

## Laying strong foundations for future growth

**R**esin Flooring International (RFI) was formed by Jack Josephsen in 2017 to provide a single platform where all members of the resin flooring community could collaborate, share, learn and grow together. Jack's broad skillset and unique approach to resin flooring gave rise to businesses like Defence Floors and Floorchef, which combined high-quality resin technology and specialist flooring know how to deliver custom resin floors for clients such as the Royal Australian Navy, Footlocker, Baskin Robbins and Adelaide Oval.

Perhaps his greatest impact, however, has come through his efforts to share the knowledge and experience he's gained in over two decades of industry involvement. This has been in the form of online education, industry training courses, support groups and resin flooring clubs, and in 2018 he also played a key role in establishing the first ever resin flooring trade qualification to be approved by a federal government.



RFI reflects the balance of purpose, innovation, education and sense of community in the resin flooring industry that Jack has been committed to fostering for over a decade. Recently *Flooring Magazine* sat down with Jack to discuss developments in this space.

### 1. Is there a qualification for Resin Flooring in Australia?

Yes, in 2018, a technical advisory committee developed seven specialist Resin Flooring units that enabled a Resin flooring stream to be added to the existing Cert III Flooring

Technology qualification. So, the qualification was updated to cater for carpet, timber, resilient and resin flooring streams. Last year there was a revision of the qualification to also include terrazzo and polishing.

### 2. If there is no Australian Standard for resin flooring, how do you ensure best practices?

The qualification was the initial step to ensure that installers had the minimum skill requirements to deliver Best Practices. The resin flooring industry is now looking into establishing a resin flooring association, which can then develop an Australian Standard for Resin Flooring. In the meantime, manufacturers of the resin flooring systems are responsible for developing the best practices for their products and systems. On larger scale projects there is also the opportunity to utilise independent coating inspectors to validate compliance to the specification and best practices provided for the project.



### 3. Why did you set up online courses in a hands-on trade?

Flooring Trades are traditionally hands on people. However, if you only learn from hands on experience, it takes a long time to acquire the necessary knowledge. Your knowledge is also limited to the experience you have been exposed to. I used to provide training days where installers would come and learn how

# Resin Flooring



to do things, however, we noted that the take up of information on the day was not good due to the amount of information to digest in a short space of time. Then in addition to that, the longer the installer went without putting the training into practice, the less the retention... to the point where I had a number of installers redo the same training day. We also noted that entry level installers would turn up for training but not know what questions to ask as they did not have enough background knowledge before the day.

We started providing online training classes comprising of videos, images and reading material back in 2012. This meant that installers could refresh their knowledge on the type of system as required, in their own time. Online training has come a long way and on RFI we are now showcasing online training from around the world.

#### 4. You have a range of Epoxy Flooring Installation Guides available online. Please discuss.

Installation guides form part of the manufacturers responsibility for best practices for their products and systems. They are called a guide because each project will have its own set of parameters that need to be taken into account. The Five R's to successful resin flooring covers the best practices process from specification to handover.

#### 5. What trends are you seeing in the resin flooring at the moment.

Perhaps every manufacturer is at a different stage but for me coming out of a period of supply shortages, the focus is now starting to turn towards identifying and developing technology to fill product gaps, improving processes and optimising developments that have been on hold.



Some of the more recent trends I am seeing include silane technology and how nano coatings can apply to the resin flooring industry. We are also seeing the rise of developments that better manage the risk of crystalline silica.

This can be innovative methods of preparing a substrate for coatings or substituting crystalline silica in raw materials. Apart from that High Build decorative resin flooring has probably just scratched the surface of what is possible so expect developments in this area too.

Looking ahead, Jack is as passionate as ever about helping the resin flooring industry become bigger, stronger and more professional.

His mission is to help solve problems for resin flooring businesses to give them more clarity, direction and confidence. By doing so, he can help build a stronger industry that is capable of reaching its full potential and becoming a mainstream flooring option alongside timber, carpet, tiles and vinyl.

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