

## **ARDEX GUIDE SPECIFICATION**

### **ARDEX K 520™ Self-Leveling Concrete Topping – Sealed Self-Leveling Topping for Indoor Fast-Track Resurfacing**

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#### **SECTION 03 54 00 Self-Leveling Concrete Topping**

##### **PART 1 - GENERAL**

###### **1.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- A. Drawings, general provisions of the Contract, and other related construction documents such as Division 01 specifications apply to this Section.

###### **1.2 SUMMARY**

- A. This Section includes the installation of a self-leveling concrete topping for fast-track resurfacing, smoothing, or leveling of indoor concrete and certain non-porous surfaces.
  - 1. ARDEX K 520™ Self-Leveling Concrete Topping
  - 2. ARDEX ARDIFIX™ Two-Part, Low Viscosity Rigid Polyurethane Crack & Joint Repair
  - 3. ARDEX ARDISEAL™ RAPID PLUS Semi-Rigid Joint Sealant
  - 4. ARDEX E 25™ Resilient Emulsion
  - 5. ARDEX P 51™ Primer
  - 6. ARDEX EP 2000™ Substrate Preparation Epoxy Primer
  - 7. ARDEX MC™ Rapid One-Coat Moisture Control System for Concrete to Receive ARDEX Products - For Use as a Fast-Track Primer & moisture Control
  - 8. Stain and Wear Protection
- B. Related Sections include the following:
  - 1. Section 03 30 00, Cast-In-Place Concrete
  - 2. Section 09 05 61.13, Moisture Vapor Emission Control
  - 3. Division 09 Flooring Sections

### 1.3 REFERENCES

- A. ASTM C1708, 12 Standard Test Methods for Self-leveling Mortars Containing Hydraulic Cements
- B. ASTM C 109M, Compressive Strength Air-Cure Only
- C. ASTM C348, Flexural Strength of Hydraulic-Cement Mortar
- D. ASTM F2170, Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using in situ Probes.
- E. ASTM F710, Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring

### 1.4 SUBMITTALS

- A. Product Data: Submit manufacturer's product data and installation instructions for each material and product used. Include manufacturer's Safety Data Sheets.
- B. Maintenance Data: Provide instructions for maintenance of installed work, including methods and frequency recommended for maintaining optimum condition under intended use. These instructions should contain precautions against cleaning products and methods that may be detrimental to finishes and performance.

### 1.5 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. Installer should be experienced in performing specified work similar in design, products and scope of this project, with a documented track record of successful, in-service performance and with sufficient production capabilities, facilities and personnel to produce specified work.
- B. Product must be cement-based having an inorganic binder content which includes a minimum 80% Portland cement per ASTM C150: Standard Specification for Portland Cement and other specialty hydraulic cements. Gypsum products are not acceptable.
- C. Manufacturer Experience: Provide products of this section by companies which have successfully specialized in production of this type of work for not less than 10 years. Contact Manufacturer Representative prior to installation.
- D. Mock-Up: Before performing the work in this section, an on-site mock-up of the representative product and specified process, surface, finish, color and joint design/treatments must be installed for review and approval. These mock-ups should be installed using the same Installer personnel who will perform work. Approved mock-ups may become part of completed work, if undisturbed at time of substantial completion. Mock-up must be approved by the Architect/owner's representative.
- E. Pre-Installation Conference: Prior to the installation of the ARDEX K520™ an on-site conference shall be conducted to review specification requirements.

- F. The minimum agenda shall include a review of the site conditions, construction documents, schedule, installation procedures, protection procedures and submittals.

## 1.6 DELIVERY, STORAGE AND HANDLING

- A. Deliver products in original packaging, labeled with product identification, manufacturer, batch number and shelf life.
- B. Store products in a dry area with temperature maintained between 50° and 85°F (10° and 29°C) and Protect from direct sunlight.
- C. Handle products in accordance with manufacturer's printed recommendations.

