

TECHNICAL BULLETIN – TB186

CLEANING / MAINTENANCE OF ARDEX GROUTS

24th April 2020

INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

ARDEX grout surfaces do not require special maintenance beyond normal cleaning and sensible housekeeping. However, for the highly industrial and special applications such as pharmaceutical industries, cosmetic, food and health industries where a high degree of cleanliness and safety is required, a more stringent maintenance regime may be employed through frequent cleaning. This technical bulletin outlines the general cleaning maintenance guide in establishing such cleaning regimes.

ARDEX EG 15 and ARDEX WA epoxy grouts are typically used in areas where high chemical resistance is required but this Technical Bulletin also refers to the cementitious grouts in our range such as ARDEX FG 8, ARDEX FS-DD and ARDEX WJ50.

A GENERAL GUIDE TO PROPER CLEANING METHODS

- a. Broom sweep all dust and loose particles from the surface
- b. Use appropriate special purpose cleaning agents such as degreasers, sanitising agents, deodorizing agents, detergents and diluted caustic solutions to remove surface contaminants. If bleach is used ensure solution is well diluted with water as strong bleach can affect the oxides in grouts. Ensure proper PPE is worn.
- c. Spread the cleaning agent evenly over the surface and allow it to react on the surface.
- d. Clean the surface using any of the following methods
 - Hand and/or Mechanical Scrubbing
 - High Pressure water and Steam Method
 - Mopping
- e. Remove solution from surface using wet vacuum or squeegee to floor drains. In case mopping is used, keep clean rinsing water in a separate bucket.
- f. Repeat steps **c** and **d** if necessary until surface is completely clean.

NOTES:

For any of the ARDEX grouts available, always carry out a spot cleaning test in an inconspicuous area before proceeding. This will ensure no adverse effect such as staining occurs. Refer to the ARDEX EG15 and ARDEX WA Epoxy Chemical Resistance Tables on their respective product Technical Datasheets for additional information.

ARDEX EG15 and ARDEX WA epoxy grouts can handle an acidic cleaning solution but ARDEX FG 8, ARDEX FS-DD and ARDEX WJ 50 can not. The cleaning agent must be neutral or alkaline as cementitious product such as these will corrode in contact with acid.

Ensure detergent contaminated water is disposed of as per federal and state laws.

A timeline on maintenance cleaning can't be provided in this document as it is not site specific. Some environments, kitchens for example, would need to be washed every day, where other areas a weekly clean would be appropriate.

MAINTENANCE

Contamination can permeate via open gouges or other damage left un-repaired, undermining the grout system. **Annual inspections** are therefore recommended so that damage from abuse, abrasion and other normal building movement can be repaired promptly.

ARDEX EG15 and WA Epoxy grouts are not suitable for use in areas subject to long term contact with high concentrations of chicken fat.

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

PERIODIC UPDATE

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