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# ARDEX K 301

## Exterior Self-Leveling Concrete Topping

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Smooth new or existing concrete and approved non-porous surfaces

Install from 1/4" - 3/4" (6 - 19 mm) neat and up to 2" (5 cm)

with aggregate

Walk on in 2 to 3 hours

Freeze-thaw resistant

Suitable for use in wet areas

For commercial, light industrial and residential applications

Use for exterior and interior applications

Suitable for use under the ARDEX MC™ Moisture Control Systems

Can be used as an underlayment prior to installing floor covering

# ARDEX K 301

## Exterior Self-Leveling Concrete Topping

### Suitable Substrates

- Concrete (structurally sound)
- Absorbent terrazzo on concrete
- Other approved, non-porous materials on concrete (Contact ARDEX Technical Service for instructions):†
  - Ceramic, quarry or porcelain tiles
  - Non-porous (non-absorbent) cementitious terrazzo

†Must be sound, solid and well-bonded to underlying, structurally sound substrates. It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to ensure the substrate is rigid, well supported, properly anchored and free of undue flex and vibration.

### Suitable Applications

- All grade levels
- Interior or Exterior
- Below ARDEX MC RAPID
- Areas to receive foot and/or moderate, rubber-wheeled forklift traffic and similar\*
- Not for heavy-duty manufacturing, industrial floors or chemical environments requiring customized industrial toppings

\*Excessive service conditions such as and similar to the following will cause gouging and indentations:

- Steel- or hard plastic-wheeled traffic
- Dragging heavy metal equipment, loaded pallets with protruding nails, heavy furniture and/or fixtures over the floor

### Job Conditions

During installation and cure, substrate and ambient temperatures must be a minimum of 50° F / 10° C.

### Step 1: Moisture Evaluation and Testing

While this product is unaffected by water, the surface of the concrete must be dry during application of the product.

This product is not a vapor barrier and will allow free passage of moisture vapor.

Prior to installing this product, test the substrate, and follow the directives regarding the maximum allowable substrate moisture content provided by the sealer or coating manufacturer.

Test concrete in accordance with ASTM F2170. Moisture control is required if the RH exceeds the limitations imposed by the sealer or coating manufacturer.

Priming course if moisture control is required: ARDEX MC RAPID. If moisture control is not required:

- ARDEX EP 2000
- ARDEX MC RAPID (primer application)

### Step 2: Substrate Preparation (Proper Prep™)

For full details on Proper Prep, reference the following articles at [ardexamericas.com/services/properprep](http://ardexamericas.com/services/properprep):

- [Article 1: Preparing Concrete for Bonded ARDEX or HENRY Applications](#)
- [Proper Prep Brochure](#)

Mechanically prepare the substrate by shot blasting or similar means. Do not use acid etching, adhesive removers, solvents or sweeping compounds, as these are bond breakers. Sanding is not an effective method to remove contaminants from concrete.

Substrate must be dry and free of excess moisture and alkali. All substrates must be sound, solid and thoroughly clean of all bond-breaking contaminants, including but not limited to: overwatered or otherwise loose or weak material; dirt, dust, wax, grease, paints and oils; all curing compounds and sealers; and all adhesive residues.

### Minimum Preparation

In all cases, substrate must be clean.

Substrate	Minimum Preparation
Concrete	Mechanically remove all adhesive residue, sealers, curing compounds, tiles, mortars and epoxy coatings down to clean, sound, solid concrete / terrazzo  Concrete and terrazzo substrates must be clean and prepared to a minimum CSP 3 / maximum CSP 5 ( <a href="http://icri.org">icri.org</a> )
Other approved, non-porous materials on concrete	Tile and terrazzo substrates must be abraded to facilitate bond.

Following preparation, thoroughly vacuum to remove all excess dirt and debris.

Handle and dispose of asbestos and other hazardous materials in accordance with prevailing regulations, which supersede the recommendations in this document.

### Step 3: Treating Joints and Cracks

Under no circumstances should any product herein be installed over joints (including control joints, expansion joints, isolation joints, etc.) or moving cracks. Honor all joints and moving cracks.

