



ARDEX Liquid BackerBoard®

Self-Leveling Underlayment for Interior Wood and Concrete Subfloors

The ultimate flat surface for all tiling installations, especially for large-format tile!

Smooths subfloors prior to the installation of tile, stone, laminate and wood flooring

Replaces traditional backerboards for a faster, easier, seamless installation, eliminating the need to cut, fit, glue and fasten

Does not require lath mesh or additive, even over plywood subfloors

Walkable in 2 - 3 hours

Install tile and stone flooring in as little as 6 hours

Easy to mix - just add water

Installs up to 1 1/4" (3.1 cm) thick

Excellent coverage: 65 square feet at 1/8"

Ideal for encapsulating electrical in-floor heating

Use as a convenient, fast and easy prefill option over ARDEX UI 740™ FLEXBONE® and other approved uncoupling membranes



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Self-Leveling Underlayment for Interior Wood and Concrete Subfloors

Suitable Substrates

- Concrete (structurally sound)
- Absorbent terrazzo on concrete*¹
- Plywood subfloors (untreated)*²
- Properly installed ARDEX moisture control systems on concrete:
 - ARDEX MC™ RAPID
 - ARDEX VB 100
- ARDEX UI 740™ FLEXBONE® Uncoupling Membrane, ARDEX FLEXBONE® HEAT and Other Approved bonded uncoupling membranes and uncoupling heat systems (For a list of approved systems, please contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department.)
- Other approved, non-porous materials on concrete:*¹
 - Non-porous (non-absorbent) cementitious terrazzo
 - Ceramic, quarry or porcelain tiles
 - Epoxy coatings
 - Epoxy terrazzo
 - Concrete treated with certain curing compounds (test areas only; for full instructions, see: www.ardexamericas.com/services/properprep)

*¹ Must be sound, solid and well-bonded to underlying, structurally sound substrates.

*² 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 applications only; dry areas and areas exposed to intermittent topical moisture, such as bathrooms or kitchens. Waterproofing with ARDEX 8+9 is recommended in intermittently wet areas. Not for permanently wet areas.
- Areas to receive a suitable floor covering material: Tile / stone, laminate or wood flooring. Do not use as a wear surface. If a permanent wear surface is needed, see <https://www.ardexamericas.com/products/ardex-surfaces>

Jobsite Conditions

During installation and cure, substrate and ambient temperatures must be a minimum of 50° F / 10° C. If installing over an in-floor heating system, turn the heating system off 48 hours before, during and at least 48 hours after completion of the installation.

Step 1: Moisture Evaluation and Testing

This product is intended for interior spaces that are either dry or intermittently wet. Hydrostatic pressure, plumbing leaks, flood factors and other sources of water infiltration must be identified and corrected prior to installation. This product is not a vapor barrier and will allow free passage of moisture vapor.

Test concrete relative humidity (RH) in accordance with ASTM F2170. Moisture control is required in the following circumstances:

- If the RH exceeds the most stringent of the following: 1) The limitations associated with the selected floor covering; 2) The limitations associated with the selected adhesive.
- If the RH exceeds 99%.

For high-moisture applications, especially in new construction, moisture control is recommended over on-ground slabs when the presence of an effective and intact underlying vapor retarder conforming with ASTM E1745 cannot be verified.

If a moisture control system will be installed, see “Moisture Control System Selection” section below. Otherwise, see the “Priming Method Selection” section below.

Moisture Control System Selection

ARDEX MC RAPID or ARDEX VB 100

If moisture control will not be installed, choose the appropriate primer in accordance with the next section.

Priming Method Selection (If moisture control will not be installed)

- ARDEX P 4™ Pre-Mixed, Rapid-Drying, Multipurpose Primer
- ARDEX P 51™ Primer
- ARDEX P 82™ Ultra Prime

Substrate (This product is intended for interior spaces that are either dry or intermittently wet.)	Primer
Standard absorbent (porous) Concrete (structurally sound); Absorbent terrazzo on concrete	ARDEX P 51 1:1 or ARDEX P 4
Extremely absorbent concrete	ARDEX P 51 "Double prime" or ARDEX P 4
Non-absorbent (non-porous; burnished) Concrete	ARDEX P 82 or ARDEX P 4
Wood	ARDEX P 51 Undiluted
Other approved, non-porous materials on concrete (See section entitled "Suitable Substrates" above.)	ARDEX P 82 or ARDEX P 4
Approved bonded uncoupling membranes and uncoupling heat systems (For a list of approved systems, please contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department.)	No priming required. See application instructions below.

