



CI/SfB

(43)

Yq

APRIL 2014
(SUPERSEDES DECEMBER 2013)
PRODUCT DATA SHEET

ARDEX A 55

Ultra Rapid Hardening and Drying Smoothing and Levelling Compound

Features

- Walkable and ready to receive floorcoverings in as little as 60 minutes
- Priming rarely required on clean, prepared concrete, sand/cement screeds, un-glazed ceramic tiles and cementitious terrazzo
- Exceptional flow and levelling characteristics - ideal for luxury vinyl tiles
- Rapid hardening and drying performance combined with a 15 minute working time
- Exceptional coverage – Approximately 7.5m² @ 2mm thick
- An ARDEX A 35 screed smoothed with ARDEX A 55 can have floor coverings installed after as little as 4 hours
- Apply from a feather edge to 10mm in a single application



What is the
Rapidry Formula?

The ability to totally bind the water used for mixing, within the mortar, ensuring rapid drying and hardening properties, regardless of application thickness.



Reg No. FM 1207 EMS 565427

ARDEX UK LIMITED
Homefield Road, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8QP UK.
Telephone: +44 (0)1440 714939
Fax: +44 (0)1440 716640
Technical Services Fax: +44 (0)1440 716663
Email: technical.services@ardex.co.uk
ARDEX online: www.ardex.co.uk

ARDEX A 55

Ultra Rapid Hardening and Drying Smoothing and Levelling Compound

DESCRIPTION

ARDEX A 55 is an advanced sub-floor smoothing and patching compound with rapid hardening and rapid drying properties, specifically designed for areas where the installation time of floor finishes must be kept to a minimum.

When mixed with water, an exceptionally fluid, flexible self-levelling mortar is produced which can be applied from a feather edge up to the required thickness in a single operation.

Dependent on substrate and application thickness, ARDEX A 55 can normally be walked on after approximately 60 minutes at 20°C. ARDEX A 55 dries and hardens rapidly by hydration, binding in the mix water so that, providing the ARDEX A 55 layer has hardened sufficiently and the adhesive trowel does not damage the mortar surface, the floorcovering may be installed, even if the surface appears to be damp, typically after 60 minutes at 20°C.

USE

ARDEX A 55 will level and smooth in a single application within the 15 minute working time. Applications include rapid repairs and smoothing tamped, uneven, damaged in-situ concrete, sub-floors, adjusting tolerances or camber problems between floors, slabs or pre-cast concrete, as well as smoothing old sub-floors and screeds in renovation projects prior to receiving resilient floorcoverings such as vinyl and carpet. ARDEX A 55 is not designed to be a wearing surface.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

NOTE: Not suitable for asphalt sub-floors. For internal use only. Direct to ground sub-floors must be protected from rising damp.

The surface to be smoothed must be hard, sound and free of dust, dirt and other barrier materials, such as paint, lime coatings, plaster and excessive adhesive residues etc. Use ARDEX DGR to remove polish, wax, grease, oil and similar contaminating substances. Use appropriate mechanical preparation techniques for other barriers to adhesion, including surface laitance which should be removed from concrete surfaces. Direct to earth sub-floors must have an effective damp proof membrane, such as ARDEX DPM 1 C. Contact our Technical Services Department for further information.

High performance, high strength smoothing compounds such as ARDEX A 55 require a hard, sound, correctly prepared sub-floor. Adhesive residues vary considerably in their ability to support and restrain applied smoothing compounds so do not apply ARDEX A 55 over any more than traces of old adhesive residues. Any traces of adhesive that remain after surface preparation must be checked to ensure that they are not water softenable, soft or tacky and that they have sufficient cohesive strength to provide long term restraint for the applied smoothing compound, floorcovering and intended use. If in doubt, remove the old adhesive residues. In many cases priming will not be necessary e.g. on prepared screeds, concrete bases and thoroughly degreased un-glazed cementitious ceramic tiles/terrazzo up to a maximum of 6mm thick.

ARDEX P 82 primer is recommended for use on smooth, non absorbent sub-floors e.g. epoxy resin coatings, ARDEX Damp Proof Membranes and dense and non-absorbent surfaces.

ARDEX P 51 primer is recommended for anhydrite screeds and very porous surfaces to prevent air bubbles rising from the base and reducing the flow properties of the compound. See the relevant technical datasheet for appropriate dilution ratios.

