BUILDING TRUST
CONSTRUIRE LA CONFIANCE

PRODUCT DATA SHEET
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HYDRAULIC CEMENT UNDERLAYMENT

Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA}

VERSATILE PRIMER AND ADHESION PROMOTER FOR USE ON CONCRETE AND WOOD BENEATH Sika® Level UNDERLAYMENTS

Description

Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA} is a one-component, water-dispersed and low solvent-containing, acrylic-based solution used to prime concrete and wood surfaces prior to the application of Sika® Level-125^{CA} underlayments.

Where to Use

As a multi-substrate primer on absorbent substrates, including concrete, cement screeds and suitable wooden subfloors. Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA} is particularly effective as an adhesion promoter beneath Sika® Level underlayments, consolidating porous substrates and enhancing bond strengths.

Advantages

- Versatile primer, suitable for concrete and wood, so reducing number of materials on-site.
- Ready to use, no dilution required.
- Water-based and low VOC content; user and environmentally friendly.
- Pigmented to ensure coverage and indicate time to apply the underayments.
- Penetrates substrate to reduce outgassing and bubble formation in self-levelling underlayments.
- Provides consolidated substrates to promote bond of underlayments.
- Prevents water loss from the underlayment into the substrate.
- Quick-drying and fast film formation to increase productivity.
- Achieves excellent bond values throughout the recommended range of application temperatures.
- Very convenient where a single primer is required for differing surfaces.

Technical Data

Packaging	1 L (33.8 fl. oz) jug, 4/carton 4 L (1.05 US gal.) jug, 4/carton	
Colour	Green tint	
Yield	4.2 m²/L (170 ft²/US gal.) approx. on concrete 5.6 m²/L (230 ft²/US gal.) approx. on plywood Coverage figures do not include allowance for surface profile and porosity or material waste.	
Shelf Life	2 years in original, unopened container (jug). Store dry at temperatures between 5 and 32 °C (41 and 90 °F). Protect from high heat and freezing; if frozen, discard material.	
Application Temperature (substrate and ambient)	Minimum 10 °C (50 °F)	Maximum 35 °C (95 °F)

Properties at 23 °C (73 °F) and 50 % R.H.

Density	1.02 kg/L approx.
Solids Content	23 ± 2 %
Drying Time	1 hour approx.
Underlayment Installation	Allow primer to become translucent but remains tacky without any material transfer to the fingers. Apply underlayment between 1 and 6 hours after priming.
Bond Strength	> 1.5 MPa (> 217 psi) (substrate failure)
VOC Content	< 51 g/L

Product properties are typically averages, obtained under laboratory conditions. Reasonable variations can be expected on-site due to local factors, including environment, preparation, application, curing and test methods.

HOW TO USE

Surface Preparation

The substrate must be dry, clean and stable before priming and applying the underlayment materials. Remove all existing treatments such as coatings, sealers, wax, latex compounds, impregnations and curing agents, together with all contaminants such as dirt, dust, laitance, grease, oils, and foreign matter, which will interfere with the penetration of a primer and the adhesion of an underlayment.

Careful consideration should be given to the selection of the method of mechanical surface preparation and the timing of application of primer and underlayment. Immediately following mechanical preparation on some excessively porous substrates, outgassing will increase for a short period of time (approx. 48 hours) until an equilibrium in slab vapor pressure and the ambient environment is reached. Before overall installation begins, Sika recommends the application of several small test patches to determine primer application requirements and acceptability of final product performance.

Concrete/Cement:
Prepare concrete and cement substrates by mechanical means, such as shotblasting, sandblasting, water-jetting, scarifying, diamond grinding or other appropriate methods, to achieve an open-textured, fine-gripping surface (ICRI / CSP 3 minimum). Weak concrete should be removed and surface defects such as blowholes and spalls fully exposed and repaired with a suitable Sika® mortar prior to priming and levelling. All cracks and holes should be similarly filled to prevent loss of coverage or seepage of the primer through to lower areas. Consult Sika Canada for recommendations.

