



Dependable, LLC

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Technical Bulletin CD-1-05

CUTDOWN®: Substrate Preparation

SUBSTRATE REQUIREMENTS:

- Sufficient Strength
- Clean
- Sound and Solid
- Absorption & Bond

Sufficient Strength:

Checking the quality of the concrete is important. Minimum allowable strength is 3,000 psi. Compressive strength may be tested by taking a core and having it tested. A non-destructive method would include use of the Swiss Hammer. Most concrete test labs have this instrument and for a small charge can quickly give an indication of compressive strength. Depending upon the results of the Swiss Hammer testing a core may be desired to provide a precise measurement.

Clean:

When using the CUTDOWN as a moisture retarder, the substrate must be clean and free of any contamination. Common contaminants include curing compounds, drywall mud and paint overspray. To allow proper penetration for bond of the CUTDOWN these contaminants must be removed. Mechanical removal is preferred and includes sanding, grinding, scarifying and shotblasting. Care should be taken, however, to not polish the concrete.

Sound and Solid:

Soft, dusty or weak layers of concrete should be removed. One way to test the surface is by pressing a piece of duct tape onto the concrete. Remove it and inspect the back. The surface may be considered solid if the tape is clean.

Absorption:

CUTDOWN must be able to penetrate the substrate to anchor within the pores of the concrete to develop sufficient bond. To test for absorption, place dime size drops of water at several places on the floor. Water should penetrate concrete within about 30 seconds. If water beads, surface is not ready to receive CUTDOWN.



Bond:

The bond required of the CUTDOWN will vary slightly depending upon the floor covering and adhesive. Floor covering that has a tendency to move, like wood, require the CUTDOWN to have a stronger bond to the substrate. Therefore, when installing these type floor coverings, the concrete must be shotblast to a minimum CSP of 3¹. Shotblast is the preferred method because it leaves the pores of the concrete open to allow proper absorption and bond.

Also, when installing a self-leveling product over CUTDOWN, the method and extent of surface preparation should follow the recommendations of that product. For example, when installing SKIMFLOW ES the concrete should be shotblast to a CSP minimum of 4. CUTDOWN is then installed, allowed to dry according to instructions and then primed with PRIMER SL. SKIMFLOW ES is then installed.

If you have any questions or comments with respect to this technical bulletin, please contact technical service at Dependable, LLC at 1-800-227-3434.

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