

## **Boncreat and floor heating**

Boncreat covers go well with current and old floor heating systems. Boncreat soils are also suitable for floor cooling systems.

However, there are a number of rules that need to be applied in advance.

For example, 24 hours before applying boncreat covers, you need to set the water temperature to 20 degrees (note that this is not done by the normal ambient thermostat)

The floor heating start protocol

By starting the floor heating, the pipes heat up and consequently expand and shrink again when they cool down.

With a new system, a start-up protocol always needs to be followed.

This protocol prevents cracks.

If the basement/underlayer cracks, boncreat covers may also crack as it goes with the movement of the basement/underlayer.

Before the protocol can be carried out, the new underlayer of sand cement must be placed for at least 28 days.

With anhydrite underlayer, you can usually start with the start-up protocol after 7 days.

With a start-up protocol, the temperature of the water (which passes through the pipes) is increased from 20 to 40 degrees and again from 40 to 20 degrees.

This is done in stages of 5 degrees by 24 hours, starting at 20 degrees. Then leave the system at 20 degrees for at least 3 days.

The protocol then takes 13 days.

Day 1 -24h 20oC / Day 2 -24h 25oC / Day 3 -24h 30oC, Day 4 -24h 35C / Day 5 - 24h 40oC. then from 40C to 20C at the same speed.

Then leave the floor heating at 20 degrees for 3 days. For a waxed concrete floor, the water temperature can never exceed 40 degrees.

You set the water temperature in the pipes.

You should also make sure that there is a demand for heat by making sure on the ambient thermostat that the heating turns on and that the water in the pipes begins to flow through the system.

The residual moisture content of a cement sand underlayer can be 2.5% and that of anhydrite underlayer may be 0.5%. The floor heating start protocol can help in the drying process.

Note: This is a general start-up protocol, floor heating system providers have their own guidelines, these guidelines determine what you need to do.

There are also systems where a heating protocol is not required at all. These systems must still have been in work for at least 14 days.

### Floor heating after the covering has been installed

Once the new boncreat covers are in place, you can slowly increase the floor heating by starting at 20 degrees, then increasing by 5 degrees every 24 hours to a maximum temperature of 40 degrees (water in the pipes).

### **Electric floor heating**

Boncreat floors are also well suited to electric floor heating.

With electric floor heating, the thermostat system normally has its own protocol.

A heating start protocol can only be started when the basement such as a cement underlayer is at least 28 days old and, for example, the leveling layer in which the floor heating is embedded has dried properly.

Always follow the floor heating supplier's instructions.

### **Old floor heating systems**

With older floor heating systems, pipes are not always resistant to diffusion or the warranty has expired.

Moisture problems are possible. An epoxy anti-humidity film must be applied.