All dormant cracks greater than a hairline (1/32" / 0.8 mm) that will not be honored must be pre-filled with ARDEX ARDIFIX™ Low Viscosity Rigid Polyurethane Crack and Joint Repair and sand broadcasted to refusal in strict accordance with the technical data sheet.

The filling of dormant cracks as described above is recommended to help prevent the cracks from showing through the topping. However, should movement occur, cracks will reappear.

ARDEX cannot be responsible for problems that arise from joints, existing cracks or new cracks that may develop after the system has been installed.

### Step 4: Install Appropriate Moisture Control or Priming Course

#### Priming (If moisture control is not required): ARDEX EP 2000 or ARDEX MC RAPID (primer application)

Mix and apply the selected epoxy as directed in the technical data sheet. While the epoxy is fresh, immediately broadcast fine sand to refusal. Once the epoxy is cured, all excess sand must be collected and removed. Vacuum remaining sand using a heavy-duty, bucket-style (Shop-Vac-style) vacuum and HEPA dust extraction vacuum system.

## Step 5: Mixing and Application

### Recommended Tools

ARDEX T-1 Mixing Paddle; Mixing Container; 1/2" (12 mm) heavy-duty drill (min. 650 rpm); appropriate measuring bucket; ARDEX T-4 Spreader; ARDEX T-5 Smoother; cleated athletic shoes with non-metallic spikes

### Safety and OSHA Compliance

Handle each bag with care, emptying it in a manner that avoids creating a plume of dust. While mixing, use a standard "gutter hook" vacuum attachment in combination with a heavy-duty, bucket-style vacuum (Shop-Vac or similar) and HEPA dust extraction vacuum system.

### Application Data

<b>Water Ratio:</b>	5 quarts (4.75 L) clean water Per bag
<b>Flow time:</b>	10 minutes (70°F / 21°C)

### Thickness of Application

#### Maximum Thickness of Application

- 3/4" (19 mm) Neat
- 2" (5 cm) with aggregate

#### Average minimum thickness: 1/4" (6 mm)\*\*\*

\*\*\* 1/8" minimum over highest point on the floor will typically result in average minimum thickness of at least 1/4".

### Manual

Mix two bags at a time. Pour the water in the mixing container first, and then add powder while mixing with the mixing paddle and a 1/2" (12 mm) heavy-duty drill (min. 650 rpm). Mix thoroughly for approximately 2 to 3 minutes to obtain a lump-free mix. Do not overwater! Additional water will weaken the compound and lower its strength. Yellowish foam while mixing, or settling of the sand aggregate while placing, indicates overwatering.

Pour the mix onto the floor. Spread with spreader. Immediately smooth the material with the smoother, or spike roll the material with the spiked roller. Work in a continuous manner during the entire self-leveling installation. Wear cleated athletic shoes with non-metallic spikes to avoid leaving marks in the liquid.

**Aggregate Extension (as needed)**

Extend the product with aggregate as desired / required (see “Thickness of Application” section above) as follows:

1. Select washed and well-graded pea gravel that is no larger than 1/3 the depth of the intended pour and no smaller than 1/8”. Do not use sand.
2. Mix with water first, and then add 1 part by volume of the selected pea gravel, mixing until the aggregate is completely coated.
3. Note that the addition of aggregate will diminish the workability of the product and may make it necessary to install a neat coat.

Prior to installing a neat coat as detailed above, allow the initial application to dry as detailed in “Drying Time” section below, and prime the initial application with ARDEX P 51 mixed 1:1 (see “Priming” section above).

**Pumping**

Product may be pumped using ARDIFLO™ Automatic Mixing Pumps. ARDIFLO Pumps provide high productivity and smooth, consistent installations. Pumps may be rented from an authorized ARDEX Distributor. Please contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department with regard to pumping.

**Step 6: Drying and Sealing / Coating**

Product must be sealed or coated with a material suitable for the intended operating conditions of the installation environment.

All dry times are calculated at 70°F (21°C). Drying time is a function of jobsite temperature and humidity conditions. Low substrate temperatures and/or high ambient humidity will extend the drying time. Adequate ventilation and heat will aid drying. Forced drying can dry the surface of the product prematurely and is not recommended.

