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# **ARDEX K 55™ MICROTEC®**

## **Premium High Flow Self-Leveling Underlayment**

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**Portland cement-based, microfiber reinforced**

**Use to level and smooth interior concrete, terrazzo,  
ceramic and quarry tile, epoxy coating systems and  
non-water soluble adhesive residue on concrete**

**Formulated with High Flow Technology for ultra thin applications**

**Can smooth floors at 1/8" or less**

**Installs from 1/16" to 1" thick, can be featheredged  
to meet existing elevations**

**Walkable in 2 to 3 hours**

**Install floor coverings after 16 hours**

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# ARDEX K 55™ MICROTEC®

## Premium High Flow Self-Leveling Underlayment

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### Description and Usage

ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® is a premium Portland cement-based, microfiber reinforced, self-leveling underlayment for leveling and smoothing interior concrete, terrazzo, ceramic and quarry tile, epoxy coating systems and non-water soluble adhesive residue on concrete prior to the installation of finished flooring – on, above or below grade. It can also be installed over concrete treated with certain curing compounds (see below). Formulated with high flow properties, ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® remains fluid, even for applications requiring 1/8" or less, to provide a durable, flat, smooth floor surface with minimum labor and installation time.

### Substrate Preparation

**Concrete:** All concrete substrates must be solid, thoroughly clean and free of oil, wax, grease, asphalt, latex and gypsum compounds, curing compounds\*, sealers 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. Over-watered, 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 for cleaning the substrate. Sanding equipment is not an effective method to remove curing and sealing compounds. Substrate and ambient temperatures must be a minimum of 50°F (10°C) for the installation of ARDEX products.

**\*Notes on curing compounds:** Test areas of ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® can be installed and evaluated over concrete slabs that have been treated with either silicate or acrylic resin curing compounds. These compounds must be installed in strict accordance with the compound manufacturer's written recommendations. If a silicate type has been used, all residual salts must be removed. For instructions on priming concrete with acceptable curing compounds, please refer to the Priming section of this brochure.

Please be advised, however, that there are a number of curing compounds sold today that are wax- or petroleum-based emulsions. These are permanent bond breakers that must be completely removed prior to patching or leveling. Dissipating compounds must also be completely removed by mechanical means prior to installing any ARDEX material.

It is imperative to be able to determine the type of curing compound that was used before proceeding. Any curing compound that cannot be identified should be completely, mechanically removed.

Ⓢ **Adhesive Residues on Concrete:** ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® can also be installed over non-water-soluble adhesive residue on concrete only. The adhesive must first be tested to make certain it is not water-soluble. Any water-soluble adhesives must be mechanically removed down to clean concrete. Non-water-soluble adhesives should be prepared to a thin, well-bonded residue using the wet-scraping technique

as recommended by the Resilient Floor Covering Institute ([www.rfci.com](http://www.rfci.com)) to remove thick areas and adhesive build-up, as well as any areas that are weak or not well bonded to the concrete. Any existing patches below the adhesive must be completely removed.

**Other Non-Porous Substrates:** ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® can also be applied over other non-porous substrates, including terrazzo, burnished concrete, epoxy coating systems, and ceramic and quarry tile. The substrate must be clean, including the complete removal of existing waxes and sealers, dust, dirt, debris and any other contaminant that may act as a bond breaker. Substrate preparation must be by mechanical means, such as shot blasting. Do not use acid etching, sweeping compounds, solvents or adhesive removers.

For more detailed information on substrate preparation, please refer to the ARDEX Substrate Preparation Brochure.

### Recommended Tools

ARDEX T-1 Mixing Paddle, ARDEX T-10 Mixing Drum, ARDEX T-4 Spreader, ARDEX T-5 Smoother, ARDEX MB-6.375 Measuring Bucket [6 3/8 quarts (6 L) per 50 lb (22.7 kg) bag], and a 1/2" heavy-duty drill (12 mm, min. 650 rpm).

### Priming

Standard absorbent concrete must be primed with ARDEX P 51™ PRIMER diluted 1:1 with water. Apply evenly with a soft bristled push broom. Do not use paint rollers, mops or spray equipment. Do not leave any bare spots. Brush off puddles and excess primer. Allow primer to dry to a clear, thin film (min. 3 hours, max. 24 hours).

Extremely absorbent concrete may require two applications of ARDEX P 51 to avoid the formation of bubbles and pinholes in the ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC®. Make an initial application of ARDEX P 51 diluted with 3 parts water by volume. Let dry thoroughly (1 to 3 hours) and install a second application of ARDEX P 51 mixed 1:1 with water as stated above.

Non-porous substrates, burnished concrete, terrazzo, ceramic and quarry tile, epoxy coating systems, non-water soluble adhesive residue on concrete and concrete treated with silicate compounds must be primed with ARDEX P 82™ ULTRA PRIME. Follow mixing instructions on container and apply with a short-nap or sponge paint roller, leaving a thin coat of primer. Do not leave any bare spots. Brush off puddles and excess primer. ARDEX P 82 should be applied within 1 hour of mixing. Allow primer to dry to a thin, slightly tacky film (min. 3 hours, max. 24 hours).

**Note:** If an approved acrylic curing compound is used, test the surface for porosity. If the concrete is porous, prime with ARDEX P 51. If it is non-porous, prime with ARDEX P 82.

ARDEX primers may require longer drying time with low surface temperatures and/or high ambient humidity. Do not install ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® before the primer has dried thoroughly.

