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# ARDEX K 120

## Levelling and Smoothing Compound

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Quick Drying - Walkable after only 2-3 hours

Level from 2.5mm to 12mm in one application

Suitable for residential and commercial applications

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### DESCRIPTION

ARDEX K 120 is a levelling and smoothing compound designed to level and smooth internal sub-floors prior to applying floor finishes.

### SUBSTRATES

ARDEX K 120 is designed for installation over internal, dry, concrete substrates. Do not use for installations over timber, steel decking or subfloors subject to vibration. For these areas ARDEX recommends the use of ARDEX K 15 Micro with ARDEX E 25 resilient emulsion added to increase the resiliency and cohesive strength. Contact ARDEX Technical Services for Technical Bulletins on these types of applications.

### SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Concrete floors must be solid, thoroughly clean and free of oil, wax, grease, asphalt, latex compounds, curing and sealing compounds and any other surface contaminant.

Mechanically clean the floor using recommended preparation methods such as shot blasting, scarifying, diamond grinding, shaving or other suitable methods to provide a roughened, clean, sound, solid and open porous surface. Acid etching is not an acceptable method of cleaning the subfloor.

Do not use solvents or sweeping compounds. Subfloors must be dry (AS 1884) and properly primed for successful installation. Subfloor temperatures must be a minimum of 10°C. For further information, contact ARDEX Technical Services.

### PRIMING

Use ARDEX P 51 over standard concrete floors prior to the installation of ARDEX levelling compounds. Mix 1 part ARDEX P 51 with 2 parts water and apply evenly using a bristle broom. Do not use paint rollers, mops, or spray equipment. Do not leave any bare spots. Brush off all puddles of excess primer. Allow to dry to a thin, clear film (min 3 hours, max 24 hours). Very absorbent concrete may require two applications of primer to avoid pinholes and bubbling in the levelling compound. In such cases, make the initial coat 1 part ARDEX P 51 diluted with 3 parts water. Allow to dry and install a second coat of 1 part ARDEX P 51 diluted with 1 part water. Allow to dry to a thin, clear film (min 3 hours, max 24 hours).

Use ARDEX P 82 for non-porous substrates. Mix part A (red) with part B (white) and apply with a short-nap or sponge paint roller, leaving a thin transparent pink coat of primer no heavier than a coat of paint. Do not leave any bare spots. Roll off any areas of excess primer. Allow to dry to a thin, slightly tacky film (min. 3 hours, max. 24 hours). ARDEX P 82 must be applied in a thin

layer within 1 hour of mixing. Refer to the Mixing Ratio section for adjustment of mix design when using ARDEX P 82 under ARDEX K 120.

Note: Low subfloor temperatures and/or high ambient humidity require longer drying time for ARDEX primers. Do not install levelling compounds until primers have dried thoroughly.

### MIXING RATIO

4.5 litres of water to 20kg of K 120 powder.

**IMPORTANT:** When used in conjunction with ARDEX P 82 and for high stress areas, mix 1.25 litres of ARDEX E 25 with 3.75 litres of water per 20kg bag of ARDEX K 120.

### MIXING

ARDEX floor levelling products react and harden quickly when mixed with water. Thorough mixing in the shortest possible time is essential to ensure a lump free mortar. Always mix the powder into the water. The most efficient method of mixing is by using an ARDEX mixing paddle and a heavy duty electric drill (650rpm). Normal mixing time of a 20kg bag is 2 to 3 minutes. Concrete mixers and hand mixing are not suitable methods of mixing.

To 4.5 litres of water, add the ARDEX K 120 (20kg) whilst mixing thoroughly.

### MANUAL INSTALLATION

Pour the mixed ARDEX K 120 onto the prepared subfloor and spread in place using the ARDEX stand-up spreader or ARDEX hand trowel. Use the ARDEX gauging tool with height adjustment to obtain an even thickness. Use the ARDEX smoother for smoothing, featheredging and touch up. Do not rework the ARDEX K 120 after 10 minutes. Wear football boots with rubber or nylon studs to avoid leaving marks in the liquid ARDEX K 120.

### PUMPING INSTALLATION

For ease and efficiency of application, ARDEX K 120 can be pumped with an ARDEX approved pump.

### SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS

ARDEX K 120 can be used over heated subfloors. For this application, use in conjunction with ARDEX E 25 resilient emulsion. Reduce the mixing water to 3.5 litres and add 1.6 litres of ARDEX E 25. Contact ARDEX Technical Services for detailed information on these types of applications. For areas subject to heavy traffic and heavy loads, such as supermarkets, extended times must be allowed before the floor is subjected to highly loaded trolleys.

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At 20°C, it is recommended that 7 days cure are allowed before heavy loads. Low temperatures may extend this time. ARDEX E 25 can also be used to increase strength and resiliency.

### THICKNESS

ARDEX K 120 can be applied from 2.5 – 12mm in one application without aggregate. For areas requiring a thickness over 12mm to a maximum of 20mm, ARDEX K 120 must be mixed with a well washed and dried 2 – 5mm aggregate. Mix ARDEX K 120 with water first then add the aggregate in equal volume to mixed mortar whilst mixing.

### DRYING TIME

Allow approximately 2 to 3 hours at 23°C and 50% relative humidity, before foot traffic. Conventionally laid carpet and floating floors can be installed after 24 hours. Direct stick applications such as vinyl flooring after 48 hours. Allow longer for humid climates and low temperatures.

### COVERAGE

Approximately 1.7kg powder/mm/m<sup>2</sup>. A 20kg bag will cover approximately 4m<sup>2</sup> at 3mm thickness.

### STORAGE

ARDEX K 120 has a shelf life of 12 months if stored in dry conditions in unopened packaging.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

ARDEX K 120 contains Portland cement and Quartz sand. Avoid generation of dust. Do not inhale dust. Avoid contact with eyes or skin. Wear suitable protective gloves and safety glasses. In case of contact with eyes, rinse opened eye for several minutes under running water. In case of contact with skin, rinse effected areas thoroughly with running water. If dust is inhaled, remove to fresh air, ensure breathing passages are clear, and rinse mouth with running water. If symptoms persist, seek medical advice. Material Safety Data Sheets are available on request.

### TECHNICAL DATA

Characteristic	Result
Bulk density of powder	1.2kg/L
Weight of fresh mortar	2.0kg/L
Compressive Strength	
After 1 day	17 MPa
After 7 days	25 MPa
After 28 days	30 MPa
Tensile Bending Strength	
After 1 day	4 MPa
After 7 days	8 MPa
After 28 days	10MPa

**Toll Free Technical Services:**  
**4800 224 070 (Australia)**  
**0800 227 339 (New Zealand)**

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