

TECHNICAL BULLETIN – TB176

TILING WITH UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS

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INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

The purpose of this Technical Bulletin is to provide guidance on suitable product selection and methodology that would typically be employed to enable the application of heating cables above concrete, compressed fibre cement and timber floors prior to tiling. This bulletin replaces TB089, all versions.

This bulletin does not cover the use of Ardex self smoothing cements which are covered separately by Ardex Technical Bulletin TB029.

CONDITIONS

1. Application of tile systems should comply with AS3958.1-2007.
2. Heating cables vary in design and manufacturer, and may be supplied as individual cable lengths, meshed, or matt units. The attached recommendations are based on testing of a limited number of underfloor cabling systems. The cable manufacturer or supplier should test, engineer and approve any system design to meet any relevant standards, regulatory requirements or performance requirement.
3. In South Australia waterproofing must comply with South Australian Ministers' specification SA F1.7 in conjunction with Australian Standard AS3740, The Building Code of Australia and the Housing Code.

DESIGN PRECAUTIONS & SURFACE PREPARATION

The key to success when installing ARDEX tiling adhesive products is to achieve a good bond between the substrate and the flooring cover. Proper preparation of the surface is the most important factor in achieving this bond. The surface, therefore, must be sound, clean and free of oil, grease, wax, dirt, old tile, vinyl or carpet adhesives, asphaltic underlayments, dust, finishes, paint or any contaminant which might act as a bond breaker.

All timber and Compressed Fibre Cement sheeted floors must comply with AS3958 for maximum deformation between joists of 1 in 360th of the joists' span. Note: the deflection should lower when fixing large format (i.e. >400 x400mm) tiles. In this case deflection should be no more than 1 in 500th of the joists span.

Timber floors should comply with AS2796 for moisture content and be acclimatised under end-use conditions for at least 60 days prior to tiling to reduce unpredictable movement. Installation of timber floors must comply with good installation practice and design in order to provide for effective underfloor ventilation and minimal exposure to localized heating, drying and moisture.

WHEN COMMISSIONING THE FLOOR OBSERVE RECOMMENDED DRYING TIMES AND TURN HEATING UNIT ON BY INCREASING TEMPERATURE APPROXIMATELY 2°C PER DAY UNTIL THE DESIRED TEMPERATURE IS REACHED.

DO NOT HEAT ABOVE 45°C.

FAILURE TO OBSERVE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS MAY RESULT IN PROBLEMS WITH SOFTENING ADHESIVES, EXCESSIVE MOVEMENT IN TILED FLOORS AND POSSIBLE DEBONDING OF ANY SMOOTHING OR SOUND DEADENING TOPPINGS APPLIED.



SUMMARY OF SYSTEMS OUTLINED

System Number	Substrate	Joints/Primer	Embedding Screed	Membrane	Adhesive(s) for Tiles
1 Wet Cables in S:C Screed Flexible subfloor	Wet Area Timber or CFC/FC	Multiprime or Superflex primer	Sand:Cement self supporting with Abacrete	Superflex WPM001 or 002, WPM155	X56
2 Wet Cables on DS40 Sound Deadening Matting Flexible subfloor	Wet Area Timber or CFC/FC	Substrate Multiprimed DS40 bonded with X56	Cable laid onto DS40 and spot bonded	Superflex WPM001 or 002, WPM155	X56
3 Dry Cables on flexible subfloor	Sanded Timber* or CFC/FC	Prime timber with Optima (2P:1L), Multiprime CFC\FC. Tape or silicone joints	X56, 2P Isoflex	NA	X56 2P Isoflex
4 Dry Cables on flexible subfloor	CFC	Multiprimed then siliconed	X77 + E90	NA	X77 + E90
5 Dry Cables on DS40 Sound Deadening Matting	Sanded Timber or CFC/FC	Substrate Multiprimed DS40 bonded with X56	Cable laid onto DS40 and spot bonded	NA	X56 2P Isoflex
6 Dry Cables on subfloor	Mechanically prepared Concrete or Sand:Cement screed	Multiprime	NA	NA	X56 2P Isoflex Abaflex X7+E90 STS8+E90 X77 ¹
7 Wet Cables in S:C Screed	Concrete	Multiprime or Superflex primer	Sand:Cement self supporting with Abacrete or WPM405	Superflex WPM001 or 002, WPM155	X56 2P Isoflex Abaflex X7+E90 STS8+E90 X77 ¹
8 Dry Cables in topping	Mechanically Prepared Concrete	Multiprime	LQ92 (optional Abalastic)	NA	X56 2P Isoflex Abaflex X7+E90 STS8+E90 X77 ¹



* Timber refers to particleboard or construction grade plywood only. The strip timber floors should be fibre cement sheeted prior to application of heating elements and tiles.