## 1.7 PROJECT CONDITIONS

- A. ARDEX K 520™ is a cementitious material. Observe the basic rules of concrete work. Do not install below 50°F (10°C) or above 85°F (29°C) surface temperature. Install quickly if floor is warm (above 70°F/21°C and up to 85°F/29°C) and follow warm weather precautions available from the ARDEX Technical Service Department (888) 512-7339. Never mix with cement or additives other than ARDEX approved products.
- B. Inspect the existing substrate and document unsatisfactory conditions in writing. Verify that surfaces and site conditions are ready to receive work. Correct unacceptable conditions prior to installation of System. Commencement of work constitutes acceptance of substrate conditions.
- C. Close areas to traffic during and after the ARDEX Topping during the installation.

## PART 2 - PRODUCTS

### 2.1 SELF-LEVELING HYDRAULIC CEMENT TOPPING

- A. Self- Leveling Concrete Topping
  - 1. Acceptable Products:
    - a. ARDEX K 520™; Manufactured by ARDEX Americas; USA, [724-203-5000](tel:724-203-5000) [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)
    - b. ARDEX P51™; Primer for absorbent substrates: Manufactured by ARDEX Americas, USA, 724-203-5000; [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)
    - c. ARDEX EP 2000™ with a sand broadcast; Primer for installations where aesthetics are critical or non- absorbent substrates and all polishing applications: Manufactured by ARDEX Americas, USA; 724-203-5000; [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)
    - d. ARDEX E 25™ Resilient Emulsion: manufactured by ARDEX Americas, USA (724)-203-5000; [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)

- e. Low Viscosity Rigid Polyurethane Crack and Joint Repair; ARDEX ARDIFIX™; Manufactured by ARDEX Americas; USA; 724-203-5000, [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)
  - f. Semi-Rigid Joint Sealant; ARDEX ARDISEAL™ Rapid Plus Semi-Rigid Joint Sealant; Manufactured by ARDEX Americas; USA; 724-203-5000, [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)
  - g. Moisture Control System for Concrete to Receive ARDEX Products - For Use as a Fast-Track Primer & moisture Control; ARDEX MC™ Rapid One-Coat Moisture Control System, Manufactured by ARDEX Americas, USA; 724-203-5000; [www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)
- B. Performance and Physical Properties: Meet or exceed the following values for material cured at 70° F+/-3°F (21° C+/-3°C) and 50% +/-5% relative humidity:
- a. Application: Barrel Mix or Pump
  - b. Flow Time: Approx. 10 minutes
  - c. Walkable: 2-3 hours
  - d. Compressive Strength: 6,000 psi (420.0 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>) at 28 days, ASTM C109M
  - e. Flexural Strength: 1,200 psi (84 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>) at 28 days, ASTM C348
  - f. VOC: 0
  - g. Color: Gray
- 2.3 Topical Color
- a. As selected by Architect
- 2.4 Integral Color
- a. As selected by Architect. Powder or Liquid pigments can be utilized for integral pigmentation. The pigments must be suitable for use with a cementitious product.
- 2.5 WATER: Water shall be clean, potable, and sufficiently cool (not warmer than 70°F).
- 2.6 SEALER: ARDEX CG Concrete Guard™ or as specified by Architect

### **PART 3 – EXECUTION**

#### **3.1 PREPARATION**

- A. General: Prepare substrate in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- 1. Prior to proceeding, please refer to ASTM F710 Standard Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring. All concrete subfloors must be sound, solid, clean, and free of all oil, grease, dirt, curing compounds and any substance that might act as a bond breaker before priming.
  - 2. The concrete surface must have a minimum ICRI Concrete Surface Profile of 3 (CSP #3). Acid etching and the use of sweeping compounds and solvents are not acceptable.

