



SRO900 – TILING OVER EXISTING TILES

Internal Dry Area Floors Only

SCOPE

This recommendation applies to the installation of new tile finishes over internal existing tiles on dry area floors. This recommendation does not apply to existing slate tiles which are deemed unsuitable for this application.

PREPARATION

The existing tiles must be well bonded to structurally sound substrates with no loose or drummy tiles. Any movement joints in the existing tiles shall be checked and any damaged or incomplete joints are to be raked out to full depth of the tile and adhesive layer prior to reinstating with new compressible backer rod (where required) and flexible sealant. The backer rod is to maintain the sealant thickness at approximately half the joint width.

Loose or drummy tiles are to be removed. Old residues need to be removed and the voids filled with selected ARDEX levelling cements and/or patching mortars such as [ARDEX LQ 92](#) or [ARDEX A 46](#). These levelling and/or patching mortars are to be used as directed with the primer nominated on each product data sheet. Allow the levelling and/or patching mortar to dry before proceeding.

Depending on the adhesive used, one of the below preparations will be needed;

Wash

- Wash with a mild detergent (e.g. Sugar soap solution or [ARDEX ACP 21](#)) and rinse thoroughly with water, let dry.

Grind

- Mechanically remove at least 80% of the glazed surface prior to adhesive fixing the tiles. Vacuum to remove dust prior to priming.

After Washing or Grinding above proceed to prime with either [ARDEX P 9](#) or [ARDEX P 82](#).

TILING

Tiles should be fixed in accordance with Australian Standard AS 3958. The type and size of the tiles determines the selection of the trowel. As a general guide, use at minimum a 10 x 10 x 10mm notched trowel. Achieve minimum 80% coverage in residential and 90% coverage in commercial areas. The tiles must be pressed firmly into the freshly combed mortar bed to ensure good contact with the mortar. Slide the tile at right angles to the notch pattern to ensure maximum coverage on the back of the tile. Tiles with ribbed or keyed back profiles should also be back-buttered to ensure complete coverage. Tiles greater than 400 x 400 mm shall be back-buttered. Lift a tile from time to time to check appropriate coverage and that there are no voids beneath



the tile. Any surplus adhesive must be removed from the surface of the tile and joints, before the adhesive sets. Do not spot fix.

The below table summarises the acceptable ARDEX adhesives for each tile type;

Existing Tile Type	Preparation Treatment	Good	Better	Best
<i>Porous Bodied Tiles</i>				
Unglazed Terracotta	Wash	X17 ; X10	X18 ; X52 ;	S28 ; Abaflex ; X78 ; X77 ;
Glazed Ceramic	Wash or Grind	X17 ; X10 (Grind if using these)	X18 ; X52 ;	S28 ; Abaflex ; X78 ; X77 ;
<i>Dense Bodied tiles</i>				
Vitrified/Porcelain/ Glass	Wash or Grind	X17 ; X18 (Grind if using these)	X78 ; X77 ; X56 ; Abaflex; S28	Optima ; Isoflex 2 part
<i>Natural Stone Tiles</i> (non-moisture sensitive and not slate)	Wash	X18 ; X52 ; X17 ; X10	S28 ; X78 ; X77 ; X56	Optima ; Quickbond with Abalastic
<i>Natural Stone Tiles</i> Moisture sensitive natural stone tiles	Contact ARDEX Technical Services for further advice			

Note : As an optional add-on, you can use [ARDEX E 90](#) with X78, X77, S28, X18 and X10 as detailed in **TB231**. This will greatly improve their performance and longevity.

GROUTING

Once the adhesive has set, the tiles may be grouted with one of the following ARDEX grouts.

- [ARDEX FG 8](#) sanded grout for joints from 1 to 8mm is a general purpose grout available in a large range of colours.
- [ARDEX FS-DD](#) un-sanded grout for joints 1 to 4mm. This is recommended for polished tiles with rectified edges as the grout has a smooth finish and is available in a range of colours.



- [ARDEX WJ 50](#) sanded grout for joints 5 to 50mm.
- [ARDEX WA](#) Epoxy 2 part grout available in black, grey or white for installations where high standards of hygiene and/or chemical resistance is required.
- [ARDEX EG-15](#) Epoxy 3 part grout for installations where high standards of hygiene and/or chemical resistance are required. It is available in 8 colours and is suitable for grout widths ranging from 1.5 to 15mm.

Note: ARDEX cement based grouts may be mixed with [ARDEX Grout Booster](#) for increased performance such as resistance to water penetration, reduced potential for efflorescence, greater strength and flexibility.

MOVEMENT JOINTS

Movement joints are to be included in the new tile finish in accordance with the recommendations of AS3958. These joints are installed (but not limited to) in the following locations:

- Over all existing movement joints in the substrate
- At all internal corners/changes in direction in the plane of the substrate
- Along all perimeters where the tiles butt against walls and/or built in furniture
- Around all penetrations through the tile finish
- At not more than 6m intervals in both directions of a grid pattern

Movement joints should be at least 6mm wide and are filled with a flexible sealant such as the [ARDEX SE](#) silicone or [ARDEX ST](#) Neutral Cure silicone for natural stone. Compressible backer rods may be required in deeper joints to maintain the recommended sealant thickness at half the joint width.

Disclaimer:

The recommendation selected is based upon questions answered on the ARDEX Australia website. This recommendation is designed as a general application for your described situation and should not be considered site specific documentation for general distribution. Always consult the latest relevant ARDEX Technical Bulletins and information on the product packaging and/or product data sheets (available on the ARDEX Website). Australian and other relevant standards should be followed during installation. If you have any further questions or would like further clarification please contact the ARDEX Technical Services Hotline on 1800 224 070 (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday).