



Recommendation Clarifications for Pre-Leveling Beneath ARDEX Toppings

We are writing to clarify our recommendations for installing pre-leveling beneath ARDEX toppings.

Step 1: Priming or Moisture Mitigation

1. Test the concrete for moisture in accordance with ASTM F2170.
2. If moisture exceeds the tolerances of the intended sealer or finishing guard product:
 - a. Mechanically prepare the concrete to a CSP 3 - CSP 5.
 - b. Install ARDEX MC RAPID at a minimum thickness of 14 mils with a sand broadcast in accordance with the technical data sheet.
3. If moisture mitigation is not required, the concrete may be primed with ARDEX P 51, ARDEX EP 2000 or ARDEX MC RAPID:
 - a. This will confirm that, while the use of ARDEX P 51 is an acceptable method to prime the concrete, the use of ARDEX EP 2000 or ARDEX MC RAPID is highly recommended to minimize the risk of reflective cracking appearing in the ARDEX pre-level application. ARDEX EP 2000 and ARDEX MC RAPID are highly reactive epoxies that produce extremely hard surfaces that tenaciously bond to the substrate to minimize cracking in ARDEX toppings. When installing ARDEX MC RAPID as a fast-track epoxy primer, install it at a minimum thickness of 10 mils with a sand broadcast to refusal.
 - b. If ARDEX EP 2000 or ARDEX MC RAPID will be used, mechanically prepare the concrete to a CSP 3 - CSP 5. Install ARDEX EP 2000 or ARDEX MC RAPID with a sand broadcast in accordance with the respective technical data sheet.
 - c. If ARDEX P 51 will be used, the concrete must be mechanically prepared to the point of absorbency in accordance with ASTM F3191. Prime with ARDEX P 51 in accordance with the technical data sheet.

Step 2: Pre-Leveling Installation and Curing

1. Install ARDEX SD-T, ARDEX K 15, ARDEX K 520 or ARDEX V 1200 in accordance with the technical data sheet.
2. Allow the selected pre-leveling material to cure as follows (70°F):
 - a. ARDEX SD-T and ARDEX K 15: Allow the ARDEX SD-T or ARDEX K 15 to cure for 24 hours.
 - b. ARDEX K 520: Allow the ARDEX K 520 to cure for 48 hours.
 - c. ARDEX V 1200: Allow the installation to cure for 48 hours prior to mat testing in accordance with ASTM D4263 until dryness is confirmed.

Step 3: Priming the Pre-Leveling Layer and Installing an ARDEX Topping

1. Please be advised that it is not necessary to prepare the pre-leveling material surface to a CSP 3. However, the surface of the pre-leveling material must be clean and absorbent. Any necessary preparation must be by mechanical means.
2. Once the pre-leveling layer has cured sufficiently, prime the selected pre-leveling material surface with ARDEX EP 2000 with a sand broadcast or ARDEX MC RAPID (minimum thickness of 10 mils) with a sand broadcast in accordance with the respective technical data sheet. Please note that ARDEX P 51 is not recommended to prime the pre-leveling material surface.
3. Install an ARDEX topping in accordance with the technical data sheet.

Should you have any questions on this information, please contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department.

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