



ARDEX FEATHER FINISH XF[®]

Self-Drying, Cement-Based Finish Underlayment

Provides a smooth surface over a variety of substrates prior to the installation of today's demanding floor coverings, including sheet vinyl and VCT

Install floor coverings in as little as 15 minutes

Superior coverage – up to 300 sq. ft. per bag*

Mold and mildew resistant

Priming not required for most applications

Exceptional bond strength

Suitable for castor wheels (EN 12 529)

Easy to mix with water only; applies to a true featheredge

Interior use only



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ARDEX FEATHER FINISH XF®

Self-Drying, Cement-Based Finish Underlayment

Suitable Substrates

- Concrete (structurally sound)
- Absorbent terrazzo on concrete*¹
- Metal (non-aluminum)*³
- Plywood subfloors (untreated)
- Solid hardwood*^{1, 3}
- Gypsum*²
- Properly installed ARDEX moisture control systems on concrete:
 - ARDEX MC™ RAPID
 - ARDEX VB 100
- Other approved, non-porous materials on concrete:*¹
 - Non-porous (non-absorbent) cementitious terrazzo
 - Ceramic, quarry or porcelain tiles
 - Epoxy coatings
 - Epoxy terrazzo
 - Approved, properly prepared, non-water-soluble adhesive residue on concrete
 - 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.

Please note that a skim coat of a cementitious material applied over a non-porous surface may not create a porous bonding surface for the finish flooring and/or may not protect the finish flooring from migration of existing adhesive. Consult the flooring manufacturer for confirmation of any minimum thickness requirements for cementitious underlayments, as well as for any additional considerations, when installing over potentially non-porous surfaces.

*² Please be advised that gypsum is inherently weak. This product will provide a solid bonding surface for new flooring, but it cannot correct the weakness of an underlying gypsum surface.

*³ 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

- Areas to receive a suitable floor covering material, such as carpet, vinyl, ceramic, etc. Do not use as a wear surface. If a permanent wear surface is needed, use ARDEX SD-M
- All grade levels
- Dry areas only; Interior applications only
- May be used as an embossing filler over residential sheet vinyl (no cushioned-backed flooring thicker than 0.080" or perimeter-bonded flooring) when mixed with ARDEX P 82; see instructions below. Note: When dried, the surface of the filled vinyl is considered a non-porous substrate, and the adhesive should be selected accordingly.

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, dry spaces. 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 95%.

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 (select applications)

If a moisture control course will not be applied, priming is needed only for select applications as follows:

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

Substrate (Dry areas only; Interior applications only; All grade levels)	Primer
Gypsum; Extremely absorbent concrete	ARDEX P 51 Double prime or ARDEX P 4
Metal (non-aluminum)	ARDEX P 82; anti-corrosive epoxy coating required for ferrous metals
Epoxy coatings and Epoxy terrazzo	ARDEX P 82 or ARDEX P 4

Step 2: Substrate Preparation (Proper Prep™)

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

- Article 1.1: Preparing Concrete for ARDEX or HENRY Underlayments
- Article 1: Preparing Concrete for Bonded ARDEX or HENRY Applications
- Article 2: Preparing Wood for Bonded ARDEX Applications
- Article 3: Preparing Metal 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; unsuitable adhesive residues.

Non-water-soluble adhesive residue must be wet scraped to a thin, well-bonded residue (rfci.com). For additional information, see Article 1 above.

Minimum Preparation

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

Primer	Minimum Preparation
ARDEX P 4	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 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.

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; select applications)

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

Gypsum / 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.

Gypsum / Extremely absorbent concrete: 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.

Metal (non-aluminum) / Epoxy coatings: ARDEX P 82

To prevent rust from recurring, ferrous metals must first be coated with an anti-corrosive epoxy coating. The coating must be installed and allowed to dry thoroughly in accordance with the manufacturer's written recommendations.

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).

Metal (non-aluminum): ARDEX EP 2000

ARDEX EP 2000 can also be used as a priming option over interior metal substrates. Please contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department for a full recommendation.

Step 5: Mixing and Application

Recommended Tools

Mixing Paddle; Mixing Container; 1/2" (12 mm) heavy-duty drill (min. 650 rpm); appropriate measuring bucket; Steel trowel; margin trowel; steel trowel; razor scraper

Application Data

Water Ratio:	2 1/2 quarts (2.4 L) clean water Per bag 2 parts powder: 1 part clean water by volume (small batches)
Approximate Pot life:	15 - 20 minutes (70°F / 21°C)
Thickness of Application:	Small, well-defined areas (Standard absorbent (porous) Substrates Only): Unlimited All other cases: 1/2" (12 mm)

Manual

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.

Small batches may be mixed by hand. Use a margin trowel, and mix vigorously. Just prior to application on the substrate, the mixture should be stirred again to ensure a creamy, smooth, lump-free consistency.

As this product is installed in thin applications, the profile of the substrate can affect the flatness and smoothness of the product. The thickness of the application should be calculated based on the surface profile of the substrate and the specified tolerances of the subsequently installed finish surface.

After mixing, apply the product to the substrate with the flat side of a steel trowel to obtain a solid mechanical bond before applying the desired thickness. Apply sufficient pressure to fill all defects.

Over ARDEX VB 100, special application procedures are required. Please refer to the appropriate technical data sheet or consult the ARDEX Technical Service Department for a full recommendation.

Jobsite conditions and temperature may affect pot life. If the material begins to harden within published pot life, retemper with a drill and mixing paddle. **Do not add more water.**

Embossing Filler

Existing felt-backed embossed residential sheet vinyl must be clean and free of any waxes or other dressings, solidly bonded and installed over a suitable substrate. The sheet vinyl must not show any signs of moisture, mold, mildew or alkaline salts.

Mix one part of ARDEX P 82 Part A with one part of ARDEX P 82 Part B by volume and blend to a uniform consistency. Add two parts powder by volume and mix as above.

Apply with the flat side of a trowel in the thinnest possible layer to fill in the existing pattern. If additional filling or smoothing is required after the pattern is filled, mix and install an additional coat as detailed in the "Manual" section above.

The embossing filler blend will typically require 90 minutes of drying time prior to the installation of the new residential sheet vinyl. The surface is ready when a twist of a shoe does not affect the bond of the embossing filler.

Step 6: Drying Time and Installation of Flooring

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.

Wood flooring and high-performance adhesives (epoxies or urethanes)	16 hours
All other cases	When hardened (Typically 15 - 20 minutes)

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. If the installation is not proceeding as expected: Contact the ARDEX Technical Service Department before proceeding further.

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.

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

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

Coverage:	Per bag At 1/4" (6 mm): 16.7 sq. ft. (1.5 m ²) Per bag At 1/8" (3 mm): 33.3 sq. ft. (3.09 m ²) Per bag At Skim Coat: 100 - 300 sq. ft. (9.2-27.8 m ²) Embossing Filler: Approximate 50 sq. ft. Dependent on surface profile, density and porosity.
Drying Time:	See section entitled "Drying Time and Installation of Flooring" above.
Packaging:	10 lb. (4.5 kg) bag
Storage:	Store in a cool, dry area. Do not leave units exposed to sun.
Shelf Life:	9 months, if unopened and properly stored
Warranty:	ARDEX Standard Limited Warranty applies. Also eligible for ARDEX SystemOne™ Warranty When used as a system. For full warranty details: www.ardexamericas.com/services/warranties .

Made in the USA.

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www.ardexamericas.com.

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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