



ARDEX

FEATHER FINISH®

Self-Drying, Cement-Based Finishing Underlayment

Portland cement-based

Exceptional bond strength

Provides a smooth finish to a variety of substrates prior to floor covering installation

Easy to mix and apply

Mixes with water only, no primers or additives necessary

True featheredge allows for greater coverage

Mold and mildew resistant

Will not contribute to staining floor covering

For interior use only

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ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®

Self-Drying, Cement-Based Finishing Underlayment

Usage

ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® can be used to smooth ridges, fill cracks, gouges, and joints for skim coating to a true featheredge over all types of interior concrete, masonry, wood, terrazzo, and ceramic and quarry tile. Can also be used over properly prepared residues of cutback and other non water-soluble adhesives over concrete only.

To use ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® as an embossing filler, the use of ARDEX P 82 ULTRA PRIME is required. Please read instructions under “Embossing Filler”.

Description

ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® provides a smooth, permanent finish to a variety of substrates prior to the installation of today’s demanding floor coverings such as sheet vinyl and VCT (vinyl composition tile). ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® allows the installation of most types of floor covering in as little as 15 minutes over concrete, wood, ceramic and quarry tile – all without the need for priming or the use of a latex additive.

ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® mixes with water only to a creamy, smooth consistency for easy application. Engineered around a self-drying, Portland cement-based matrix, all of the mix water is chemically combined within the product itself. Using this unique technology, flooring installation problems associated with disbonding, crumbling, mold, mildew, and staining are eliminated, thus preserving the floor manufacturer’s full product warranty.

Subfloor Preparation

All concrete substrates must be solid, thoroughly clean and free of oil, wax, grease, asphalt, latex compounds, curing and sealing compounds, and any contaminant that might act as a bond breaker. If necessary, mechanically clean the floor down to sound, solid concrete by shot blasting, scarifying or similar. Overwatered, frozen, or otherwise weak concrete surfaces must also be cleaned down to sound, solid concrete by mechanical methods. Acid etching, the use of adhesive removers or solvents, and sweeping compounds are not acceptable means of cleaning the substrate. The use of sanding equipment is not an effective method to remove curing and sealing compounds. Substrates must be dry and properly primed for a successful installation. Substrate temperatures must be a minimum of 50°F for the installation of ARDEX products. For further information, please refer to the ARDEX Substrate Preparation Brochure.

An adhesive residue over concrete must be tested to make certain it is not water-soluble and does not react with the new flooring adhesive. In addition, the new flooring must not be susceptible to bleed-through of cutback adhesive. If adhesive interaction and migration are a concern, install ARDEX K 15® SELF-LEVELING UNDERLAYMENT with ARDEX E 25 RESILIENT EMULSION using the recommendations of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute available from the Ardex Technical Service Department. If there are no such concerns, prepare the adhesive to a thin, well-bonded residue using the wet-scraping technique as recommended by the Resilient Floor Covering Institute. Any existing patches below the adhesive must be completely removed.

Recommended Tools

ARDEX T-2 Ring Mixing Paddle, mixing bucket, margin trowel, steel trowel, razor scraper, and a ½” heavy-duty drill (min. 650 rpm).

Mixing And Application

For one 10 lb. bag of ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® use 2½ quarts (2.375 liters) of water. Put clean water in the mixing container first, and then add the ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®. For best results, mix with an ARDEX T-2 Ring Mixing Paddle and ½” heavy-duty drill. To mix smaller quantities by hand, use 2 parts by volume of powder to 1 part of water. Use a margin trowel and mix vigorously for 2 to 3 minutes. Just prior to application on the substrate, the mixture should be stirred again to ensure a creamy, smooth, lump-free consistency. The pot life of ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® is approximately 15 to 20 minutes at 70°F. If surface skinning occurs within this time, remix before using. Do not add more water.

After mixing, apply the mix to the substrate with the flat side of a steel trowel to obtain a solid mechanical bond. Apply sufficient pressure to fill all defects and to feather the product into the subfloor surface. It is not necessary to leave a certain minimum thickness of product on the substrate. Use the least amount possible to attain the desired smoothness.

ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® can be installed from a true featheredge up to ½” thick over large areas in one application. It can also be placed to any thickness in small, well-defined areas such as thresholds and birdbaths, as well as for height transitions.

Flooring Installation

As soon as the ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® can be worked on without damaging the surface (15-20 min.), standard floor covering such as ceramic tile, VCT, sheet vinyl, and carpeting can be installed. Wood parquet, athletic flooring, and flooring requiring special adhesives that are sensitive to the presence of moisture (such as epoxies or urethanes), can be installed after 16 hours. All flooring adhesives that are compatible with concrete are compatible with ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®.

Due to variability in the wide range of adhesives used for the installation of floor covering materials, especially waterborne adhesives, their absorbency into cementitious substrates can also vary. If it is found that the adhesive being used is drying more quickly over the ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® than over adjacent concrete, we recommend that the surface of the underlayment be primed with ARDEX P 51 PRIMER diluted 1:3 with water. Allow the primer to dry thoroughly for 1-3 hours, and proceed with the installation of the adhesive. The use of the primer will even out the open time of the adhesive without affecting the bond or the long-term performance.