3. Non-Absorbent substrates, such as terrazzo and ceramic and stone tiles must be mechanically abraded to create a bonding surface. Note that ARDEX K 520™ can be used as a polished topping over concrete and terrazzo substrates only.
4. Substrates shall be inspected in accordance with ASTM F2170 and corrected for moisture or any other conditions that could affect the performance of the topping or sealer. For areas where moisture vapor emissions exceed the limits required by the sealer manufacturer refer to Section 00 05 61.13, Moisture Vapor Emission Control and install the appropriate ARDEX Moisture Control System or call ARDEX Technical Services for product recommendations. ARDEX K 520™ is intended for 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 topping and coating. This product is not a vapor barrier and will allow free passage of moisture.

## B. CRACK AND JOINT PREPERATION

1. All dormant cracks must be pre-filled with ARDEX ARDIFIX™ in strict accordance with the installation instructions provided by the ARDEX Technical Department. Once the dormant cracks have been properly filled, broadcast sand to refusal, and allow these areas to cure thoroughly. Remove all excess sand prior to proceeding with the ARDEX MC™ RAPID installation.
2. All joints, including control joints, expansion joints and isolation joints, and moving cracks must be honored up through the ARDEX MC™ RAPID, the ARDEX Topping and the sealer by installing a fully flexible sealing compound designed specifically for this use, such as ARDEX ARDISEAL™ RAPID PLUS.

## 3.2 APPLICATION OF ARDEX K 520™:

- A. Examine substrates and conditions under which materials will be installed. Do not proceed with installation until unsatisfactory conditions are corrected.
- B. Coordinate installation with adjacent work to ensure proper sequence of construction. Protect adjacent areas from contact due to mixing and handling of materials.
- C. Priming:
  1. In areas where aesthetics is not critical, standard concrete can be primed with ARDEX P 51™ Primer in accordance with the technical data sheet.
  2. In areas where aesthetics is critical, for non-absorbent substrates and all polishing applications, install ARDEX EP 2000™ Substrate Preparation Epoxy Primer with a sand broadcast according to the technical data sheet.
  3. Alternate Primer: Install ARDEX MC™ RAPID in a one coat 10 mil application with a sand broadcast. When broadcasting the sand, use a NIOSH-approved dust mask in conformance with OSHA requirements regarding the handling of sand (crystalline silica). Contact ARDEX Technical Services for complete installation details. Note: this application is not intended to be used as a moisture vapor reduction system. ARDEX K

520™ can be applied 4 hours after the installation of ARDEX MC™ Rapid in a primer application.

D. Mixing: Comply with manufacturer's printed instructions and the following.

1. ARDEX K 520 is mixed two bags at a time. Add 5 quarts (4.73 L) of clean potable water per 50 lb. (22.7 kg) bag.
2. Mix using a 1/2" (650 rpm) low speed heavy-duty mixing drill with an ARDEX T-1 mixing paddle. Mix thoroughly for approximately 2-3 minutes to obtain a lump-free mixture. Do not overwater.
3. Aggregate mix: For areas with thicknesses greater than 1" (2.5 cm), mix ARDEX K 520™ with washed and well-graded 1/8" - 3/8" (3 - 9.5 mm) pea gravel. Please note that the aggregate size must not exceed 1/3 the depth of the pour. Mix the ARDEX K 520 with water first, and then add 1 part aggregate by volume, mixing until the aggregate is completely coated. Do not use sand. If the aggregate is wet, reduce the amount of water to avoid overwatering. The addition of aggregate will diminish the workability of the product and may make it necessary to install a neat coat to obtain a smooth surface. Allow the initial application to dry for 12 - 16 hours, and then prime this layer with ARDEX EP 2000™ with sand broadcast in accordance with the technical data sheet. Allow the primer to dry for a minimum of 16 hours, then vacuum the surface to remove all loose sand prior to installing the neat coat of ARDEX K 520™.
4. When installing ARDEX K 520™ in high-stress areas subject to rolling loads such as rubber-wheel forklift traffic or similar usage, the addition of ARDEX E 25™ Resilient Emulsion is required to increase the resiliency of the ARDEX K520™. Please follow manufacturer guidelines for mixing instructions.
5. For pump installations, ARDEX K 520™ shall be mixed using the ARDEX ARDIFLO™ Automatic Mixing Pumps. Contact ARDEX Technical Services for more information.

