
Article 3 - Preparing Metal for Bonded ARDEX Applications

ARDEX Substrate Preparation Series, Article 2

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Minimum Requirements for Metal Substrates

Metal substrates must be constructed according to prevailing building codes and must be solid and securely fixed to provide a rigid base free of undue flex. It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to ensure that the substrate is properly anchored prior to the installation of any ARDEX material.

Substrate surface must be dry (free of standing water) during installation and cure of ARDEX underlayments.

The minimum recommended substrate surface and ambient temperature during installation is 50°F (10°C). Where a temporary heat source will be used, please note that the heat source must not use fossil fuels. Use propane or natural gas type heaters that are properly vented to prevent an oily residue from developing on the surface of the substrate.

Mechanical Preparation

Mechanically remove all unsuitable materials and bond-breaking contaminants, including, but not necessarily limited to, the following: finish flooring, adhesive residue, patching and leveling compounds, rust, grease, wax, dust and dirt. Please note that even the finest dust particles will act as bond breakers.

Recommended Preparation Method

Mechanically prepare, as necessary, by sanding with a #80 or #100 grit sanding screen. Note that the grit-level selected must be sufficiently aggressive to remove all bond-inhibiting contaminants down to bare metal. A hand or floor sander may be used.

Prohibited Methods

Solvents, adhesive removers, strippers and cleaners are bond breakers and must not be used.

Asbestos Warning

If any asbestos-containing materials are being removed, consult prevailing regulations to determine the required substrate preparation method. Asbestos-containing floor coverings and adhesives must be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.

Sweep and Vacuum

Once preparation is complete, thoroughly sweep and vacuum to remove all loose material.

Cloth Wiping

Wipe the metal shielding using a clean, white cloth dampened with 91% isopropyl alcohol. Repeat this step using a new cloth on each pass until the degree of discoloration on the cloth remains consistent on subsequent passes (approximately 5 - 7 passes).

Wipe the metal shielding using a clean, white, dry cloth, and verify that the cloth exhibits no discoloration. If there is discoloration, repeat the above step 5.

From this point forward, disposable shoe covers or “booties” should be worn by anyone traversing the surface of the prepared metal shielding.

The resulting metal surface must be deemed **clean, sound and solid** prior to the installation of the ARDEX underlayment.