



ARDEX

FEATHER FINISH[®]

Self-Drying, Cement-Based Finishing Underlayment

Portland cement-based

Exceptional bond strength

**Provides a smooth finish for 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 of floor covering

For interior use only

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ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®

Self-Drying, Cement-Based Finishing Underlayment

Description And Usage

ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® is a Portland cement-based underlayment that provides a smooth, permanent finish for a variety of substrates prior to the installation of today's demanding floor coverings, including 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 all types of interior concrete, masonry, wood, terrazzo, and ceramic and quarry tile - as well as properly prepared residues of cutback and other non-water-soluble adhesives on concrete - 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 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.

ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® may also be used as an embossing filler when mixed with ARDEX P 82™ ULTRA PRIME. Please read the instructions under "Embossing Filler".

Subfloor Preparation

All concrete substrates must be solid, thoroughly clean and free of oil, wax, grease, asphalt, patching materials, 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, adhesive removers, solvents and sweeping compounds are not acceptable means of cleaning the substrate. The use of sanding equipment is not an effective method for removing curing and sealing compounds. Substrates must be dry for a successful installation. Substrate and air temperatures must be a minimum of 50°F (10°C) for the installation of ARDEX products. For further information, please refer to the ARDEX Substrate Preparation Brochure.

If the substrate is a gypsum underlayment that will not be removed, double priming of the gypsum is necessary to consolidate what may be a dusty surface prior to installing ARDEX FEATHER FINISH. Make an initial application of ARDEX P 51™ PRIMER mixed with 3 parts water using a soft push broom. Do not leave any bare spots. Remove all puddles and excess primer. Allow thorough drying such that the film of primer does not re-emulsify in water (approximately 1 to 3 hours) before proceeding with the second application of ARDEX P 51 diluted 1:1 with water. Allow thorough drying to a clear, thin film (min. 3 hours, max. 24 hours).

Please be advised, however, that the fact remains that the substrate is gypsum, and therefore has inherent weakness. A skim coat of ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® will provide a solid

surface to which new flooring can bond, but cannot change the fact that a weak substrate lies below.

Epoxy coatings must be clean, sound and solidly bonded to the existing substrate. Where required, substrate preparation must be by mechanical means. It is then necessary to prime the epoxy with ARDEX P 82 before installing ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®. Mix and apply the ARDEX P 82 according to the instructions on the container, and allow drying to a thin, slightly tacky film (min. 3 hours, max. 24 hours). All unsound epoxy must be completely, mechanically removed down to clean, solid concrete.

Metal substrates must be rigid, well supported, properly anchored, free of undue flex and vibration, and clean, including the complete mechanical removal of rust, corrosion and any contaminant that may act as a bond breaker. It is the responsibility of the installation contractor to ensure that this is so. To prevent rust from recurring, steel surfaces must be painted with an anti-corrosive coating and allowed to dry thoroughly. The coating must be installed in strict accordance with coating manufacturer's written recommendations and allowed to cure fully. Lead, copper and aluminum do not need to be painted with anti-corrosive paint. The prepared metal surface must then be primed with ARDEX P 82. Mix and apply ARDEX P 82 according to the instructions on the container, and allow drying to a thin, slightly tacky film (min. 3 hours, max. 24 hours) before installing the ARDEX FEATHER FINISH®.

Adhesive residue over concrete must first 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 CONCRETE. 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 1/2" heavy-duty drill (min. 650 rpm).

Mixing And Application

For one 10 lb bag of ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® use 2½ quarts (2.4 liters) of clean water. Put the 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 1/2" heavy-duty drill. To mix smaller quantities by hand, use 2 parts of powder to 1 part of water by volume. 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 (21°C). If surface skinning occurs within this time, remix before using. Do not add more water.

After mixing, apply the ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® 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 onto the subfloor surface. There is no minimum thickness requirement for this product. 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 to 20 min.), standard floor coverings such as ceramic tile, VCT, sheet vinyl and carpeting can be installed. Wood flooring, 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®.

It is important to note that many different types of adhesives are used to install floor covering, and their absorbency into cementitious substrates can vary significantly. 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 (1 to 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, must be 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 perimeter-bonded flooring.

To use ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® as an embossing filler, 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 of ARDEX FEATHER FINISH® by volume and mix as above.

For example, mix 1 cup (8 oz.) of ARDEX P 82 Part A with 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 to 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 approx. 50 sq. ft., depending upon the depth of the

embossing pattern.) If additional filling or smoothing is required after the pattern is filled, 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 permitted, Ardex recommends the use of ARDEX MC™ MOISTURE CONTROL SYSTEM. For further information, please refer to the ARDEX MC Technical Brochure.

Always install an adequate number of properly located test areas, including the finish flooring, to determine the suitability of the product for the 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 the product label. For complete safety information, please refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet or visit our website at www.ardex.com.

Never mix with cement or additives other than Ardex approved products. Observe the basic rules of concrete work. Do not install below 50°F (10°C) surface or air temperature. Install quickly if substrate is warm, and follow the warm 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 (21°C).)

Mixing Ratio:	2½ quarts (2.4 liters) 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"
VOC Content:	0 g/L- calculated & reported, SCAQMD 1168
Install Floor Covering:	15-20 minutes at 70°F (21°C)
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 if 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 that 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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