

# AN INTRODUCTION TO SCREEDING

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*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 screed 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 VIBRATORY SCREED	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

