

GENERAL INFORMATION WORKING WITH COLOUR QUARTZ OR RESIN FLOORS

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When products comprise two or more components, these can be delivered in coordinated packages so that there is no need for the installer to measure or weigh any further. However, it should be ensured that the appropriate unit is assembled.

STORAGE

Each product has its own shelf life, this is the maximum time a product can be stored. This should be checked on the datasheet of each product. For most products this period lies between 6 and 12 months.

However, dual component resins can crystallize when stored incorrectly. Single component resins should always be kept under airtight seal. Products (quartz and epoxy) must be stored at a temperature between 10 °C and 30 °C. The best temperature for storage is 20 °C.

SUBSTRATE

The substrate on which the resin will be applied must always be clean, dry, and free of dust and grease, except for those subfloors that specifically state otherwise. A cement-based substrate must be at least 21 days old and no longer have a cement skin on it. According to ASTM-F-1869 (Standard Test Method for Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride), the maximum allowed water/vapour transmission rate is 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet per 24 hours.

According to European standards, the maximum allowed moisture percentage in the substrate is 3%. Subfloors temperature must be 3 °C above dewpoint. Very simply to detect with a dewpoint indicator (eg. Trotec T250). Please respect the processing temperature as shown on the technical datasheet.

Depending on the circumstances and the condition of the substrate, the following methods can be used to ensure the subfloor is in the required condition:

Raising:

- **blasting**
- **sanding with diamond sander**
- thermal shock treatment
- water sandblasting
- bush hammering
- brushing
- steel brushing

Heating:

- with warm air or blow lamps (Do not use waste gas)
- Infrared radiation
- Drying chamber

PROCESSING TIME OR POT LIFE

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The pot life (the timeframe within which the material has to be processed) depends on the temperature and the quantity of the mixed material. The higher the temperature and the greater the quantity, the shorter the processing time. Experience shows that if installers are familiar with the system, processing time suffices amply.

After mixing the A-component with the B-component the reaction starts immediately. The mix has to be applied immediately.

Once material consisting of 2 components has been mixed, it can no longer be stored. Single component material can be stored when sealed completely airtight (excluding any air within the container too).

MIXING

Mixing the material is one of the most critical stages in the processing, and must be done with extreme care. The contents of the pre-measured pots and bags must be used in their entirety! When contents are not used fully, the mixing ratio will be incorrect and the end product will not be of an optimal quality. If installers decide not to use the pre-measured units, the correct composition of the mixture must be known beforehand.

The only appropriate way of obtaining the right balance between components A and B, is by weighing each using sufficiently accurate scales. After mixing the ingredients, the entire homogeneous mixture has to be transferred into another container and be mixed again. This to include into the mixture any material that was left under the edges and on the bottom of the container, therefore homogenizing the mixture even more. To ensure a homogeneous mixture, mixing must be done thoroughly. A mixture that is not homogeneous will cause uneven hardening, as a result of which the end product will contain hard and soft spots.

Caution: While mixing paint, casting floors and sealing compounds, one must be careful and has to ensure that no air gets into the mixture; a low-speed electric drill fitted with a mixing paddle is recommended here. Depending on the consistency of the product, mixing can be done by hand or mechanically. Spatulas, palette knives, filling knives and trowels are all suitable mixing tools; a low-speed electric drill fitted with a mixing paddle is ideal for mechanical mixing. A mixing machine can be used for larger quantities.

PREPARATION

Applying a bonding primer is absolutely necessary because that primer seals the porosity of the substrate, ensuring the applied system to remain intact, and also allowing for optimal adhesion. The amount of bonding primer required depends on the "suction" of the substrate. The rougher the texture of the substrate, the greater the amount of primer needed.

Optimal bonding is only achieved if at least 12 hours have passed before the next layer is applied or if the bonding primer is cast with appr. 0.100 kg/ m² fire-dried sand with a grain size of 0.1-0.3 mm or 0.3-0.8 mm.

If it is not possible to use any of these methods, the primed surface should be cleaned with a cloth soaked in either MEK or acetone before the next layer is applied.



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TOOLS

Resins are often processed with construction tools. All tools should be made of steel, because resins will stick to wood, which makes a proper finish impossible. This is also the reason why it is necessary to clean the steel tools frequently during the entire process. Tools can be cleaned with solvents before the resins have hardened.

Brushes or rollers are often used for liquid resins, such as primers and very thin floor and wall finishes. Because these are difficult to clean after usage, usually disposable elements are utilized. In choosing materials, it is best to verify whether they withstand solvents. A brush should not dissolve nor lose hairs while being used.

HUMIDITY

A general rule for virtually each system and product: no liquid during the first 7 days.

SAFETY

Always read the security (or the MSDS) sheet of the various products used THOROUGHLY.