ARDEX P 4 is a ready mixed, rapid drying primer, recommended for glazed ceramic tiles. ARDEX P 4 is ready to use and solvent free, and is dry in as little as 60 minutes.

MIXING

To the required amount of clean water in a clean mixing container add the powder whilst stirring vigorously until a lump-free mortar is produced. The mixing proportions are approximately: -
5¼ to 5¾ litres per 22kg bag.
3¼ parts of ARDEX A 55 powder into 1 part by volume of clean water.

Use the minimum amount of water for thick applications or in cold conditions.

The use of an ARDEX mixing paddle with a 10mm chuck, slow speed electric drill (600 – 1000 rpm) makes light work of mixing. ARDEX A 55 should be applied within 15 minutes after mixing at 20°C. This time is extended at lower and reduced at higher temperatures.

APPLICATION

Pour the mixed ARDEX A 55 onto the prepared sub-floor. The mixed mortar will flow out to provide a flat surface within the 15 minute working time. A steel finishing float is recommended to produce the required finish, or alternatively a long-handled smoothing trowel and/or a spiked roller can be used for finishing off. Apply at temperatures above 5°C.

THICKNESS

ARDEX A 55 can be applied from a feather edge up to 10mm neat; its optimum flow properties are found in applications of 2mm or above. When applying ARDEX A 55 at thicknesses over 10mm, incorporate up to an equal volume of 3mm single sized chippings e.g. ARDEX COARSE AGGREGATE. Mix the ARDEX A 55 as above and add the aggregate without further addition of water.

NOTE: Non-absorbent sub-floors must be levelled with at least 1.5mm of ARDEX A 55. Flooring grade asphalt must be levelled with at least 3mm of ARDITEX NA, but not exceeding 6mm in thickness.

COVERAGE

Approximately 1.47kg of powder per square metre per millimetre of thickness, i.e. one bag will cover approximately 7.5m² at 2mm thick.

PACKAGING

ARDEX A 55 is packed in paper sacks incorporating a polyethylene liner – net weight 22kg.

STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE

ARDEX A 55 must be stored in unopened packaging, clear of the ground in cool dry conditions and be protected from excessive draught. If stored correctly, as detailed above, the shelf life of this product is 6 months from the date shown on the packaging.

PRECAUTIONS

ARDEX A 55 is considered non-hazardous in normal usage. The presence of cement in the product gives an alkaline mortar which may cause some local irritation if prolonged contact with the skin takes place. Care should be taken to avoid inhalation or ingestion and prevent contact with the eyes. For further information, consult the relevant health and safety data sheet.

TECHNICAL DATA

Bulk density of powder: approx. 1.2kg/litre
Weight of fresh mortar: approx. 1.85kg/litre
Working time (20°C): approx. 15 minutes
Walkability (20°C): approx. 60 minutes
Ready to receive floorcoverings (20°C): approx. 60 minutes
*dependant on substrate, application thickness and temperature.

Compressive strength:

after 1 day: approx. 20 N/mm²
after 7 days: approx. 30 N/mm²
after 28 days: approx. 35 N/mm²

Tensile bending strength:

after 1 day: approx. 6 N/mm²
after 7 days: approx. 8 N/mm²
after 28 days: approx. 10 N/mm²

Ball pressure hardness:

after 1 day: approx. 40 N/mm²
after 7 days: approx. 50 N/mm²
after 28 days: approx. 60 N/mm²

Resistant to castor wheels: Yes

Suitable for underfloor heating: Yes

ARDEX A 55 – Cementitious screed material for use internally in buildings
EN 13813: CT-C35-F10

NOTE: The information supplied in our literature or given by our employees is based upon extensive experience and, together with that supplied by our agents or distributors, is given in good faith in order to help you. Our Company policy is one of continuous Research and Development; we therefore reserve the right to update this information at any time without prior notice. We also guarantee the consistent high quality of our products; however, as we have no control over site conditions or the execution of the work, we accept no liability for any loss or damage which may arise as a result thereof.

Country specific recommendations, depending on local standards, codes of practice, building regulations or industry guidelines, may affect specific installation recommendations.

TECHNICAL ADVICE HELPLINE
01440 714939

ARDEX online
www.ardex.co.uk