

Laying Treadmaster using No.15 Fire Retardant Epoxy Adhesive General Floor Preparation and Installation Guide.

Subfloor Preparation

Subfloors should be clean, dry and free from dirt, dust and grease. Ensure that where appropriate the requisite damp-proof membrane is in place.

Cement Floors

Cement floors should be at least 14 days old, dry, sealed and immaculately flat and level.

Plywood Floors

Ensure that plywood floors are abraded and then cleaned. Dust and dirt should be removed from the surface and the plywood must be dry.

Steel Floors

The surface should be degreased, abraded and degreased again, any residue being totally removed from the surface. Degreasing should be carried out using Treadmaster SPF Cleaner.

Aluminum Floors

Surface should be prepared only 10-15 minutes prior to the installation of Treadmaster. This is to avoid oxidation of the cleaned surface, which would adversely affect the bond quality. Aluminium floors should be degreased, abraded and degreased again, any residue being totally removed from the surface. Treadmaster SPF cleaner should be used as the degreasing agent and should be used according to the instructions.

Fit-by Date

Every sheet of Treadmaster is identified with a fit by date. If this date is exceeded the back of the sheet will require cleaning with Treadmaster SPF Cleaner to remove any surface bloom before fitting.

Use of Cleaners

The health and safety requirements for Treadmaster SPF Cleaner should be read and understood before use. Refer to separate Safety Data Sheet.

SPF Cleaner

The cleaner is applied liberally using a cloth, and the surface wiped thoroughly to remove all traces of grease, dust and dirt, turning the cloth frequently to avoid re-depositing any contamination. Cloths should be changed frequently to avoid transferring contamination from one area to another.

Adhesive Coverage

Coverage using No.15 adhesive will vary according to the porosity of the surface, from approx. 7 to 15 square metres per 5kg pack.

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Storage Temperature

5 - 25°C

Application Temperature

Laying at low temperatures causes the adhesive to thicken, making it more difficult to spread, reducing coverage and extending the curing time. We would recommend an application temperature both air temperature and substrate of +16°C to +25°C to ensure curing times within our estimated figures.

An extended temperature range of +10°C to +30°C is also acceptable but the curing times of the adhesive (both Walk on and full adhesion strength) will be longer as the temperature drops below 16°C and shorter as the temperature increases above 25°C.

We would recommend that the adhesive is mixed and spread at a humidity value of RH 50-70%.

Pre-Installation

Unroll the Treadmaster and lay it out on a flat, horizontal surface for 24 - 48 hours before cutting. Prepare the Treadmaster, cutting the material to the exact sizes required for laying before mixing the adhesive.

Installation

No. 15 epoxy adhesive consists of the resin and a sachet of liquid hardener which have to be mixed together thoroughly in the proportions supplied or in the mix ratio of 7.8:1 by weight, using a heavy duty slow speed electric drill. We recommend fitting an Ardex Mixing Paddle for the best results. Remove the lid and the sachet of hardener (Part B). Unclip and remove the upper section of the tub. Set the stirrer to a slow speed and lower it into the resin until it touches the bottom of the container. Give the resin (Part A) a preliminary stir, moving the paddle around the sides of the container for up to a minute. Pour the liquid hardener (Part B) into the resin and continue mixing. Keep the paddle vertical and move it all around the container taking care to brush it against the sides so that no unmixed resin clings to the sides or bottom of the container.

When all the liquid curative is incorporated into the mix the speed can be increased to give quicker blending, still taking care to brush the paddle around the sides and bottom of the container. When the resin has a uniform creamy consistency, stop the stirrer and check with a long screwdriver or rod that there is no unmixed resin clinging to the sides or bottom of the container. If there is, scrape it off into the mix and continue stirring until the mix again has an even creamy consistency. The total mixing cycle will take around 4-5 minutes. Epoxy adhesives are exothermic and after mixing the cans may become warm to the touch. This is an indication that curing has commenced.

Once mixed, the adhesive should be poured onto the subfloor and trowelled using a notched trowel. Notches should be approximately 1.5mm deep x 2mm between centres (trowel ref. A3) for porous subfloors and 1.5mm deep x 3mm between centres (trowel ref. A2) for non-porous subfloors. Care should be taken to spread the adhesive evenly.

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Installation (continued)

Once the adhesive has been spread and trowelled, the Treadmaster floor covering should be immediately laid.

Lay the Treadmaster onto the adhesive and adjust the position. Clean any excess adhesive from the trowel, the floor covering and the surrounding area before it has cured as once hardened it is very difficult to remove. Use Treadmaster SPF cleaner for this purpose. Immediately after laying, roll the surface slowly using a floor roller weighing approx. 40 - 60kg. We recommend rolling along the length of the carriage, followed by rolling across the carriage repeating if necessary. Normally only two or three passes in both directions should be required. Make certain the covering has not moved. To facilitate cleaning, it is recommended that a masking tape is laid over the joints before rolling and that this is removed before the adhesive hardens.

Epoxy adhesives are slow to cure and it is essential that the back of the floor covering remains in firm contact with the adhesive until cured.

Weigh the Treadmaster down over the whole area until the adhesive has hardened, we suggest a minimum of 30kg/m² for at least 8 hours. Particular care should be taken to weight the joints and edges. Although curing will begin after approximately 45 minutes depending on the temperature, the resin will not harden for some 8 hours, during which time care should be taken not to walk on the floor. After 8 hours the board weights may be removed and any secondary operation such as groove routing for the application of sealant may be carried out. Full adhesion strength will be achieved after 72 hours, although the bond strength will continue to increase for up to 7 days.

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