¹ X77 can be used with Ardex E90 if extra flexibility is required.

APPLICATION OF SYSTEMS FOR TIMBER & FIBRE-CEMENT FLOORS

WET AREAS ON WET AREA RATED STRUCTURAL PARTICLEBOARD FLOORING & COMPRESSED FIBRE-CEMENT SHEETING OR UNDERLAY

NOTE: Where timber based subfloors are used in wet areas, refer to AS3740-2004 for specific instructions concerning water proofing requirements.

SYSTEM NO.1. HEATING CABLES IN SELF SUPPORTING CEMENT BASED SCREED

1. Place builders' plastic sheet (200-250 µm) on timber floor to act as a slip sheet.
2. Embed the heating cables in a self supporting sand /cement /Abacrete screed at a minimum 40mm thickness with reinforcing mesh. (Refer TB 057 Installation of Self Supporting Sand/Cement Screeds for the Installation of ceramic tiling).
3. Waterproof over the top of the screed after 7 days (minimum) curing, with Ardex WPM 001 (Superflex Premixed Bathroom & Balcony), Ardex WPM002 (Superflex Bathroom & Balcony Two Part) or Ardex WPM155 (Undertile PU) waterproofing membrane and allow to fully dry before commencing tile laying.
4. Use Ardex X56 or 2 Part Isoflex as the adhesive to bond tiles to the waterproofed screed.
5. Refer to the product datasheets for instructions on the use of the Ardex products.

SYSTEM NO.2. HEATING CABLES ON ARDEX DS40 SOUND DEADENING MATT

1. Timber floors should be clean and dry with all fixing screws or nails finishing flush or slightly below the timber surface. In all areas on wet area structural particleboard sheet timber flooring, sand the surface with a 40 grit sandpaper.
2. Apply Compressed Fibre Cement Sheet (CFC) or Fibre Cement Underlay as per the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Vacuum all loose dust and ensure surface is clean from contaminants..
4. Prime the porous surfaces with Ardex Multiprime. If the surface is very porous apply two coats of Ardex Multiprime and let dry (Approx. 30 minutes). For timber sheet flooring, tape joints with PVC (duct) tape.
5. For *fibre-cement* sheets an alternative is to apply a 2mm thick bead of neutral cure silicone over the joints and spread 5mm on either side of the joint to act as a bond breaker. Ensure that the face of the sheet surfaces is not contaminated with silicone during this operation. Allow the silicone to cure overnight.
6. Bond Ardex DS40 Soundproof Underlay using Ardex X56 to all surfaces using a 4 mm notched trowel. Install the Ardex DS40 with the fleece side down in a brick pattern and roll into the adhesive using a fluted roller. Fill all gaps between the sheets using a neutral cure silicone sealant. Leave a 6-10mm gap between all perimeter walls and all surface protrusions to allow for the installation of sealant to isolate the mat from the building structure.



7. Fix the heating cables to the DS40 matting with spots of Liquid Nails or similar non silicone or polyurethane construction adhesive.
8. Apply two coats of Ardex WPM 001, WPM002, WPM155 waterproofing membrane in order to achieve the recommended dry film thickness of 1.2mm. Apply the waterproofing membrane as per the standard procedures for tanking a shower recess. Priming is not necessary.
9. Allow the Ardex waterproofing membrane to fully dry as per the recommendations in the datasheet, prior to application of the screed. At the very least a minimum of 72 hours should be allowed to enable it to fully dry before proceeding with the adhesive.
10. Apply tiles with Ardex X56 or 2 Part Isoflex using a minimum 10-12mm notched trowel.
11. Grout the joints the next day with Ardex FG8 Grout boosted with Grout Booster at a concentration of 80% Grout Booster and 20% water.
12. Allow the grout to cure for a minimum of 14 days before use of shower areas.

DRY AREAS ON STRUCTURAL PARTICLEBOARD OR PLYWOOD FLOORING & COMPRESSED FIBRE-CEMENT SHEETING OR UNDERLAY

For internal areas of residences such as lounges, dining, hallways, bedrooms and studies which are unlikely to be exposed to water, then the following systems are applicable.

SYSTEM NO.3 HEATING CABLES IN RUBBERISED ADHESIVE BED

1. Timber floors should be clean and dry with all fixing screws or nails finishing flush or slightly below the timber surface. In all areas on structural particleboard or plywood timber sheet flooring, sand the surface with a 40 grit sandpaper.
2. Apply Compressed Fibre Cement Sheet (CFC) or Fibre Cement Underlay (FC) as per the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Vacuum all loose dust and ensure surface is clean from contaminants.
4. Prime CFC/FC surfaces with Ardex Multiprime.

