to continue the series and teach about another one of our signature products, our vibratory screed line. With many years of experience in manufacturing and using screed, we want to challenge misconceptions about screeding, provide practical education, and show you how effective screeding can take your business to the next level.

First of all, what *is* screeding? Screeding is one of the first steps after placing the concrete. This step in the finishing operation is the most important in producing a flat or super flat surface and takes place immediately after the placing of the concrete. It must be completed before excess bleed water appears on the surface. In reality, the better this step is performed, the better the final product.

It's common for a lot of guys to think a 2x4 is all you need to screed. But is that really the best choice? Let's take a look at your different options for effective screeding.

2x4
WOODEN
BOARD

What it is: 2x4 wooden board

How it works: By sea-sawing the board back and forth across the surface of the wet concrete to strike off the excess

Best uses: Levelling, on form only, Primarily for striking off

General Info: No consolidation, Cheapest option

ONE MAN
VIBRATORY
SCREED

What it is: One-man operated vibrating sceed with interchangeable blade

How it works: Single operator pulls the unit across the surface of the concrete

Best uses: On form or freehand, Small to medium sized pads,

General Info: Decent consolidation, Cheapest option for vibrating screed, Reliable

TRUSS SCREED

What it is: Customizable-length vibrating screed

How it works: Segments are spanned across the pad to rest on either form, unit is either pulled/self-propelled across concrete

Best uses: On form only, Small to large pads, Capable of crowning and concave/convex forming

General Info: Incredible consolidation (guaranteed 12" but up to 21"), Very Reliable

LASER SCREED

What it is: Screed machine on extendable arm

How it works: Using lasers as guides via external laser level, screed automatically levels concrete

Best uses: No form required, Medium to extra-large pads,

General Info: High consolidation, Most expensive, Unable to crown or concave/convex form, Most precise

So now that we've got a pretty clear understanding of what these methods are, let's take a closer look at how they compare:

SCREED METHODS & HOW THEY RANK

	LEVELING	CONSOLIDATION	GRADEABILITY	FORM SCREEDING	WET SCREEDING	INITIAL COST	LABOR SAVINGS	CROWNING
DIMENSIONAL 2x4	3	1	3	4	1	5	1	X
ONE MAN VIBRATORYSCREED	4	3	3	4	3	4	3	X
VIBRATORY TRUSS SCREED	5	4	4	5	4	3	4	5
LASER SCREED	5	4	4	X	5	1	5	X

X NOT APPLICABLE 1 FAIR 2 3 GOOD 4 5 GREAT