All loose friable material, including preparation residue, must be completely removed using an appropriate vacuum cleaner before application of the Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA}. The compressive strength of the concrete substrate should be at least 20 MPa (> 2900 psi) at 28 days with a minimum tensile strength of 1.0 MPa (> 145 psi) at the time Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA} is applied. Moisture Vapour Emission Rates of the substrate should comply and meet the requirements of the proposed floor covering. Please consult the manufacturer of the final floor finish for advice

Plywood Subfloors:
In circumstances involving the installation of an underlayment over plywood subfloors, ensure that the subfloor consists of at least 2 layers of exterior grade plywood (CANPLY compliant), a minimum of 32 mm (1.25 in) in thickness and meets, as a minimum, the deflection parameters of L/360 (live and dead loads taken into consideration. The plywood must then be suitably secured, bonded and prepared to a contaminant free and sound condition. Refer to the manufacturer of the final floor covering with regard to the deflection requirements of the floor finish system.

Application

Ensure that both substrate and ambient temperatures are between 10 and 35 °C (50 and 95 °F) before commencing the application of Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA}. The stated application temperatures are to be achieved before priming and should be maintained for a period of at least 3 days after installation of the underlayment. Should colder conditions prevail, make allowance for the use of indirect and vented heaters to achieve and maintain the application temperature required. Where temperatures exceed 30 °C (86 °F), refer to and follow ACI hot weather application and protection guidelines.

Before applying Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA}, thoroughly shake the container in which the material is supplied to agitate the contents, ensure all solids are distributed throughout the dispersion and a uniform consistency is achieved.

Apply Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA} as one coat, by brush or roller (long nap roller for rougher surfaces), working the material into the prepared surface. Apply at 4.2 m^2/L (170 ft^2/US gal.) on concrete and 5.6 m^2/L (230 ft^2/US gal.) on plywood, but avoiding ponding of the primer on the surface and removing any puddles which may form. When first applied, Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA} appears as a green tinted solution; once dry, it is translucent with the substrate being visible through the primer. When touching with fingers, primer should be tacky but must not transfer to fingers. This facilitates quality control in terms of complete coverage and clearly confirms when the underlayment can be installed.

To ensure proper adhesion, apply underlayment within six (6) hours of the application of the Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA}, but only once the primer is translucent (without opaque spots) and tacky without any transfer on fingers (typically after a minimum of one (1) hour drying time under normal environmental conditions). Lower temperatures and/or humid conditions may extend the drying time between priming coats or before installation of the underlayment.

Clean Up

Clean tools and equipment immediately with water. Once hardened, product can only be removed manually or mechanically. Wash soiled hands and skin thoroughly in hot soapy water or use Sika® Hand Cleaner towels.

Limitations

- Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA} is suitable for interior use only.
- When using Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA}, in ambient conditions over 25 °C (77 °F), store product in a cool place prior to use.
- Do not apply to substrates at temperatures below 10 °C (50 °F) as this will slow the drying and effectiveness of the primer.
- Moisture content of concrete substrate must be ≤ 5 % by mass (p.b.w. – part by weight) as measured with a Tramex® CME/CMExpert type concrete moisture meter on mechanically-prepared surface according to this product data sheet (preparation ICRI / CSP 3 - 4). If moisture content of concrete substrate exceeds 5 % by mass, contact Sika Canada.
- Engineer-approved wooden (plywood) subfloors must be at least 32 mm (1.25 in) in thickness and must be properly secured, bonded and prepared and free from contaminants and loose friable material.
- Do not apply Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA} or Sika® Level underlayments onto chipboard, particleboard, hardboard, metal, gypsum or dimensionally unstable substrates.
- Ponding of the primer must be avoided; ensure even distribution by brush or roller to work the primer into the substrate.
- Low temperature or high humidity will extend the drying time and the waiting time before applying the underlay.
- Sika® Level-03 Primer^{CA} does not form a vapor barrier. For proper vapor transmission mitigation, consult Sika Canada.

Health and Safety Information

For information and advice on the safe handling, storage and disposal of chemical products, users should refer to the most recent SAFETY DATA SHEET containing physical, ecological, toxicological and other safety-related data.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

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