Create a bonding bridge on particleboard or plywood sheets with Ardex Optima. Mix 2 parts of Ardex Optima (powder) to 1 part of Optima (liquid). Add Optima powder to the liquid whilst stirring with a mechanical mixer. Stir until both parts are homogeneously mixed. Apply Optima slurry with a sponge roller leaving a thick coat of Optima slurry over the timber substrate. Allow the slurry coat to dry fully before tiling over.

5. For timber sheet flooring, tape joints with PVC (duct) tape. For *fibre-cement* sheets an alternative is to apply a 2mm thick bead of neutral cure silicone over the joints and spread 5mm on either side of the joint to act as a bond breaker. Ensure that the face of the sheet surfaces is not contaminated with silicone during this operation. Allow the silicone to cure overnight.
6. Fix the coils to the subfloor to prevent movement and apply a solid screed of Ardex X56, 2-Part Isoflex, ensuring that full contact is made to the underlying timber with the adhesive. Screed the adhesive to provide a flat even surface that is at least 2mm above the top of the heating coils. Allow the screeded adhesive to cure overnight.



7. Adhere ceramic or porcelain tiles using Ardex X56, 2-part Isoflex ensuring a minimum bed of adhesive of 2.5mm and at least 90 % coverage to the back of the tile.
8. Grout the joints the next day with Ardex FG8 Grout cement based grout mixed with Grout Booster at a concentration of 80% Grout Booster and 20% water.
9. Allow the adhesive and grout to cure for a minimum of 14 days before turning on the heating coils.

SYSTEM NO.4 HEATING CABLES IN ARDEX X77 ADHESIVE

1. Apply Compressed Fibre Cement Sheet (CFC) as per the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Vacuum all loose dust and ensure surface is clean from contaminants.
3. Prime surfaces with Ardex Multiprime and allow to dry for 30 minutes.
4. Apply a 2mm thick bead of neutral cure silicone over the joints and spread 5mm on either side of the joint to act as a bond breaker. Ensure that the face of the sheet surfaces is not contaminated with silicone during this operation. Allow the silicone to cure overnight.
5. Fix the coils to the subfloor to prevent movement and apply a solid screed of Ardex X77 mixed with Ardex E90, ensuring that full contact is made to the underlying timber with the adhesive. Screed the adhesive to provide a flat even surface that is at least 2mm above the top of the heating coils. Allow the screeded adhesive to cure overnight.
6. Adhere ceramic or porcelain tiles Ardex X77 mixed with Ardex E90 ensuring a minimum bed of adhesive of 2.5mm and at least 90 % coverage to the back of the tile.
7. Grout the joints the next day with Ardex FG8 Grout cement based grout mixed with Grout Booster at a concentration of 80% Grout Booster and 20% water.
8. Allow the adhesive and grout to cure for a minimum of 14 days before turning on the heating coils.

SYSTEM NO.5. HEATING CABLES ON ARDEX DS40 SOUND DEADENING MATT

1. Timber floors should be clean and dry with all fixing screws or nails finishing flush or slightly below the timber surface. In all areas on wet area structural particleboard sheet timber flooring, sand the surface with a 40 grit sandpaper.
2. Apply Compressed Fibre Cement Sheet (CFC) or Fibre Cement Underlay as per the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Vacuum all loose dust and ensure surface is clean from contaminants..
4. Prime the porous surfaces with Ardex Multiprime. If the surface is very porous apply two coats of Ardex Multiprime and let dry (Approx. 30 minutes). For timber sheet flooring, tape joints with PVC (duct) tape.
5. For *fibre-cement* sheets an alternative is to apply a 2mm thick bead of neutral cure silicone over the joints and spread 5mm on either side of the joint to act as a bond breaker. Ensure that the face of the sheet surfaces is not contaminated with silicone during this operation. Allow the silicone to cure overnight.
6. Bond Ardex DS40 Soundproof Underlay using Ardex X56 to all surfaces using a 4 mm notched trowel. Install the Ardex DS40 with the fleece side down in a brick pattern and roll into the adhesive using a fluted roller. Fill all gaps



between the sheets using a neutral cure silicone sealant. Leave a 6-10mm gap between all perimeter walls and all surface protrusions to allow for the installation of sealant to isolate the mat from the building structure.

7. Fix the heating cables to the DS40 matting with spots of Liquid Nails or similar non silicone or polyurethane construction adhesive.
8. Apply a solid screed of Ardex X56 or 2-Part Isoflex, ensuring that full contact is made to the underlying timber with the adhesive. Screed the adhesive to provide a flat even surface that is at least 2mm above the top of the heating coils. Allow the screeded adhesive to cure overnight.
9. Adhere ceramic or porcelain tiles using Ardex X56, 2-part Isoflex ensuring a minimum bed of adhesive of 2.5mm and at least 90 % coverage to the back of the tile.
10. Grout the joints the next day with Ardex FG8 Grout boosted with Grout Booster at a concentration of 80% Grout Booster and 20% water.
11. Allow the adhesive and grout to cure for a minimum of 14 days before turning on the heating coils.