Step 2: Substrate Preparation (Proper Prep™)

For full details on Proper Prep, reference the following articles at www.ardexamericas.com/services/properprep:

- Article 1: Preparing Concrete for Bonded ARDEX or HENRY Applications
- Article 1.1: Preparing Concrete for ARDEX Underlayments
- Article 2: Preparing Wood for Bonded ARDEX Applications
- Proper Prep Brochure

Mechanically clean substrate, if necessary, 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 alkali free. 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; unapproved curing compounds and sealers; all existing patching and leveling materials, all adhesive residues.

Minimum Preparation

Depending on the selected priming course, additional prep may be needed, as follows:

Primer	Minimum Preparation
ARDEX P 4	In all cases, substrate must be clean.
ARDEX P 51 ARDEX VB 100	Substrate must be clean and absorbent (ASTM F3191).
ARDEX P 82	Substrate must be clean and not absorbent.
ARDEX P 51 Undiluted	In all cases, substrate must be clean.
ARDEX MC RAPID	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 (icri.org).

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

All moving joints, including expansion joints and isolation joints, as well as all moving cracks, must be honored up through the entire flooring system, including the finishing course. Under no circumstances should this product or any other component of the flooring system be installed over these.

Dormant control joints and dormant cracks that will not be honored may be pre-filled; however, this filling is not intended to act as a repair method that will eliminate the possibility of telegraphing. Non-structural materials are unable to restrain movement within a concrete slab. Cracks will telegraph in any area that exhibits movement, such as an active crack, an expansion or isolation joint, or an area where dissimilar substrates meet. We know of no method to prevent this telegraphing.

If an ARDEX moisture control system will be installed (see “Moisture Testing” section above): All dormant joints and 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.

If no moisture control system will be applied, dormant cracks can be patched with a trowel applied material, such as ARDEX SKM or similar in accordance with the technical data sheet at www.ardexamericas.com.

For filling open joints in plywood subfloors, use ARDEX SKM or similar in accordance with the technical data sheet at www.ardexamericas.com.

Step 4: Install Appropriate Moisture Control or Priming Course

Products may need longer drying times with low surface temperatures and/or high ambient humidity. Do not proceed with subsequent steps before product has dried thoroughly.

Moisture Control System Installation (If / as needed)

See section entitled “Moisture Evaluation and Testing” above. Install the ARDEX moisture control system in accordance with the appropriate technical data sheet: (www.ardexamericas.com/products).

Priming (If moisture control will not be installed)

See section entitled Priming Method Selection above to select the appropriate primer based on the substrate.

Various, Approved Substrates: ARDEX P 4

Apply a thin, even layer to the substrate using a short-nap roller, sponge paint roller or paintbrush. Allow the primer to dry to a thin, opaque, white film (min. 30 minutes; 70°F / 21°C). Once dry, there is no time limit before the subsequent installation may proceed. However, please note that the subsequent installation should proceed as soon as possible to avoid surface contamination or damage to the primed surface.

Standard absorbent (porous) Concrete: ARDEX P 51 Mixed 1:1

Dilute primer with water at a rate of 1:1 by volume. Apply evenly with a clean, soft-bristled push broom. Do not use paint rollers, mops or spray equipment. Do not leave bare spots. Brush off puddles and excess primer.

It is critical to ensure that the primer is dry prior to proceeding with the next installation step. To determine if the primer is dry after a minimum of 30 minutes (max. 24 hours), pour water onto the surface of the primer in several areas and rub it with your finger. If the water remains clear, the primer is dry. If the water turns cloudy or milky, additional drying time is needed.

Extremely absorbent concrete: ARDEX P 51 “Double prime”

Make an initial application of primer diluted with 3 parts water by volume. Let the initial application dry thoroughly (1 - 3 hours), and then install a second application of primer mixed 1:1 with water as detailed directly above.

