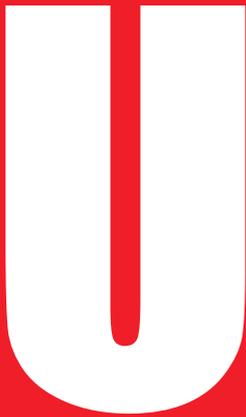


## A-Z OF TILING

Every week as part of our “Stay Positive, Back Stronger” campaign we will be providing you with our A-Z of Tiling Terms. Get in-depth description of many of the common tiling terms, plus some expert insight or top tips from our team.

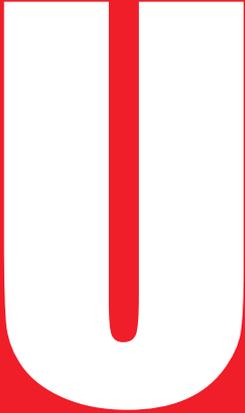


### UNBONDED SCREED

A screed which is not laid directly onto the substrate, but onto a separating layer acting as a damp proof membrane.. This layer could be as simple as a dense polyethene sheet. As there is no bonding of the screed, it could theoretically be lifted clear of the substrate.

#### BAL INSIGHT

Typical thickness is a minimum 50mm, and used on concrete to provide a damp proof membrane and when the concrete is contaminated.

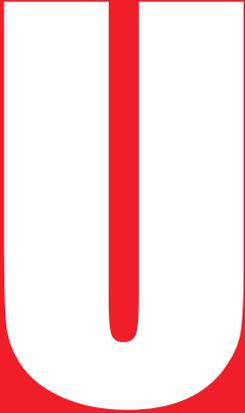


## UNCOUPLING

Uncoupling principles have actually existed for centuries with the Romans being the first documented users of the building process which incorporated an “uncoupling” method. These early practices used a mud bed to separate the substrate (a two-inch thick layer of packed and flattened sand and cement) and the tiles. Both systems use the separating later to provide an uncoupling buffer between the tile and the substrate, enabling the substrate to move independently to the tiles. Modern uncoupling system methods have dramatically improved, but the same basic principles still apply for today’s uncoupling mat systems which are now in common use on floor tiling installations onto a variety of different substrates.

### BAL INSIGHT

Idea to be used in areas with lateral movement such as timber floors, when underfloor heating systems are used beneath. Follow manufactures recommendations on installation because certain mats do not need to be stuck down and the size of tile used.

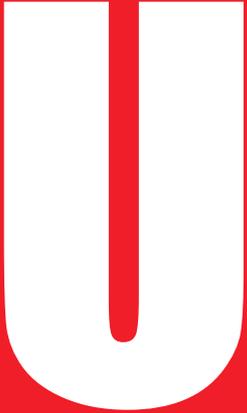


## UNCOUPLING MEMBRANE

A sheet of impervious material used as a separating layer between a substrate and screed.

### BAL INSIGHT

Uncoupling membranes are designed to be an intermediary substrate between the load bearing substrates on the tile. Their purpose is to neutralize lateral stress movement and thus helping to prevent these stresses from transferring through to the tile finish resulting in possible reflective cracking or debonding of tiles.

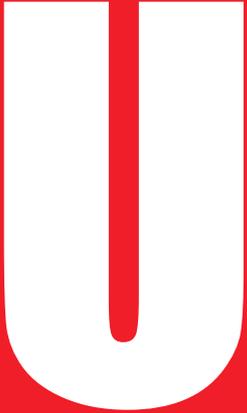


## UNEVEN

Not level or smooth e.g. the floors were cracked and uneven.

### BAL INSIGHT

Best practice is to always provide a flat surface before tiling, in small isolated areas a thicker bed of adhesive can be used depending of the product. When fixing any large format tiles, the background must be flat to provide a sold bed i..e SR1 or better. NOTE: Tiles must NOT be spot fixed to help overcome any uneven surface.



## UNGLAZED TILES

A hard, dense through-bodied tile which derives its colour from the materials of which it is made. Being unglazed means that it will normally require sealing before use.

### BAL INSIGHT

Depending on the tile, a temporary sealer can be used when grouting using a dark pigments grout, this will stop the tiles from staining.