



TECHNICAL BULLETIN – TB164

INCONTINENCE BARRIERS IN HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS

30th January 2025

INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

Cleaning is a common requirement in aged care facilities. A urine-resistant sealer is also needed for concrete floors under carpets and similar previous floor coverings. The sealer needs to be low-maintenance and compatible with direct bond and pressure-sensitive carpet adhesives.

More recently, the same requirement has been requested for resilient flooring, which is a more complex system but can also be delivered.

ARDEX can offer several solutions to this situation, one of which is a penetrative sealer and the other a film-forming two-part epoxy that can also act as a moisture barrier.

FILM FORMING SEALER

The system is based on ARDEX WPM300 Hydrepox, which is another option for sealing the floor to prevent penetration of spilled liquids. This product is not penetrative but forms a pale grey coating on the subfloor surface.

For textile floor coverings, one coat applied at 3m²/litre (0.15mm dry film thickness) will provide a basic seal for the substrate.

Two coats of ARDEX WPM300 with a final dry film thickness of 0.3mm is a moisture barrier that provides resistance to rising damp or subfloor moisture. It also seals the floor surface from above.

When a carpet is laid directly onto the ARDEX WPM300 surface, care must be taken not to cut or damage the coating during carpet laying operations.

However, it should be noted that when water-based resilient flooring adhesives are applied over non-porous surfaces such as ARDEX WPM300, the adhesives are likely to dry slowly, creating issues with sheet vinyl flooring such as blistering. Also, the surface finish of the ARDEX WPM300 is not suitable for the direct installation of resilient or linoleum-type flooring, so the application of a levelling compound is required.

SURFACE SMOOTHING

Where the subfloor requires a combination of moisture suppression and smoothing, the ARDEX Moisture Barrier system, as described in ARDEX Technical Bulletin TB006 or TB192, should be installed. Where the concrete surface only needs smoothing, an ARDEX levelling compound (e.g., ARDEX K15M, K125, K275, or K12N) can be applied at 2-3mm thickness.

In both cases, the levelling compound should be sealed with ARDEX WPM300 at a rate of 3m²/litre with one to two coats.

ADHESIVES FOR FLOORING

When adhesives are to be applied over ARDEX WPM300, they must be able to effectively tack off over an impervious surface.



The recommended ARDEX flooring adhesives are.

Carpet and textile floor coverings – ARDEX AF271 pressure-sensitive carpet adhesive

Rubber flooring and heavy-duty vinyl – ARDEX AF180MS MS adhesive

Vinyl planks – ARDEX AF171 fast grab adhesive

VCT flooring and vinyl backed carpet tiles – ARDEX AF271 pressure sensitive carpet adhesive

Welded sheet vinyl flooring – ARDEX AF171

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 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

Change of slogan and address

DOCUMENT REVIEW REQUIRED

36 months or whenever third-party suppliers change their recommendations.

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