

## **“Specifying Better Concrete Floors for Floor Coverings”**

Many finish flooring materials are sensitive to high levels of pH, alkalis, and moisture in concrete slabs. Problems that can occur include debonding of the flooring, degradation of the flooring, reduction in indoor air quality, and blistering or bubbling of the floor.

The following are items to keep in mind:

1.  Work with the Owner and the Contractor to develop a realistic project schedule that provides adequate time for concrete drying.
2.  Read your concrete specifications.
  - a. Review the concrete mix specifications and the submittals.
  - b. Review the required properties of the vapor retarder, 10 mil minimum.
  - c. Coordinate flatness, levelness, and surface texture with requirements for flooring products.
  - d. Coordinate moisture content and pH with the flooring manufacturer’s recommendations.
3.  Drawings and specifications should show proper placement of vapor retarder.
4.  Is testing required? If so, what tests? Who is going to perform the testing? If there are different floor finishes, what areas of the floor slab require testing?

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