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TECHNICAL BULLETIN – TB084

WATER EFFECTS ON ARDEX ARDURAPID PRODUCTS

Date, Thursday, 9 October 2014

INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

There are many situations where there is the ingress of water into ARDEX ARDURAPID products from sources such as broken plumbing, damaged/missing slab damp proof membrane, and other external sources.

Installers always need to remember that the ARDEX ARDURAPID products K15, K80, K55, K1, FEATHER FINISH, A45, A41 and also the rapid cure products K009, K12 and K250 are designed for dry applications, and will degrade over time when exposed to constant wetness. Use of these products in exposed external environments is also not recommended.

Resilient floor coverings such as vinyl sheet, tile, and plank products have a very low moisture vapour transmission, and when installed over concrete substrates (or indeed any other substances) with a moisture content exceeding the allowable limits, (as mentioned in A.S.1884-2012), moisture will build up and become concentrated under the resilient floor coverings.

The following represents the pertinent points to be investigated prior to the installation of ARDEX FLC and some helpful procedures should the ingress of water occur.

EFFECTS OF HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF WATER

- 1. High concentrations of moisture over a period of time will firstly soften & damage the acrylic/latex based floor covering adhesive, and result in bubbling or lifting of the floor covering. Carpets can develop mould and bad smells, and directly stuck timber can swell and deform.
- 2. The continuing high concentration of moisture/water in the ARDEX ARDURAPID smoothing cement may permanently damage the matrix also. This is evidenced by the development of white spots, crystalline growths, warping and internal delamination.



- 3. Wetting of ARDEX K15 in most instances if detected early with the sources of moisture/water eliminated, and then the floor allowed to dry out completely, has in many cases resulted in no detrimental damage to the smoothing cement.
- 4. Common sources of non-rising damp related water are broken plumbing, leaking gutters or facades, or in the case of wet-area vinyl, damaged welds and poorly installed membranes/detailing. All these must be repaired. Installing external drainage to remove capillary action of moisture ingress will assist, but in the case of wet areas, the installation must be re-instated.

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ARDEX TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

5. In such cases where the ingress of moisture/water cannot be halted (such as damaged or missing slab damp proof membrane), our experience has shown that compete removal of floor coverings and toppings is necessary and then rectification.

REPAIR PROCEDURE

For an internal application, the recommended repair procedure is to install an epoxy moisture vapour barrier followed by reinstatement of toppings to provide the necessary long term solutions for resilient or other moisture sensitive flooring.

The Ardex recommended procedure is detailed in Technical Bulletins TB006 and TB192 which describe the use of the ARDEX MOISTURE BARRIER system with ARDEX smoothing cements. In this system the smoothing cement is isolated from the damp subfloor by the epoxy membrane.

External or 'wet area' applications will require the initial use of, or replacement of damaged material with a more suitable product. These products are ARDEX K301 on paths or driveways, ARDEX A46 for patches, ramping and falls, or ARDITEX for creating falls and under external grade carpets and tiles. Ardex LQ92 and Ardex K005 can be used for external covered areas that have correct falls.

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 or Ardex New Zealand Office.

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 - ISSUER

Deletionof K11 and K10. Addition of K009. Change of A55 to K55.

- DOCUMENT REVIEW REQUIRED
- 24 months from issue

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