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# ARDEX SKM

## Skim Finish – Skimcoat Patch & Finishing Underlayment

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Use to patch and skim coat over concrete, wood, non-water soluble adhesive residue on concrete and moisture insensitive tile and stone

Non-sanded for a true featheredge up to 12mm

Creamy consistency with easy application

Foot traffic and install floor covering in as little as 30 mins



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### DESCRIPTION

ARDEX SKM Skim Finish - Skim Coat Patch & Finishing Underlayment is a trowelable patch and skim coat for use over interior concrete, wood, moisture-insensitive tile and stone, cutback and other non-water soluble adhesive residues on concrete. ARDEX SKM will provide a permanent, smooth, durable finish prior to the installation of most floor coverings. ARDEX SKM hardens quickly, is easy to apply and dries fast without shrinking, cracking or spalling.

### SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

For all the substrates listed below, acid etching, adhesive removers, solvents and sweeping compounds are not acceptable means for cleaning the substrate. Substrate and ambient temperatures must be a minimum of 10°C for the installation of ARDEX products.

The cement/sand screed, plywood or ceramic tiled subfloors must be dry, sound, and clean, free of dust, grease and other barriers that might impair adhesion to the base.

In domestic applications only, ARDEX SKM may be installed over existing adhesive residues which are thin, sound and well bonded. The residues must not be affected by either the initial wetting from the applied mortar or the adhesive used to install the new floor covering.

ARDEX SKM can be installed over non-water soluble adhesive residue on concrete only. Non-water-soluble adhesives should be prepared to a thin, well-bonded residue using the wet-scraping technique to remove thick areas and adhesive build-up. If the adhesive is not well-bonded to the concrete or is brittle, powdery or otherwise weak, it must be completely, mechanically removed down to clean, sound, solid concrete. Any existing patching materials below the adhesive must be removed completely.

### MIXING

A 5kg bag of ARDEX SKM requires 1.45 litres to 1.65 litres of clean water to achieve an easy to trowel, non-flowing, slump-free consistency. Mix only the amount you can use within the pot life of approx. 15 minutes.

Do not overwater. Additional water will weaken the compound and lower its strength.

### APPLICATION

It is easily applied with a steel trowel and can be used to form a true feather edge up to 12mm thickness. There

is no minimum thickness requirement for this product. Use the least amount possible to attain the desired smoothness. The thickness of the application should be determined by the surface profile of the substrate and the specified tolerances of the floor covering. ARDEX SKM is not to be used as a permanent wear surface, even if coated or sealed. ARDEX SKM must be covered by a suitable floor covering material, such as carpet, vinyl flooring, ceramic tile, etc.

### INSTALLATION OF FLOORING

Most floor coverings, moisture-insensitive tile and Portland cement-based setting materials can be installed approximately 30 minutes after installing a skim coat application of ARDEX SKM. For ARDEX SKM applications greater than 1.5mm, most floor coverings can be installed in 1 - 2 hours and most moisture-insensitive tile and Portland cement-based setting materials can be installed in 60 - 90 minutes. Make certain the patch is dry and refer to the flooring manufacturer's specific recommendations for installing over cementitious underlayment.

Drying time is a function of jobsite temperature and humidity conditions, as well as 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.

It is important to note that many different types of adhesives are used to install floor coverings, and their absorbency into cementitious substrates can vary significantly. If it is found that the adhesive being used is drying more quickly over the ARDEX SKM than over adjacent concrete, we recommend that the surface of the underlayment be primed with ARDEX P 51 diluted 1:3 with water. Allow the primer to dry thoroughly (1 - 3 hours) and proceed with the installation of the adhesive. The use of the primer will even out the open time of the adhesive without affecting the bond or the long-term performance.

### COVERAGE

A 5kg bag of ARDEX SKM will cover approx. 15 - 20m<sup>2</sup> on a smooth subfloor when a skim coat is applied. Thicker applications reduce the coverage

### PACKAGING

ARDEX SKM is packed in 5kg bag.

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### STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE

ARDEX SKM must be stored in the unopened packaging, clear of the ground in a cool, dry area and be protected from excessive height. If stored under the correct conditions, it has a shelf life of 12 months.

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

ARDEX SKM is non-hazardous in normal usage. The presence of cement in the product gives an alkaline mortar which may cause some irritation. Avoid contact with skin; wash off with soap and water before drying takes place. In case of contact with eyes, rinse carefully and thoroughly with water and seek medical advice. In case of ingestion, seek medical assistance. During the installation process, adequate ventilation of the work area should be maintained without causing the entry of contaminants to other parts of building. Consult the relevant Safety Datasheet for further information (available upon request and online at [www.ardex-quicseal.com](http://www.ardex-quicseal.com)).

### DISCLAIMER

The technical datasheets are based on the latest information and given in good faith and represent the best of our knowledge and experience at the time of printing. They are primarily offered for user's consideration and evaluation. It is the responsibility of the user to conduct their own tests to validate the suitability of the products. It is also the responsibility of the user to ensure that the products are used and handled correctly and in accordance with any applicable standards, the product instructions and recommendations and only for the uses they are intended. As we have no control over site conditions and the execution of the work, we accept no liability for any loss or damage which may rise as a result thereof. We also reserve the right to update the information at any time without prior notice to you to reflect our ongoing research and development program.

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FEB 2025 T