APPLICATION OF SYSTEMS FOR CONCRETE AND BONDED CEMENT SCREED SUBFLOORS (WET OR DRY)

SYSTEM NO. 6 HEATING CABLES IN ADHESIVE SCREED (DRY)

1. Surfaces should be sound and free of all contaminating or loose materials. Ensure that the concrete is at least 28 days old or that the screed is at least 7 days old.
2. Prime surfaces with Ardex Multiprime and let dry (generally 15 to 30 minutes).
3. Fix the heating coils to the concrete or screed to prevent movement and apply a solid screed of Ardex X56, 2-Part Isoflex, Ardex X77, Ardex STS8+E90, Ardex X7+E90 or Abaflex adhesive ensuring that full contact is made to the substrate.
4. Screed the adhesive to provide a flat even surface that is at least 2mm above the top of the heating coils and let cure overnight.
5. Adhere ceramic or porcelain tiles using Ardex X56, 2-Part Isoflex, Ardex X77, Ardex STS8+E90, Ardex X7+E90 or Abaflex adhesive, ensuring a minimum bed of adhesive of 2.5mm and at least a 95% coverage to the back of the tile.
6. Grout the joints the next day with Ardex FG8 Grout boosted with Grout Booster at a concentration of 80% Grout Booster and 20% water.
7. Allow the adhesive and grout to cure for a minimum of 14 days before turning on the heating coils.

SYSTEM NO. 7 HEATING CABLES IN ADHESIVE BED WITH WATERPROOF MEMBRANE ON SCREED TO CREATE FALLS (WET)

1. Surfaces should be sound and free of all contaminating or loose materials. Ensure that the concrete is at least 28 days old.
2. Embed the heating cables in a self supporting sand /cement /Abacrete screed with a minimum 40mm thickness including reinforcing mesh. (Refer TB 057 Installation of Self Supporting Sand/Cement Screeds for the Installation of ceramic tiling). Allow the screed to cure for a minimum of 7 days.



3. Prime surfaces with Ardex Multiprime and let dry (generally 15 to 30 minutes).
4. Apply two coats of Ardex WPM 001, WPM002, WPM155 waterproofing membrane to the cured screed in order to achieve the recommended dry film thickness of 1.2mm. Apply the waterproofing membrane as per the standard procedures for tanking a shower recess. Priming of the soundproof underlay is not necessary.
5. Allow the Ardex waterproofing membrane to fully dry as per the recommendations in the datasheet, prior to application of the screed. At the very least a minimum of 72 hours should be allowed to enable it to fully dry before proceeding with the screed.
6. Adhere ceramic or porcelain tiles using Ardex X56, 2-Part Isoflex, Abaflex, Ardex X7+Ardex E90 or Ardex STS8+Ardex E90 adhesive, or Ardex X77, ensuring a minimum bed of adhesive of 2.5mm and at least a 95% coverage to the back of the tile.
7. Grout the joints the next day with Ardex FG8 Grout boosted with Grout Booster at a concentration of 80% Grout Booster and 20% water.
8. Allow the adhesive and grout to cure for a minimum of 14 days before turning on the heating coils.

SYSTEM NO. 8. HEATING CABLES IN SELF LEVELING COMPOUND

1. Surfaces should be sound, dry and free of all contaminating or loose materials. Ensure that the concrete is at least 28 days old or that the screed is at least 7 days old.
2. Prime surfaces with Ardex Multiprime and let dry (generally 15 to 30 minutes).
3. Use Ardex LQ92 Self leveling compound to cover the cables. It is optional to mix the LQ92 with Ardex-ABA Abalastic in the following mix ratio per 20kg bag of Ardex LQ92

Mix 2.5 litres of Abalastic Liquid

And 2.5 litres of clean cool water

The smoothing cement is applied as per the instructions in the datasheet, ensuring that the finished level is 3mm above the cable.

4. Allow the Ardex LQ 92 allow at least 4 hours to cure, before tiling.
5. Grout the joints the next day with Ardex FG 8 cement based grout boosted with Grout Booster at a concentration of 80% Grout Booster and 20% water.
6. Adhere ceramic or porcelain tiles using Ardex X56, 2-part Isoflex, Abaflex, Ardex X7+Ardex E90, Ardex STS8+Ardex E90 adhesive, or Ardex X77, ensuring a minimum bed of adhesive of 2.5mm and at least a 95% coverage to the back of the tile.
7. Grout the joints the next day with Ardex FG8 Grout boosted with Grout Booster at a concentration of 80% GB and 20% water.
8. Allow the adhesive and grout to cure for a minimum of 14 days before turning on the heating coils.



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

Modifications to the requirements for the use of Abalastic with LQ92.

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