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DECEMBER 2012  
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PRODUCT DATA SHEET

# ARDEX-FLEX FL

## Rapid Setting, Flexible Tile Grout with Built-in Admix

### Features

- Available in 32 colours\*
- Rapid hardening - receives foot traffic in 90 minutes
- Water repellent and dirt resistant
- Easy to apply and clean off the tile surface
- No colour variation or streaking during mixing
- Ideal for commercial and domestic environments such as swimming pools, showers and kitchens
- For tile joints 3-15mm wide
- Suitable for floor tiling, and wide joints in walls
- For internal and external applications



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



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# 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 13888 classification for ARDEX-FLEX FL is CG2, "an improved cementitious grout with additional characteristics."

ARDEX-FLEX FL grout 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, and can receive foot traffic after 90 minutes at 20°C.

### PREPARATION

Ensure the tiles are firmly fixed and the joints are clean, 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 2.5kg bag requires 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, and 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 washing off easier. 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 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 stones that may be susceptible to water staining, ARDEX MG 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 or 10kg.

### STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE

ARDEX-FLEX FL contains a reducing agent to control the level of Chromium VI when mixed prior to use. ARDEX-FLEX FL must be stored in unopened packaging, clear of the ground in cool dry conditions and protected from excessive draught. If stored correctly, as detailed above, and used within 12 months of the date shown on the packaging, the activity of the reducing agent (added to control the level of soluble Chromium VI) will be maintained and this product will contain, when mixed with water, no more than 0.0002% (2ppm) soluble Chromium VI of the total dry weight of the cement content of this product. ARDEX-FLEX FL must not be used after the end of the declared storage period.

### 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 data sheet.

**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 Coverage Figure (i.e. for FL 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:-

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

**Quick and easy grout coverage can be calculated using the grout calculator at ARDEX online: [www.ardex.co.uk/calculator.asp](http://www.ardex.co.uk/calculator.asp) or by requesting a copy of the Grout Colour Selector and Coverage Guide from ARDEX Customer Services on 01440 714939.**

### 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 <sup>2</sup>
after 3 days	approx. 40.0 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
after 7 days	approx. 50.0 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Temperature resistance	Up to approx. 60°C

**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](http://www.ardex.co.uk)**