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## Moving Joints And Cracks

Under no circumstances should ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® be installed over any moving joints or cracks. All existing expansion joints, isolation joints and construction joints, as well as any moving cracks, must be honored up through the underlayment and flooring.

## Mixing and Application – Manually

ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® is mixed two bags at a time. Mix each 50 lb (22.7 kg) bag with 6 3/8 quarts (6 liters) of water. Pour the water in the mixing drum first, then add each bag of ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® while mixing with an ARDEX T-1 Paddle and a 1/2" heavy-duty drill (12 mm, min. 650 rpm). Mix thoroughly for approximately 2 to 3 minutes to obtain a lump-free mix. **Do not overwater!** Yellowish foam while mixing, or settling of the sand aggregate while placing, indicates overwatering.

ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® has a flow time of 10 minutes at 70°F (21°C). Pour the mix onto the floor and spread with the ARDEX T-4 Spreader. Immediately smooth the material with the ARDEX T-5 Smoother. Wear baseball or soccer shoes with non-metallic cleats to avoid leaving marks in the liquid ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC®.

## Mixing and Application – Pumping

ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC can be pumped using the ARDEX Levelcraft™ Automatic Mixing Pump. The Levelcraft Pump provides for high productivity and a smooth, consistent installation. The pump may be rented from an authorized ARDEX Distributor, and is supported by the ARDEX Technical Department.

Start the pump at a water setting of 210 gallons per hour, and then adjust to the minimum water reading that allows self-leveling properties. **Do not overwater!** Check the consistency of the product on the floor to ensure a uniform distribution of the sand aggregate at both the top surface and bottom of the pour. Conditions during installation, such as variations in water, powder, substrate and ambient temperature, may require that the water setting be adjusted during installation to avoid overwatering.

ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® has a flow time of 10 minutes at 70°F (21°C). Pump the mix onto the floor and spread with the ARDEX T-4 Spreader. Immediately smooth the material with the ARDEX T-5 Smoother. Wear baseball or soccer shoes with non-metallic cleats to avoid leaving marks in the liquid ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC®. Contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department for complete pump installation instructions.

## Thickness Of Application

Formulated with high flow properties, ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® remains fluid even for applications requiring 1/8" or less, making it ideal for thin applications over large areas. ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® can be installed from 1/16" to 1" neat over large areas, and can also be featheredged to match

existing elevations. Please note that for thin applications, the profile of the substrate can affect the flatness and smoothness of the ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC®. The thickness of the application should be calculated based on the surface profile of the substrate and the specified tolerances of the floor covering.

For areas requiring a thickness greater than 1", ARDEX recommends using a suitable ARDEX self-leveling underlayment, such as ARDEX K 15® or ARDEX V 1200™.

## Wear Surface

ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC is not to be used as a permanent wear surface, even if coated or sealed. ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC must be covered by a suitable floor covering material such as carpet, vinyl flooring, ceramic tile, etc. For resurfacing and leveling indoor concrete floors in warehouses, storage areas, hallways or other areas where a wear surface is required, use ARDEX SD-T®, ARDEX K 500™ or ARDEX K 301™.

## Installation of Flooring

ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® can be walked on 2 to 3 hours after installation. Floor coverings can be installed after 16 hours at 70°F (21°C). Low substrate temperatures and/or high ambient humidity will extend the drying time.

## 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 K 55 MICROTEC®.** Where substrate moisture exceeds the maximum allowed, ARDEX recommends the use of ARDEX Moisture Control Systems. For further information, please refer to the ARDEX Technical Brochures.

Always install an adequate number of properly located test areas, including the finish flooring, to determine the suitability of the products 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.

ARDEX primers may require longer drying time with low surface temperatures and/or high ambient humidity. Do not install ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® before the primer has dried thoroughly.

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

### Precaution

ARDEX K 55 MICROTEC® contains Portland cement and sand aggregate. 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 product label.

### Technical Data According to ARDEX Quality Standards

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

<b>Mixing Ratio:</b>	6 3/8 quarts (6 L) of water per 50 lb (22.7 kg) bag
<b>Coverage:</b>	50 sq. ft. (4.6 m <sup>2</sup> ) per bag at 1/8" (3 mm) 25 sq. ft. (2.3 m <sup>2</sup> ) per bag at 1/4" (6 mm) Up to 100 sq. ft. (9.2 m <sup>2</sup> ) per bag at 1/16" (1.5 mm) (depending on surface profile)
<b>Flow Time:</b>	10 minutes
<b>Initial Set: (ASTM C191)</b>	Approx. 30 minutes
<b>Final Set: (ASTM C191)</b>	Approx. 90 minutes
<b>Compressive Strength (ASTM C109/mod – Air cure only)</b>	5500 psi (386 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) at 28 days
<b>Flexural Strength: (ASTM C348)</b>	1000 (70 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) psi at 28 days
<b>Walkable:</b>	2 to 3 hours
<b>Install Flooring:</b>	16 hours
<b>VOC:</b>	0 g/L, calculated SCAQMD 1168
<b>Packaging:</b>	50 lb (22.7 kg) net weight bags
<b>Storage:</b>	Store in a cool dry area. Do not leave bags exposed to sun.
<b>Shelf Life:</b>	1 year if unopened
<b>Warranty:</b>	ARDEX Engineered Cements Standard Limited Warranty applies.

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