

Achieving a super floor

PMSA, through Superb Flooring Systems, is the exclusive distributor of Swedish-manufactured HTC grinding equipment, and HTC Superfloor polished concrete – a fast-growing floor style in South Africa, which involves mechanically refining a concrete surface by removing the top concrete paste and exposing the underlying aggregate and concrete matrix, before the underlying concrete is ground and polished to a completely smooth and shining surface. *Construction World* spoke to Walter Ebeling, PMSA director and Quintin Booysen, PMSA's marketing and sales manager about the HTC Superfloor.

When did PMSA introduce HTC Superfloor?

It was introduced about two years ago - in October 2010 when it obtained the HTC distribution rights through Superb Flooring Systems for Southern Africa.

What is HTC Superfloor?

HTC Superfloor is the highest grade and specification of polished concrete flooring. HTC Superfloor is available in different levels, up to seven steps of polishing with different grit diamonds to produce a durable, shiny floor that is called a HTC Superfloor Platinum.

There are many contractors selling polished concrete, however the worry is that there is no clear specification for polished concrete and this could end up doing harm to the polished concrete industry.

We therefore recommend that specifiers, engineers and architects specify the HTC Superfloor as it is a floor that is designed to meet certain criteria that can only be met with the HTC Superfloor. This reduces the risk and the client knows what they are getting and it is measurable.

What role does Superb Flooring Systems play in your supply of these products?

Superb Flooring Systems is the sole distributor of the HTC range in Southern Africa, it keeps stock of the products, has a team of professionally trained experts as well as the backing of a group of respected companies in the PMSA group of companies.

What can HTC grinding equipment offer the user – what does it do and how does it work?

HTC floor grinders are available in several different sizes and versions. The Blackline range grinds/polishes and the Greyline machines are used for floor preparation. HTC Machines are able to transform an ordinary concrete floor into a beautiful, highly polished and hard wearing floor by removing the soft concrete on top and exposing and polishing the aggregate under the surface.

The main use for the machines would be for the HTC Superfloor (polished concrete) but our machines can also do wood and all natural stone floors.

Once executed, are there machines that can assist the user with the maintenance of the finish/floor/cleaning?

The Twister range is how one would maintain an HTC Superfloor. By cleaning with the Twister pad on a daily/weekly basis one can maintain the shine without the use of harmful chemicals. The 'Just add Water' principle is a simple process using a floor polisher or auto scrubber, water and a green twister pad.

Besides achieving certain standards for polished concrete, much has been said about the environmentally-friendly nature of the floors. How is it environmentally friendly?

Concrete is composed of natural materials, but the coating that often are applied to concrete have an adverse effect on the environ-



ment. HTC Superfloor uses up to 30 times less energy than other traditional flooring solutions such as epoxy coated floors. Furthermore, Twister is a completely eco-friendly cleaning solution – it uses water with no chemicals.

'Environmentally friendly' is a relatively new concept to the construction industry – is PMSA involved in the education of the target market?

Yes, through Superb Flooring Systems.

If so, how is this education carried out?

This is achieved through all our marketing and sales literature and the training given to our clients. We also offer full training through our HTC academy which we look forward to extending and expanding by the end of 2012 where we will continue to offer world-class hands-on training through workshops and demonstrations. ■