ARDEX-FLEX FL
Rapid Setting Flexible Tile Grout with Built-in Admix

Features

- Available in 35 colours*

- Rapid hardening - receives foot traffic in 90 minutes

- No colour variation or streaking during mixing

- For tile joints 3mm-15mm wide

- Water repellent and dirt resistant

- Easy to apply and clean off the tile surface

- Ideal for commercial and domestic environments such as swimming pools, showers and kitchens

- Suitable for floor tiling, and wide joints in walls

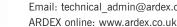- For internal and external applications, including heated subfloors

*For a copy of the Grout Colour Selector and Coverage Guide, please call ARDEX Customer Services on 01440 714939

ARDEX-FLEX FL
Rapid Setting Flexible Tile Grout with Built-in Admix

DESCRIPTION
ARDEX-FLEX FL is a rapid setting cement-based grouting compound with excellent flexible and water repellent properties, without the need to add a separate admix.

USE
The BS EN classification for ARDEX-FLEX FL is CG2 WA, an "improved cementitious grout with additional characteristics of reduced water absorption and high abrasion resistance".

ARDEX-FLEX FL is suitable for grouting joints from 3mm to 15mm wide, between porcelain, ceramic, non-moisture sensitive natural stone and quarry tiles, as well as extruded tiles and glass blockwork.

The hardened grout is weather resistant, unaffected by water and can be used for internal and external tiling in dry and wet locations, including swimming pools with non-aggressive water conditions.

ARDEX-FLEX FL can be applied to both wall and floor tile joints. The freshly applied grout mortar can receive foot traffic after 90 minutes at 20ºC.

Where chemical spillages or corrosive liquids are likely to be in contact with the tile joints, use either ARDEX WA Epoxide Adhesive and Grout or ARDEX EG 8 PLUS Epoxide Adhesive and Grout.

PREPARATION
Ensure the tiles are firmly fixed and the joints are clean and free of dust, excess adhesive or bedding mortar etc.

MIX PROPORTIONS
The mix proportions by volume are approximately:-
1 part water : 4 parts ARDEX-FLEX FL powder.
A 10kg bag of ARDEX-FLEX FL requires approximately 2 litres of water.
A 5kg bag requires approximately 1 litre of water.
A 2.5kg bag requires approximately 0.5 litres of water.

MIXING
Add the ARDEX-FLEX FL powder to the required amount of clean water in a clean container, whilst stirring thoroughly until a creamy, easily worked mortar is obtained. The mortar can be adjusted to a thicker consistency when grouting wall tiles with joints wider than 10mm.

The mixed grout has a working time of approximately 30 minutes at 20°C. Higher temperatures will shorten and lower temperatures will extend the working time.

APPLICATION
Using a rubber squeegee or rubber backed trowel, work the grout thoroughly into the joints, ensuring that they are completely filled. Excess grout should be removed as work proceeds, any residues left on the tile face can be removed by wiping off with a damp sponge, up to 30 minutes after application. If an area is left for more than 30 minutes prior to cleaning, the grout residues may require moistening in order to make wiping off easier. The use of a fine mist from a suitable spray bottle will help in emulsifying the grout residues on the tile surface. Any dry film left remaining on the tile surface after cleaning can easily be removed by polishing off with a dry cloth when the grout has hardened in the joints.

Apply at temperatures above 5°C.

NOTE: Some ceramic, vitrified, porcelain and natural stone tiles, or tiles with textured, matt glazed or porous surfaces, may be susceptible to surface discolouration during grouting. A trial application should be carried out to ascertain if discolouration is likely.

For natural stone that may be susceptible to water staining, ARDEX MG Rapid Drying Marble and Natural Stone Grout should be considered. Where necessary, particularly when using intense grout colours, apply a protective treatment to the tile face to ensure the grout is not retained in the surface porosity/texture of the tile.

Guidance on the application of coloured grouts can be found in clause 7.3.4 of BS 5385: Part 1: 2009. If in any doubt, please contact the tile manufacturer or distributor for information and advice.

PACKAGING
ARDEX-FLEX FL is packed in paper sacks incorporating a polyethylene liner - net weight 2.5kg, 5kg or 10kg.

STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE
ARDEX-FLEX FL must be stored in unopened packaging, clear of the ground, in cool dry conditions and be protected from excessive draught. If stored correctly, as detailed above, the shelf life of this product is 12 months from the date shown on the packaging.

PRECAUTIONS
ARDEX-FLEX FL contains more than 20% Portland cement and is therefore classified as irritating to eyes and skin. For this reason the following precautions should be observed:- Avoid contact with skin and eyes; in case of contact with the eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice; wear suitable gloves and keep the product out of the reach of children. Avoid generation of airborne dust during mixing.

DISPOSAL
Dispose of waste and residue in accordance with local authority guidelines.

For further information, consult the relevant Health and Safety Datasheet.

NOTE: Where acid based cleaning products are to be used on the hardened grout, we recommend that the product is first tested on the wetted grout before application, to ascertain the resistance of the colour/grout. Thorough rinsing off is required to remove any residues of the acidic cleaner to prevent discolouration/damage to the grouted joint.

*Due to the production process all colours are approximate. Grout colours may vary when dry, depending on the type of tile installed, substrate and installation conditions.

For soft glazed tiles prone to scratching, ARDEX-FLEX FS grout should be considered.

COVERAGE
This will depend upon the tile size, joint width and depth and the Grout Coverage Figure, which for ARDEX-FLEX FL is 1.75. Use the following to estimate the approximate grout requirements for square or rectangular tiles:-

Stage (all measurements in mm).
1. ADD length and breadth of tile together.
2. MULTIPLY result by joint width.
3. MULTIPLY result by joint depth.
4. MULTIPLY result by Grout Coverage Figure (i.e. for ARDEX-FLEX FL, this is 1.75).
5. DIVIDE result by length of tile.
6. DIVIDE result by breadth of tile.

The result is the material requirement in kg per sq. metre.

SUMMARY
Material required is:-

$$\frac{(length + breadth) \times width \times depth}{length \times breadth} \times 1.75 = kg/m^2$$

Quick and easy grout coverage can be calculated using the ARDEX grout calculator online at: **www.ardex.co.uk/calculator.asp**

TECHNICAL DATA
Working time	approx. 30 minutes
Initial Set (Vicat)	approx. 60 minutes
Final Set (Vicat)	approx. 75 minutes
Powder Bulk Density	approx. 1.3 kg/litre
Fresh Mortar Density	approx. 2.1 kg/litre

BRINELL HARDNESS
After 1 day	approx. 35.0 N/mm^2
After 3 days	approx. 40.0 N/mm^2
After 7 days	approx. 50.0 N/mm^2
Temperature resistance	Up to approx. 60ºC

NOTE: The information supplied in our literature or given by our employees is based upon extensive experience and, together with that supplied by our agents or distributors, is given in good faith in order to help you. Our Company policy is one of continuous Research and Development; we therefore reserve the right to update this information at any time without prior notice. We also guarantee the consistent high quality of our products; however, as we have no control over site conditions or the execution of the work, we accept no liability for any loss or damage which may arise as a result thereof.

Country specific recommendations, depending on local standards, codes of practice, building regulations or industry guidelines, may affect specific installation recommendations.

TECHNICAL ADVICE HELPLINE:
01440 714939
ARDEX online: www.ardex.co.uk