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*By Robert Naiman | Sponsored by FUSE Commercial Flooring Alliance*

**Learning Objectives**

Interiors+sources' Continuing Education Series articles allow design practitioners to earn continuing education unit credits through the pages of the magazine. Use the following learning objectives to focus your study while reading this issue's article. To receive one hour of continuing education credit (IDCEC) as approved by IDCEC, read the article, go to [interiors+sources.com](#), review the article, and follow the instructions.

After reading this article, you should be able to:

- Identify problems leading to flooring failure resulting from the presence of excess moisture.
- Name two areas of concern as it relates to concrete and moisture.
- Outline a plan of action for preventing or remediating concrete moisture issues.
- Explain the difference between two moisture test methods for concrete used today.

**EPIC FAIL: THE PROBLEM OF MOISTURE & FLOORING**

**The most common and recurring issue leading to flooring failures is expensive to fix—but there are ways to help prevent it.**

In many commercial interiors project, flooring specification establishes the foundation upon which so much of successful design hinges. From wayfinding and safety to noise attenuation, branding, and aesthetics, there is hardly an element of an interior design program that is not either enhanced or hindered by the choice of flooring within a space. As such, the floor selection and installation process can often be the deciding factor between a beautiful, effective environment and a costly mistake.

Yet in spite of flooring's significance within the scope of a project, too many design, construction, and building management professionals either overlook, or neglect to effectively address the most commonly recurring and expensive flooring-related problem: moisture. In fact, North American commercial property owners spend an estimated \$2.4 billion on remediation of structures and floor coverings as a result of moisture-related flooring failures annually. An additional \$1.2 billion is spent on topical moisture treatments of varying effectiveness in an effort to address moisture issues prior to the floor covering being installed. These incidents add significant cost to any project in terms of project delays, unplanned expenses associated with costly topical systems, flooring replacement, and mitigation, as well as the irreplaceable and opportunity cost associated with business disruptions, loss of reputation, and loss of future customers.

Fortunately, there are a number of steps design and construction professionals can take to mitigate these risks, including conducting proper testing procedures, identifying and addressing areas of concern, engaging in effective communication early with the project team, and advanced planning. This CEU will not only identify the most troublesome flooring problems caused by the presence of moisture in concrete, but will also outline specific steps that design practitioners and facility executives can take to reduce the risks of exposure to this persistent and expensive issue.

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COMMERCIAL FLOORING ALLIANCE

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