

## PEBBLEWASH Application Method

### Preparation

#### 1. Surface preparation

The concrete base or other floor bases must be clean, free of dust and grease.

The base must be consistent, without loose particles and disaggregation. Damp the surface with potable water and apply the primer to damp Surface. If steel is exposed, do not damp the reinforcement steel. The foundation should have a minimum tensile strength of 1.5 MPa. The base must be visually dry. Cracks in the base should be repaired. Weak bases must be removed or restored. The foundation should be ground or blasted and then aspirated.

Use suitable FreeForm Floor Primer. When the subsequent material is placed/casted after drying of the primer, the surface should be vacuumed to remove loose sand particles if any.

Levels: It is extremely important that the base is well levelled and within strict tolerances. This is important as level variations in base can easily lead to failures in topping materials. Further a well levelled floor will help to save costs in material consumption of subsequent layers.

#### 2. Recommended primers

FreeForm Primer C or other suitable FreeForm Primer, depending on the condition of the substrate on which the material is applied.

#### 3. Installation tools

- Concrete Mixers- Pan or Drum Type - Horizontal or Vertical- Mixer must be clean and not cause contamination of the mixture.
- Screed bars to take level from the floor and screed material/ Laser Screed
- Hand Trowel
- Spike Shoes Metallic Spike roller with 10 mm fine spikes
- Wheelbarrow or dumper to transport material
- Spray new tools with a hydro repellent for easier cleaning and better performance

### Work area preparation/Setting up

#### 1. Mixing

- Add the water/ liquid to the mixer and then the powder if the mixer allows.
- Make a test mix to adjust the mixing rate, and also for "buttering of the mixer". Mixing water - try to work as per recommendations from VYARA/ FREEFORM. Final water rate will need to be adjusted to temperature and work conditions.
- Once mixing rate is established make sure it is always the same.

## PEBBLEWASH Application Method

- In case of manual mixing, mix for minimum 2 to 3 minutes. Mix till homogeneous, without lumps and all pigments are well integrated in the mix.
- When small mixers are used try to use two mixers to secure an even material flow.

### 2. Recommended application thickness

We recommend to screed the floor in 12-20 mm thickness, depending on the size of the aggregate use. The thickness of the layer should be approximately 2 to 2.5x of the largest sizes of the aggregates used. A good base is essential since the thickness of the screed is taken from the floor base. Use laser screed for large sites and best results.

Pumping- depending on the size and percentage of aggregates the FreeForm Pebblewash can be pumped, but it has to be so specified in advance and the applicator should test that option before using it on site.

### 3. Laying/Pouring/Installation

The material must be poured evenly on the floor, and no major segregation or bleeding should be visible. The material is screeded out between bars by hand or laser screeded, and brought to required level by a straight edge and steel floats in such a manner that the maximum amount of aggregates come up to the surface and are spread uniform over the surface and no part of the surface is left without the aggregates. If required, "seeding" of additional stone chips is possible.

It is recommended to have a minimum of 8-10 mm grooves every 5-7 metres to avoid cracking for outdoor application and at every 7-9 metres for indoor application.

### 4. Washing (for exposed aggregate finish only)

The washing of the laid surface is typically begun in about 30-60 minutes after installation. An experienced workman is the best judge to decide when the washing of the surface should begin- as the actual washing time is dependent on ambient weather conditions. The window of time available for the washing process to be carried out is critical, and it must be done right for best results/effects. The brushing is done in 2-3 passes using soft bristled brushes. The brushed floor is then immediately washed off copiously with water to leave no cement residue on the screed. The brushing should be done to ensure uniform exposure of aggregates. In case some portions are showing less exposure, more intense brushing effort may have to be used. Please refer to available video for demonstration.

### 5. Curing

In normal conditions, the Pebblewash cures in 24 hours. If temperature is lower curing will take longer. The material cures without being covered and the material should not be touched during

## PEBBLEWASH Application Method

the curing. Touching the material with a trowel after that it has started to settle may cause separation and cracking in the material.

Protect the floor from staining, damage, etc. as a result of other agencies working on site. Wet wood shaving, oil and varnish stains cannot be removed. After initial curing, cover adequately if there is a time gap till the sealing operation.

### 6. Precautions

It is ideal to finish the floor once you have started to work on it. Before the floor has been fully finished it is sensitive to water and other liquids that can penetrate and make marks in the floor. The floor needs to breathe also after the curing process if finished, why the floors should only be covered with breathable materials.

If the floor is covered completely with non-breathable materials marks can occur also after curing.

Expansion joints are necessary to allow for movement. It is recommended that in internal applications expansion joints are located in no bays larger than 5 to 7 metres in one direction.

### 7. Protection/Sealing

- Clean the floor well with a scrubber dryer with a cleaning pad. Make sure that the scrubber dryer is in good conditions. Any existing dust or dirt or efflorescence may get trapped under the sealer and also enhanced. So the cleaning before the application of the sealer is very necessary.
- Presence of moisture will also produce undesirable cloudiness or lamination on the surface.
- When the floor is fully dry it is ready to receive sealer, mix the water based FF Acryseal sealer and apply on the floor. Use a low pressure sprayer to apply the sealer evenly. Alternatively, the sealer can also be applied manually using a sponge. Check with trials in a small patch before applying on the entire floor.
- It is essential that the sealer is not over applied- as it can lead to a plastic feel. Under application can always be covered up with an additional coat, but over application gives big headaches.
- The sealer should be applied and protected from direct rainfall or water source for a period of at least 24 hours after application.

### 8. Cleaning and maintenance

Low pressure water jets are best for cleaning. Clean with PH neutral cleaning agent if required. Never use acids or very strong cleaners. If required, the surface may be resealed periodically with FF AcrySeal premium water based enhancing sealer to keep the surface looking like new.