



TECHNICAL BULLETIN – TB053.005

INSTALLATION OF STRIP TIMBER AND PARQUETRY FLOORING OVER MOISTURE BARRIER PREPARED CONCRETE

5th November 2024

Installing strip timber flooring or parquetry over epoxy moisture vapour barrier (MVB) prepared concrete surfaces presents many challenges.

The moisture vapour barrier epoxy coating should be protected with a minimum thickness of 3mm self-smoothing levelling cement (FLC). This 3mm FLC topping will protect the coating from puncture and damage and provide a flat/smooth porous surface for the conventional installation of floor coverings.

Installing a minimum of 3mm of FLC allows the removal of floor coverings for repair/re-modelling without the risk of damaging the MVB; only the FLC may be damaged, and it is quickly and easily repaired to accept new floor coverings.

While technically feasible, fixing floor coverings directly to the MVB should only be done after considering all the “Risk Factors.”

The major “Risk Factor” is the possible damage/puncture of the MVB as listed here;

- Mechanical action of steel adhesive notching trowels.
- Foot traffic damage by abrasive particles lodged in boot sole tread.
- Sharp objects dropped inadvertently, such as tools, pipes etc.,
- Heavy objects dragged over the MVB or blunt impacts
- Any abrasive action applied to the unprotected surface
- Puncturing of MVB by the installation of timber plank flooring systems using secret nailing fastening can occur.

A second issue concerns using adhesives directly stuck to the membrane.

- Problems with drying of non-urethane parquetry adhesives over the non-porous surface
- Warranties between the MVB and adhesive suppliers if they differ.

Removal of floor-coverings directly fixed to the MVB (at any time after installation) for repair, re-alignment, or re-modelling will damage the MVB.

Re-instating the MVB may be difficult or impossible to achieve, and maintaining the continuous integrity of the original MVB, as fracturing of the MVB under adjacent coverings may not be visible in actual repairs.

In this situation, who accepts the risk of future damage caused by moisture ingress?

Regardless of the type of damage/puncturing of the MVB, once punctured, it will allow the free passage of moisture.

Fixing strip timber flooring by secret nailing directly through the MVB or an MVB with an FLC applied, will puncture the MVB, allow the free passage of moisture, and void all manufacturer’s warranties.



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For the secret nailing of strip timber, consult with your local industry association for advice on using plywood underlay sheeting systems for such applications.

Parquetry floors should be installed with floor smoothing cement; details are available in ARDEX Technical Bulletin TB036.

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-ISSUER

Change of slogan and address

DOCUMENT REVIEW REQUIRED

36 months or whenever third-party suppliers change their recommendations.

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