Wood: ARDEX P 51 Undiluted

Prime with ARDEX P 51 at full strength (do not dilute). Apply directly to the prepared substrate with a short-nap or sponge paint roller, leaving a thin coat of primer. Do not use a push broom. Do not leave any bare spots. Back roll with a dry roller to remove excess primer. Allow primer to dry to a clear, thin film (min. 3 hours, max. 24 hours).

**Non-absorbent (non-porous; burnished) Substrates:
ARDEX P 82**

Follow the mixing instructions on the container, and apply with a short-nap or sponge paint roller, leaving a thin coat of primer. Do not leave any bare spots. Back roll with a dry roller to remove excess primer. ARDEX P 82 should be applied within 1 hour of mixing. Allow to dry to a thin, slightly tacky film (min. 3 hours, max. 24 hours).

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; ARDEX T-6 Spiked Roller

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

Water Ratio:	6 quarts (5.7 L) clean water Per bag
Flow time:	10 minutes (70°F / 21°C)

Thickness of Application

Maximum Thickness of Application

Application	Maximum Thickness of Application
Over substrates primed with ARDEX VB 100	1/4" (6 mm)
Over Approved bonded uncoupling membranes and uncoupling heat systems (For a list of approved systems, please contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department.)	3/16" (4.7 mm)
Over substrates primed with ARDEX P 82 or ARDEX P 4	1/2" (12 mm)
All other cases	1 1/4" (3 cm)

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

1/8" (3 mm) minimum over highest point on the floor will typically result in average minimum thickness of at least 1/4" (6 mm).

To match existing elevations, product can be tapered to as thin an application as the sand in the material will allow. If a true featheredge is needed for transitions, use ARDEX SKM or similar in accordance with the technical data sheet at www.ardexamericas.com.

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.

Over approved uncoupling membranes: Once the uncoupling membrane is installed and allowed to set in accordance with manufacturer instructions, work a skim coat of the mixed material into the surface of the membrane with an ARDEX T-5 Smoother or flat trowel. All voids and cavities below the membrane surface must be completely filled. If a thicker layer is desired, the ARDEX T-4 Spreader can be used to evenly place the material above the surface of the membrane to a maximum thickness of 3/16" past the surface.

All other cases: 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.

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 Time and Installation of Flooring / Waterproofing

Drying Time

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.

	Thickness of Application	
	≤ 1/2" (12.7 mm)	>1/2" (12.7 mm)
Walkable:	2 - 3 hours	
Moisture-insensitive tile (ceramic, quarry, porcelain):	6 hours	Mat test* ³
ARDEX 8+9	6 hours	
All other cases:	Mat test* ³	

*³ Mat test: Allow the installation to dry a minimum of 24 hours prior to mat testing in accordance with ASTM D4263. To do this, place a piece of heavy plastic or a smooth rubber mat down over a 2' X 2' area. After 24 hours, lift the barrier material and inspect for surface darkening. A darkened area indicates excessive moisture is still present, and further drying time is required. Repeat the above test at regular intervals until no darkening is observed.

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.

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 finish flooring. 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.

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.

Technical Data According to Manufacturer Quality Standards

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

Coverage Over UI 740 FLEXBONE:	Per bag: 70 - 100 sq. ft. (6.5 - 9 m ²)
Coverage (All other cases):	Per bag At 1/4" (6 mm): 32.5 sq. ft. (3 m ²) Per bag At 1/8" (3 mm): 65 sq. ft. (6 m ²) Dependent on surface profile, density and porosity.
Maximum Thickness of Application:	Up to 1 1/4" (3 cm); See section entitled "Thickness of Application" above.
Compressive Strength (ASTM C109/mod – Air cure only):	3,000 psi (21 MPa; 210 kg/cm ²) At 28 days
ASTM C627 rating (Robinson-type Floor Tester):	Classified as extra heavy
Flexural Strength (ASTM C348):	700 psi (4.9 MPa; 49 kg/cm ²) At 28 days
Drying Time:	See section entitled "Drying Time and Installation of Flooring and Waterproofing" above.
Packaging:	50 lb. (22.7 kg) bag
Storage:	Store in a cool, dry area. Do not leave units exposed to sun.
Shelf Life:	12 months, if unopened and properly stored
Warranty:	ARDEX Standard Limited Warranty applies. Also eligible for ARDEX Tile and Stone SystemOne™ Warranty When used as a system. For full warranty details: www.ardexamericas.com .

Made in the USA.

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



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