TB053.004
© Ardex
Australia
2004-2014

TECHNICAL BULLETIN – TB053

INSTALLATION OF STRIP TIMBER AND PARQUETRY FLOORING OVER MOISTURE BARRIER PREPARED CONCRETE

Date, Monday, 15 September 2014

The installation of strip timber flooring or parquetry over concrete prepared with a moisture vapour barrier (MVB) epoxy coating presents many installation challenges.

The moisture vapour barrier epoxy coating should be protected with a minimum thickness of 3mm self-smoothing levelling cement (FLC). This 3mm FLC topping will protect the moisture vapour barrier epoxy coating from puncture/damage and provide a flat/smooth porous surface for the conventional installation of floor coverings.

The installation of a minimum 3mm of FLC allows the removal of floor coverings for the repair/re-modelling without the risk of damaging the MVB, only the FLC may be damaged and is quickly and easily repaired to accept new floor coverings.

The work practice of fixing floor coverings directly to the MVB, whilst being technically feasible should only be done after taking all the “Risk Factors” into consideration.

The major “Risk Factor” is the possible damage/puncture of the MVB as listed here;

- Mechanical action of steel adhesive notching trowel’s.
- Foot traffic damage by abrasive particles lodged in boot sole tread.
- Sharp objects dropped inadvertently such as tools, pipes etc.,
- Heavy objects dragged over the MVB or blunt impacts
- Any abrasive action applied to the unprotected surface
- Puncturing of MVB by the installation of timber plank flooring systems using secret nailing fastening can occur.

A second issue concerns the use of any adhesives directly stuck to the membrane.

- Problems with drying of non-urethane parquetry adhesives over the non-porous surface
- Warranties between the MVB supplier and the adhesive supplier if they are different.

Removal of floor-coverings directly fixed to the MVB (at any time after installation) for repair, re-alignment, or re-modelling will result in damage to the MVB.

To re-instate the MVB it may be difficult or impossible to achieve and maintain the continuous integrity of the original MVB, as fracturing of the MVB under adjacent coverings may not be visible to action repairs.

In this situation who accepts the risk for future damage by moisture ingress?

Regardless of the type of damage/puncturing of the MVB, once punctured it will allow the free passage of moisture.

Fixing timber strip flooring by secret nailing directly through the MVB or a MVB with a FLC applied, will puncture the MVB and allow the free passage of moisture and void all manufacturer’s warranties.

For the secret nailing of timber strip flooring consult with your local industry association for advice on the use of plywood underlay sheeting systems for such applications.

Parquetry floors should be installed with a floor smoothing cement and details are available in Ardex Technical Bulletin TB036.

IMPORTANT

This Technical Bulletin provides guideline information only and is not intended to be interpreted as a general specification for the application/installation of the products described. Since each project potentially differs in exposure/condition specific recommendations may vary from the information contained herein. For recommendations for specific applications/installations contact your nearest Ardex Australia Ofiice.

DISCLAIMER

The information presented in this Technical Bulletin is to the best of our knowledge true and accurate. No warranty is implied or given as to its completeness or accuracy in describing the performance or suitability of a product for a particular application. Users are asked to check that the literature in their possession is the latest issue.

REASON FOR REVISION

24 month review.

REVIEW PERIOD

24 months from issue

NSW 02 9851 9100, **QLD** 07 3817 6000, **VIC** 03 8339 3100, **SA/NT** 08 8406 2500, **WA** 08 9256 8600
New Zealand (Christchurch) 64 3384 3029
Web: http://www.ardex.com email: technicalservices@ardexaustralia.com