



ARDEX

FORTI FINISH™

High Strength, Self-Drying Finishing Underlayment

High compressive strength – over 7800 psi

Exceptional bond strength

Smooth existing concrete prior to installing vinyl and other floor coverings in critical areas

Easy to mix and apply

Mixes with water only, no primers or additives necessary

Install from a true featheredge to any depth

Mold and mildew resistant

Will not contribute to staining of floor covering

For interior use only



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ARDEX FORTI FINISH™

High Strength, Self-Drying Finishing Underlayment

Description And Usage

ARDEX FORTI FINISH™ is a self-drying, cement-based, polymer modified, trowel-grade underlayment that provides a smooth, highly durable finish for use over concrete substrates prior to the installation of vinyl and other floor coverings in the most demanding environments. Developed specifically for use in hospitals where heavy rolling loads are common, ARDEX FORTI FINISH allows the installation of most types of floor covering in as little as 15 to 30 minutes over concrete and prepared adhesive residues on concrete.

Subfloor Preparation

All concrete substrates must be solid, thoroughly clean and free of oil, wax, grease, asphalt, patching materials, curing and sealing compounds, and any contaminant that might act as a bond breaker. If necessary, mechanically clean the floor down to sound, solid concrete by shot blasting, scarifying or similar. Overwatered, frozen or otherwise weak concrete surfaces must also be cleaned down to sound, solid concrete by mechanical methods. Acid etching, adhesive removers, solvents and sweeping compounds are not acceptable means of cleaning the substrate. The use of sanding equipment is not an effective method for removing curing and sealing compounds. Substrates must be dry for a successful installation. Substrate and air temperatures must be a minimum of 50°F (10°C) for the installation of ARDEX Products. For further information, please refer to the ARDEX Substrate Preparation Brochure.

Adhesive residue over concrete must first be tested to make certain it is not water-soluble and does not react with the new flooring adhesive. In addition, the new flooring must not be susceptible to bleed-through of the adhesive residue. If adhesive interaction and migration are a concern, install ARDEX K 15® SELF-LEVELING UNDERLAYMENT CONCRETE. If there are no such concerns, prepare the adhesive to a thin, well-bonded residue using the wet-scraping technique as recommended by the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (www.rfci.com). Any existing patches below the adhesive must be completely, mechanically removed.

Recommended Tools

ARDEX T-2 Ring Mixing Paddle, mixing bucket, margin trowel, steel trowel, razor scraper, and a 1/2" heavy-duty drill (min. 650 rpm).

Mixing And Application

For one 10 lb. bag of ARDEX FORTI FINISH, use 1½ quarts (1.4 liters) of clean water. Put the water in the mixing container first, and then add the ARDEX FORTI FINISH. For best results, mix with an ARDEX T-2 Ring Mixing Paddle and 1/2" heavy-duty drill. To mix smaller quantities by hand, use 3.5 parts of powder to 1 part water by volume. Use a margin trowel and mix vigorously for 2 to 3 minutes. Just prior to application on the substrate, the mix should be stirred again to ensure a creamy, smooth, lump-free consistency. The pot life of ARDEX FORTI FINISH is approximately 15 to 20 minutes at 70°F (21°C). If surface skinning occurs within this time, remix before using.

Do not add more water.

After mixing, apply the ARDEX FORTI FINISH to the substrate with the flat side of a steel trowel to obtain a solid mechanical bond. Apply sufficient pressure to fill all defects and to feather the product onto the subfloor surface.

Thickness Of Application

ARDEX FORTI FINISH can be installed from a true featheredge up to 1/2" thick over large areas in a single application. It can also be placed to any thickness in small, well-defined areas such as thresholds and birdbaths, as well as for height transitions. There is no minimum thickness requirement for this product.

Flooring Installation

As soon as the ARDEX FORTI FINISH can be worked on without damaging the surface (usually 15 to 30 minutes, depending on jobsite conditions), sheet vinyl, solid vinyl tile and plank, vinyl-backed carpet tile, VCT and other standard floor coverings can be installed. Wood flooring, athletic flooring and flooring requiring special adhesives that are sensitive to the presence of moisture (such as epoxies or urethanes) can be installed after 16 hours. All flooring adhesives that are compatible with concrete are compatible with ARDEX FORTI FINISH.

It is important to note that many different types of adhesives are used to install floor covering, and their absorbency into cementitious substrates can vary significantly. If it is found that the adhesive being used is drying more quickly over the ARDEX FORTI FINISH than over adjacent concrete, ARDEX recommends that the surface of the underlayment be primed with ARDEX P 51™ PRIMER diluted 1:3 with water. Allow the primer to dry thoroughly (1 to 3 hours), and proceed with the installation of the adhesive. The use of the primer will even out the open time of the adhesive without affecting the bond or the long-term performance of the floor covering.



Notes

This product is intended for interior use over dry substrates only. Do not use in areas of constant water exposure, or in areas exposed to permanent or intermittent substrate moisture, as this may jeopardize the performance of the underlayment and the floor covering.

This product is not a vapor barrier, and will allow free passage of moisture. **Follow the directives of the floor covering manufacturer regarding the maximum allowable substrate moisture content, and test the substrate prior to installing ARDEX FORTI FINISH.**

Where substrate moisture exceeds the maximum permitted, ARDEX recommends the use of the ARDEX MC™ MOISTURE CONTROL SYSTEM. For further information, please refer to the ARDEX MC Technical Brochure.

Always install an adequate number of properly located test areas, including the finish flooring, to determine the suitability of the product for the intended use. As floor coverings vary, always contact and rely upon the floor covering manufacturer for specific directives, such as maximum allowable moisture content, adhesive selection and intended end use of the product.

To preserve its freshness, ARDEX FORTI FINISH must be protected from air while not in use. Protect unused material by removing the air from the bag and sealing tightly. Open and reseal as necessary.

Precautions

ARDEX FORTI FINISH contains Portland cement. Avoid eye and skin contact. Mix in a well-ventilated area and avoid breathing powder or dust. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. Carefully read and follow all cautions and warnings on the product label. For complete safety information, please refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet or visit our website at www.ardex.com.

Never mix with cement or additives other than ARDEX approved products. Observe the basic rules of concrete work. Do not install below 50°F (10°C) surface or air temperatures. Install quickly if substrate is warm, and follow the warm weather instructions available from the ARDEX Technical Service Department.

Technical Data According To ARDEX Quality Standards

(All data based on a mixing ratio of 3.5 parts powder to 1 part water by volume at 70°F (21°C).)

Mixing Ratio:	1½ quarts (1.4 liters) of water per 10 lb bag For smaller batches, use 3.5 parts powder to 1 part water by volume
Pot Life:	15 to 20 minutes
Compressive Strength (ASTM C109M-air cure only):	1 day - over 2000 psi 7 day - over 5000 psi 28 days - over 7800 psi
Coverage:	40 sq. ft. per bag at 1/16" 20 sq. ft. per bag at 1/8"
VOC Content:	0 g/L- calculated & reported, SCAQMD 1168
Install Floor Covering:	15 to 30 minutes
Packaging:	10 lb/4.5 kg net weight in paper bags
Storage:	Store in a cool dry area. Do not expose bags to sun. Protect unused material by removing air from bag and sealing tightly.
Shelf Life:	9 months if unopened
Warranty:	ARDEX Engineered Cements Standard Limited Warranty applies.

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