Any coating at a thickness exceeding 20 mils:	7 days
Solvent-borne or 100% solids coating at a thickness up to 20 mils or ARDEX MC RAPID:	48-72 hours; Shot blast and deep vacuum the surface prior to application of ARDEX MC RAPID.
All other cases / Walkable:	24 hours

**Cracking**

This product and other, similar thinly applied non-structural toppings are not capable of restraining movement in the structural slab, which could lead to reflective cracking. Telegraphing is common where there is slab deflection, vibration from truck traffic and/or subways, swaying or “racking” of high rise buildings, existing cracks or joints in the slab and/or electrical boxes, vents or other metal inserts. While priming with ARDEX EP 2000 is the best way to minimize the possibility of reflective cracking, cracks may telegraph up into the surface in any area that exhibits movement.

Additionally, certain jobsite conditions can lead to hairline cracking. Hairline cracking, while aesthetically unpleasant, typically does not affect the overall performance of the topping. The most common cause of hairline cracking is excessively rapid moisture evaporation from the topping during cure due to low ambient humidity and/or rapid air movement in the space. Hairline cracking can also occur when there is even slight movement or deflection in the existing substrate.

If cracking occurs, we recommend sounding the affected areas to ensure that the topping is well-bonded to the substrate.

## Step 7: Care and Maintenance of ARDEX Surfaces

Follow the care and maintenance instructions specified by the manufacturer of the selected wear protection system.

### Notes

Intended for use by professional contractors who are trained in the application of this product and/or similar products. Not sold by ARDEX through home improvement centers. For information on ARDEX Academy trainings, visit: [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com).

Never mix with cement or additives outside of our written recommendations. In accordance with industry standards, and to determine the suitability of the products for the intended use, always install an adequate number of properly located test areas including the sealer / coating. As finish materials vary, always contact and rely upon the sealer / coating manufacturer for specific directives, such as maximum allowable moisture content and intended end use of the product.

Observe the basic rules of concrete work, including the minimum surface and air temperatures detailed above. Install quickly if the substrate is warm, and follow the warm weather installation guidelines available on our website. If the installation is not proceeding as expected, contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department before proceeding further.

Dispose of packaging and residue in accordance with prevailing regulations. Do not flush material down drains. Do not reuse packaging.

### Precautions

Carefully read and follow all precautions and warnings on the product label. For complete safety information, please refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) available at:

[www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com).

## Technical Data According to Manufacturer Quality Standards

Physical properties are typical values and not specifications. All data based on a partial, in-lab mix. Testing completed at 70°F / 21°C and in accordance with ASTM C1708, as applicable.

<b>Compressive Strength (ASTM C109/mod – Air cure only):</b>	4,300 psi (30 MPa; 301 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ); 28 days
<b>Flexural Strength (ASTM C348):</b>	1,000 psi (7 MPa; 70 kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ); 28 days
<b>Coverage:</b>	Per bag At 1/4" (6 mm): 23 sq. ft. (2.1 m <sup>2</sup> ) Per bag At 1/2" (12 mm): 12.5 sq. ft. (1.2 m <sup>2</sup> ) Dependent on surface profile, density and porosity.
<b>Drying Time:</b>	See section entitled Drying and Sealing / Coating
<b>VOC:</b>	0
<b>Packaging:</b>	50 lb. (22.7 kg) bag
<b>Colors:</b>	Gray
<b>Storage:</b>	Store in a cool, dry area. Do not leave units exposed to sun.
<b>Shelf Life:</b>	12 months, if unopened and properly stored
<b>Warranty:</b>	ARDEX L.P. Standard Limited Warranty applies. For full warranty details: <a href="http://ardexamericas.com/services/warranties">ardexamericas.com/services/warranties</a> .

Made in the USA.

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[www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com).

Visit [www.youtube.com/ARDEX101](http://www.youtube.com/ARDEX101) to watch ARDEX product demonstration videos. For recommended installation tools, visit DTA USA at [www.dtausagroup.com](http://www.dtausagroup.com). For easy-to-use ARDEX Product Calculators and Product Information On the Go, download the ARDEX App.



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