E. Application: Comply with manufacturer's printed instructions and the following.

1. ARDEX K 520™ may be installed at a minimum thickness of 1/4" (6mm). ARDEX K 520™ can be installed up to 1" (25 mm) over large areas neat, and up to 3" (7.5 cm) with the addition of proper aggregate. ARDEX K 520™ can also be tapered to match existing elevations. Install at a minimum thickness of 3/8" (9.5 mm) if being used as a polished topping.
2. Pour or pump the liquid ARDEX K 520™ and spread in place with the ARDEX T-4 Spreader. Use the ARDEX T-5 Smoother and featheredge and touch-up. Wear nonmetallic cleats to avoid leaving marks in the liquid ARDEX K 520™.

F. Curing

1. ARDEX K 520™ can be walked on in 2-3 hours. Dry time prior to sealer application varies by sealer type and thickness of application. Follow ARDEX recommendation for dry time prior to the installation of the sealer.

G. Sealing

1. The surface of ARDEX K 520™ must always be protected from staining agents and surface wear by applying a suitable protection system and must be suitable for the traffic of the installation space. For areas to receive normal foot traffic, ARDEX recommends the use of ARDEX CG Concrete Guard™ to seal ARDEX K 520™ that will be exposed to normal foot traffic. Sealing with ARDEX CG Concrete Guard™ can proceed after 24 hours under standard conditions of 70°F/21°C and 50% RH).
2. For areas to receive heavier traffic, as well as areas such as restaurants and food courts, sealing should be done using an appropriate wear protection coating. As the performance of coating systems varies greatly, the installer is responsible for assessing the suitability of these coatings.
  - a. If a waterborne sealer is to be applied at a thickness not-to-exceed a total of 20 mil (0.5mm), the coating can be applied as soon as the surface of the ARDEX K 520™ after 24 hours (at 70°F/21°C).
  - b. When using a solvent-borne or 100% solids coating applied at a total thickness of 20 mils (500 microns) or less, the ARDEX K 520™ must cure for a minimum of 48 hours at 70°F (21°C).
  - c. When the total application thickness will exceed 20 mils (500 microns), the ARDEX K 520™ must cure 7 days at 70°F (21°C) and the surface of the ARDEX K 520™ must be shot blasted prior to the protection layer being installed.
3. Traffic can proceed as soon as the sealer / coating has cured in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. Drying time is a function of jobsite temperature and humidity conditions and the installation thickness. Low substrate temperatures and/or high ambient humidity will extend the drying time. Adequate ventilation and heat will aid drying. Forced drying can dry the surface of the underlayment prematurely and is not recommended.

### 3.3 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL

- A. Where specified, field sampling of the ARDEX topping is to be done by taking an entire unopened bag of the product being installed to an independent testing facility to perform compressive strength testing in accordance with ASTM C 109/modified: air-cure only. There are no in situ test procedures for the evaluation of compressive strength.

### 3.4 PROTECTION

- A. ARDEX K 520™ wear surfaces should be adequately protected from damage resulting from construction traffic or other use that can affect the finished floor: by the use of plywood or other suitable, breathable protection course.

### 3.5 MAINTENANCE

- A. Once installed, any finished floor surface requires routine cleaning and maintenance. After installing the initial coats of the sealer, the best way to ensure the long-term appearance of a newly installed floor is using a sacrificial floor finish (“wax” or “polish”) applied over the surface of the newly installed and sealed floor. All floor coatings will wear as a function of traffic and maintenance, and the use of a sacrificial coating avoids wear on the original sealer

while providing a simple maintenance solution. Specific maintenance recommendations shall be provided by the installer performing the work of this section. Contact the Manufacturer of selected chemicals or ARDEX Technical Services Department for recommendations

**END OF SECTION**