



SRO947 Smoothing Existing Vinyl Surfaces Prior to Installing New Vinyl Floor Coverings- Domestic Only

Scope

This recommendation is regarding the smoothing of existing **embossed vinyl** internal floor coverings prior to the installation of new vinyl floor coverings. It is based upon **ARDEX** Technical Bulletin TB080 and the information on the [ARDEX Feather Finish](#) product data sheet for application to **domestic internal** floors only. It does not apply to standard smooth surfaced vinyl floor coverings, nor does it apply to cushioned or loose laid (unbonded) floor coverings.

Note: *This is not recommended for commercial floors where the AS1884 - 2012 specifically advises resilient sheet and tile finishes (i.e. vinyl sheet & vinyl tiles) are not considered as suitable surfaces for adhering new resilient floor coverings.*

Preparation

The existing fully bonded embossed vinyl floor covering must be in good condition and well adhered to the substrate with no moisture issues such as rising damp.

- Thoroughly clean the existing floor to remove all contaminants such as polishes, oily residues, sealers and soaps. Rinse and let dry.
- Lightly sand the cleaned surface to achieve a “keyed” surface. Vacuum to remove dust.
- Mix 1 volume of [ARDEX Feather Finish](#) powder with 1 volume of mixed [ARDEX P 82](#) to achieve a creamy, lump free consistency.
- Apply to the floor to fill the embossing pattern with the thinnest possible layer and let dry for a minimum of 90 minutes. The filler must be completely dry.
- A second layer of [ARDEX Feather Finish](#) mixed with water only is applied over the dry first layer approx. 1-2mm thick to provide a flat, more porous surface.
- The filled embossed vinyl is considered a non-porous surface and the new vinyl adhesive must be selected accordingly.

Precautions

- Existing vinyl may include asbestos fibres so personal protective gear such as dust masks must be worn when sanding existing vinyl floor coverings.
- Glass reinforced backed PVC sheet must not be adhered to this surface because the adhesives used with these floor coverings require at least one surface to be absorbent.
- Water based vinyl adhesives may experience drying issues when sandwiched between two impervious layers with a high risk of lifting or bubbling of new sheet vinyl flooring.
- The installation using water based vinyl adhesives is best done by the “double drop” method where the new vinyl is dropped into the wet adhesive that has been spread over the floor. The adhesive transfers to the back of the sheet and



then the sheet is then lifted off. The wet adhesive is left to “tack off” prior to replacing the sheet vinyl.

- Placing new vinyl over existing vinyl leads to high risk of indentation by imposed loads such as heavy furniture due to the increased resilience of the combined flooring system.

Adhesives

The following adhesives can be used for this application when installing new vinyl floor coverings over the [ARDEX Feather Finish](#) filler system for embossed vinyl flooring

- [ARDEX AF 545](#) Epoxy adhesive
- [ARDEX AF 178](#) Water based adhesive

ARDEX recommends the preferred system of removing existing vinyl floor coverings in preference to installing new vinyl over the existing. This removes all doubt as to the integrity of the installation, allows any cracking or other issues with the floor substrate to be fixed and ensures the performance of the new vinyl is in accordance with the expectations of the manufacturer.

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).