Embossing Filler

Existing felt-backed embossed residential sheet vinyl must be clean and free of any waxes or other dressings. The flooring must be solidly bonded, have been installed over a suitable substrate, and must not show any signs of moisture, mold, mildew, or alkaline salts. Do not use embossing filler over cushioned-backed flooring that is thicker than 0.080" or over flooring that was installed using a perimeter bonded method.

To use ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® as an embossing filler, mix one part by volume of ARDEX P 82 ULTRA PRIME Part A to one part by volume of ARDEX P 82 ULTRA PRIME Part B and blend to a uniform consistency. Add two parts of ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® and mix as above.

For example, mix 1 cup (8 oz.) of ARDEX P 82 Part A to 1 cup of ARDEX P 82 Part B. Blend this to a uniform color and consistency and then add 2 cups (16 oz.) of ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®. For best results, mix the embossing filler with an ARDEX T-2 Ring Mixing Paddle and ½" heavy-duty drill to a creamy consistency or use a margin trowel and mix vigorously for 2-3 minutes. Apply the filler to the prepared residential sheet vinyl with the flat side of a trowel in the thinnest possible layer to fill in the existing pattern. (Coverage of above mix is 50 sq. ft. depending upon the depth of the embossing pattern.) After the pattern is filled, should additional filling or smoothing be required, use ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® mixed with water only.

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. When dried, the surface of the filled vinyl is considered a non-porous substrate and the adhesive should be selected accordingly.

Notes

This product is intended for interior use over dry substrates only. Do not use in areas of constant water exposure or in areas exposed to permanent or intermittent substrate moisture as this may jeopardize the performance of the underlayment and the floor covering. This product is not a vapor barrier and will allow free passage of moisture. **Follow the directives of the floor covering manufacturer regarding the maximum allowable substrate moisture content and test the substrate prior to installing ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®.** Where substrate moisture exceeds the maximum allowed, Ardex recommends the use of ARDEX MC™ MOISTURE CONTROL SYSTEM. For further information, please refer to the Ardex Technical Brochures.

Always install an adequate number of properly located test areas, to include the finish flooring, to determine the suitability of the product for its intended use. 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.

To preserve its freshness, ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® must be protected from air while not in use. Protect unused material by removing the air from the bag and sealing tightly. Open and reseal as necessary.

Precautions

ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® contains Portland cement. Avoid eye and skin contact. Mix in a well ventilated area and avoid breathing powder or dust. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. Carefully read and follow all cautions and warnings on product label.

Physiologically and ecologically friendly when set. Never mix with cement or additives other than Ardex approved products. Observe the basic rules of concrete work. Do not install below 50°F surface temperature. Install quickly if substrate is warm and follow hot weather instructions available from the ARDEX Technical Service Department.

Technical Data According To Ardex Quality Standards

(All data based on a mixing ratio of 2 parts powder to 1 part by volume of water at 70°F)

Mixing Ratio:	2½ quarts of water per one 10 lb. bag; for smaller batches, use 2 parts powder to 1 part water
Coverage:	33.3 sq. ft. per bag at ⅛"; 16.7 sq. ft. per bag at ¼"
Install Floor	
Covering:	15-20 minutes at 70°F
Packaging:	10 lb./4.5 kg net weight in paper bags
Storage:	Store in a cool dry area. Do not expose bags to sun. Protect unused material by removing air from bag and sealing tightly.
Shelf Life:	Six months unopened
Warranty:	Ardex Engineered Cements Standard Limited Warranty applies.

Limited Warranty

Ardex, L.P. warrants that if this product proves to have manufacturing defects and ARDEX is notified of such within six months from the date ARDEX shipped the product, ARDEX will replace the defective product f.o.b. factory. Such product replacement shall constitute the sole and exclusive remedy for any claim under this warranty. ARDEX does not authorize anyone, including ARDEX Representatives, to make any statements which supersede, modify or supplement the information provided on its printed literature or package labels without written confirmation from the Ardex Technical Service Department. Any installations proceeding without this confirmation, or misinstallations of the product, will void this warranty. THIS WARRANTY IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED, IMPLIED, OR STATUTORY, AND IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO ITS TERMS. ARDEX MAKES NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR SUITABILITY OF ITS PRODUCTS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE. All product demonstrations are placed for illustrative purposes only and do not constitute a warranty of any kind. ARDEX SELLS ITS PRODUCTS UPON THE CONDITION THAT CUSTOMERS SHALL CONDUCT THEIR OWN TESTS TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY OF THE PRODUCTS FOR THE CUSTOMERS' INTENDED PURPOSES. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ARDEX BE LIABLE FOR ECONOMIC, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR LOSSES OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER ARISING OUT OF OR OCCASIONED BY THE SELECTION, USE, INSTALLATION, OR REPLACEMENT OF THESE PRODUCTS.

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AT127 (Rev. B 07/05)

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