



TARALAC®

TARA PAINTS & CHEMICALS

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Surface Preparation

Surface Condition & Preparation

The degree of success and longevity of the floor coating system depends largely on the prevailing floor condition and surface preparation.

A sound, clean and dry concrete substrate is absolutely essential in ensuring maximum bonding between the substrate and flooring system. The concrete surface should ideally have a compressive strength of 250 Kg / sq cm. New concrete surface must be a minimum of 28 days old, free from curing compounds and sealers, free from moisture vapour release and have a moisture content of less than 5% prior to application of the primer. Old concrete surface should ideally be free from dampness and rising moisture, deep oil contaminations and thermoplastic coatings.

A few simple steps can be carried out for checking the floor readiness, the most critical being the presence of moisture. Water is always present in concrete, either in the form of a liquid or moisture vapours. The most reliable test for moisture in concrete is described by ASTM test method D-4263. This test procedure is performed by taping an 18" x 18" sheet of plastic (4 mil) to the floor surface with duct tape. Smooth out the plastic to minimise entrapped air. ASTM D-4263 suggests that one test be done for every 500 square feet of floor surface area. The plastic is left on the floor for 16 hours, minimum. After this time, remove the plastic and inspect for signs of moisture. If moisture droplets have formed on the underside of the plastic sheet or if the concrete has taken on a darker colour than the surrounding concrete, the moisture level in the concrete is too high. If the concrete slab is a new floor surface and you positively know that there is a vapour barrier, wait for about one week and re-test. If the floor in question is an older existing floor, it may be such that if you wait and test again at a later date you could find that the moisture content has subsided to an acceptable level. There is however no guarantee that the moisture level will not increase in the future and contribute to coating problems. If moisture content is identified as being too high in an existing floor, the source of moisture must be identified and the problem must be corrected to mitigate potential future problems.

Presence of curing compound or sealers can be checked by applying a hydrochloric acid solution to bare concrete. If the solution does not react, (i.e. bubble vigorously) when in contact with the concrete, the presence of a curing compound is indicated. Another test would be to sprinkle a few drops of clean water on the surface. The water droplets should be absorbed into the concrete within 30 to 60 seconds. If the water simply stands on the surface and is not absorbed, there is a high likelihood that a surface hardener or curing compound is present. Checking various areas of the floor is advisable.

Floor Care

Choosing the correct floor coating system and ensuring correct surface preparation and application is just half the battle won. To ensure adequate returns on your flooring investment, due care should be taken. The following measures will ensure a better performance and longer life of the floor coating system.

- Avoid water stagnation, wipe dry at the earliest
- Avoid spillage of chemicals and solvents, if spilled, wipe dry at the earliest
- Avoid spillage of oil, if spilled, wipe dry at the earliest
- Do not drag objects
- Avoid excessive impact
- Do not drop sharp objects
- Do not apply point load on the surface
- Do not use trolleys with steel / iron castors
- Do not heat on the floor surface or do "hot jobs" such as welding
- Use rubbers mats while doing tool works
- Use rubber-soled shoes that are clean from dirt & grime
- Clean twice a day
- Use mild detergent and wash thoroughly with water
- Wipe floor dry and use floor after it is thoroughly dry