Update 002
9th August 2018
From: ARDEX UK Technical Services Department

Use of ARDEX Products in Hot Weather

We are writing to clarify our recommendations for the installation of ARDEX materials namely screeds, repair mortars, smoothing and levelling compounds, tile adhesives and grouts during periods of hot weather and prolonged sunny spells.

ARDEX products are designed to work at 20°C, as with most cementitious products, regardless of manufacturer. At higher temperatures, precautions are needed as the mortars will stiffen and harden more rapidly, reducing the available working time. In addition, the accelerated drying factor caused by hot weather and warm dry winds can increase the risk of shrinkage cracking.

- Storage of Products: Always ensure that ARDEX products are stored away from direct sunlight. Products stored outside need to be shaded and protected from the elements. High temperatures can also drastically heat up materials stored in vans and other vehicles. The same rules apply to associated materials such as aggregates for screeds.
- Mixing water: Always run the mix water until it is cool before using it to mix an ARDEX product. Beware that hosepipes exposed to direct sunlight can heat water up rapidly, so they should be shaded. Water stored in buckets, water drums and other on-site methods should be avoided where possible, otherwise be shaded and protected from direct sunlight.
- Mixing Area and Tools: Mix ARDEX products in a shaded area to avoid the mixing tools becoming hot – ensure that tools are quickly cleaned after use to avoid build-up of material and contamination between mixes.
- Substrate Temperature: Is very important as warm surfaces will accelerate setting. A surface thermometer, infra-red or the Protimeter MMS/2 machines, can be used to plan installation procedures. Tenting/shading/wind breaks or working early in the morning can help control substrate temperature.
- Substrate Preparation: In some cases, absorbent substrates such as concrete, aerated block, render, brickwork etc. may have higher porosity than under normal conditions. To help with application and reduce suction, consider damping down the surface with water or priming with a 1:7 mixture of water and ARDEX P 51.
- Size of Working Area: Consider reducing the size of working areas at the planning stage to ensure that the materials are installed as quickly as possible.
- Accelerated Drying Protection: To reduce the increased risk of surface shrinkage, cracking, and differential drying, shade the working area and use temporary wind breaks. For screeded areas an impervious protective sheet should be considered.

Always prepare products in accordance with the relevant ARDEX product datasheets.

For commercial applications, contact the ARDEX Technical Services Department for written recommendations. Should you have any queries on this information, please contact the ARDEX Technical Services Department.

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