



ARDEX SKM™

Skim Finish - Skimcoat Patch & Finishing Underlayment

Use to patch and skim coat concrete, wood, ceramic and quarry tile, and non-water soluble adhesive residues on concrete

Ideally suited for skim coating prior to the installation of flooring

Non-sanded for a true featheredge

Install from a featheredge up to 1/2" (12 mm)

Walk on in approximately 30 minutes

Install floor covering in approximately 1 to 2 hours

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Skim Finish - Skimcoat Patch & Finishing Underlayment

Description And Usage

ARDEX SKM™ Skim Finish - Skimcoat Patch & Finishing Underlayment is a trowelable patch and skim coat for use over interior concrete, wood, ceramic and quarry tile, and cutback and other non-water soluble adhesive residues on concrete. ARDEX SKM will provide a permanent, smooth, durable finish prior to the installation of most floor coverings. ARDEX SKM hardens quickly, is easy to apply, dries fast without shrinking, cracking or spalling, and does not need to be sanded.

Substrate Preparation

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.

Adhesive residue on 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® or ARDEX V 1200™. 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 also be completely removed.

Wooden subfloors must be approved by the flooring manufacturer. The subfloor should be solid and structurally sound. Any boards exhibiting movement must be re-nailed. The surface of the wood must be clean and free of oil, grease, wax, dirt, varnish, coatings and any other contaminant that might act as a bond breaker. If necessary, sand down to bare wood. A commercial drum sander may be used. Do not use solvents, strippers or cleaners. Vacuum all dust and debris. It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to ensure that the subfloor is thoroughly clean and sound prior to the installation of any ARDEX material.

ARDEX SKM can also be applied over **other non-porous substrates**, including ceramic tile, quarry tile, and residential vinyl sheet flooring. 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. Any loose tiles and mortar should also be removed. Substrate preparation must be by mechanical means. Do not use acid etching, sweeping compounds, solvents or adhesive removers.

Recommended Tools

ARDEX T-2 Ring Mixing Paddle, mixing bucket, margin trowel, steel trowel, razor scraper, and a 1/2" heavy-duty drill (12 mm, min. 650 rpm).

Mixing

Over concrete, wood, ceramic and quarry tile, and non-water soluble adhesive residue on concrete: Use 1.5 quarts (1.4 liters) of clean water per 10 lb (4.5 kg) bag of ARDEX SKM. To mix smaller quantities by hand, use 3 parts powder to 1 part water by volume.

Pour the water in the mixing container first, and then add the ARDEX SKM. For best results, mix with an ARDEX T-2 Ring Mixing Paddle and 1/2" (12 mm) heavy-duty drill. When mixing by hand, use a margin trowel and mix vigorously for 2 to 3 minutes. Just prior to application on the substrate, the mixture should be stirred again to ensure a creamy, smooth, lump-free consistency. The pot life of ARDEX SKM is approximately 15 minutes at 70°F (21°C). If surface skinning occurs within this time, remix before using. **Do Not Add More Water!**

For use as an embossing filler for residential embossed sheet flooring:

For installations over embossed sheet flooring, use ARDEX E 25™ RESILIENT EMULSION. For detailed mixing instructions with ARDEX E 25, please contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department.

Application

Apply ARDEX SKM to the substrate using a flat-edged trowel. Scratch the product into the surface first, and then trowel to the desired thickness and smoothness. Apply from a featheredge up to 1/2" (12 mm) deep. There is no minimum thickness requirement for this product. Use the least amount possible to attain the desired smoothness.

Moving Cracks and Joints

Under no circumstances should ARDEX SKM 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 finished flooring. Failure to do so may result in cracking and/or disbonding of the underlayment and flooring.

Wear Surface

ARDEX SKM is not to be used as a permanent wear surface, even if coated or sealed. ARDEX SKM 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 retail or office areas requiring a wear surface, use ARDEX SD-M™, ARDEX SD-T®, ARDEX K 500™ or ARDEX K 301™.

Installation Of Flooring

Floor coverings can be installed approximately 1 to 2 hours after the application of ARDEX SKM. Make certain the patch is dry, and refer to the flooring manufacturer's specific recommendations for installing over cementitious underlayments. 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 SKM than over adjacent concrete, we recommend that the surface of the underlayment be primed with ARDEX P 51™ 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 this primer will even out the open time of the adhesive without affecting the bond or the long-term performance.

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 SKM.** Where substrate moisture exceeds the maximum permitted, 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 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.

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 and air temperatures. Install quickly if substrate is warm, and follow warm weather instructions available from the ARDEX Technical Service Department.

Precautions

ARDEX SKM 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.ardexamericas.com.

Technical Data According To ARDEX Quality Standards

All data based on a mixing ratio of 3 parts powder to 1 part water by volume at 70°F (21°C). Physical properties are typical values and not specifications.

Mixing Ratio:

1.5 quarts (1.4 L) water per 10 lb (4.5 kg) bag. For smaller batches, use 3 parts powder to 1 part water by volume.

Coverage (approx.): 120 sq. ft. (11.1 m²) per bag at 1/32" (0.79 mm)

Coverage will vary depending on the texture of the surface being smoothed.

Install Floor

Covering: Approx. 1 to 2 hours

VOC: 0 g/L

Packaging: 10 lb (4.5 kg) net weight bags

Storage: Store in a cool dry area. Do not leave bags exposed to sun.

Shelf Life: One year, if unopened

Warranty: ARDEX Engineered Cements Standard Limited Warranty applies.

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