



**BRANZ Appraised**  
Appraisal No. 472 [2022]

## ARDEX UNDERTILE INTERNAL LIQUID WATERPROOFING MEMBRANES

**Appraisal No. 472 [2022]**

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ  
Appraisal No. 472 [2017]



### BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of  
products for building and  
construction.



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### BRANZ

#### BRANZ

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## Product

- 1.1 ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes are premixed and two-part liquid-applied waterproofing membranes for use under ceramic or stone tile finishes in internal wet areas.

## Scope

- 2.1 ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes have been appraised for use as waterproofing membranes for the internal wet areas of buildings, within the following scope:
  - on floor substrates of concrete, reconstituted wood panel flooring, plywood, compressed fibre cement sheet and fibre cement sheet tile underlay, and on wall substrates of concrete, concrete masonry, wet area fibre cement sheet lining systems and wet area plasterboard lining systems; and,
  - when protected from physical damage by ceramic or stone tile finishes; and,
  - where floors are designed and constructed such that deflections do not exceed 1/360<sup>th</sup> of the span.
- 2.2 The use of ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes on concrete slabs where hydrostatic or vapour pressure is present from below is outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.3 Movement and control joints in the substrate must be carried through the membrane and tile finish. The design and construction of the substrate and movement and control joints is specific to each building, and is therefore the responsibility of the building designer and building contractor and is outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.4 The ceramic or stone tile finishes are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.5 The membranes must be installed by trained installers, approved by ARDEX New Zealand Limited.

## Building Regulations

### New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, ARDEX Undertile Internal Liquid Waterproofing Membranes, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet the following provisions of the NZBC:

**Clause B2 DURABILITY:** Performance B2.3.1 (b) 15 years and B2.3.2. ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes meet these requirements. See Paragraph 9.1.

**Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE:** Performance E3.3.6. Internal wet area floors and walls incorporating ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes meet this requirement. See Paragraphs 11.1-11.6.

**Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes meet this requirement.



## Technical Specification

- 4.1 Materials supplied by ARDEX New Zealand Limited are as follows:
- **ARDEX WPM 001** is a one-part, polymer-based, ready-to-use, liquid-applied membrane containing micro-fibres. It is supplied as a light blue thixotropic paste in 20 kg (approximately 15 L) pails.
  - **ARDEX WPM 002** is a fast drying, two-part, flexible, cementitious-based, liquid-applied membrane containing micro-fibres. It is supplied as ARDEX WPM 002 Part A Liquid in 20 kg pails and ARDEX WPM 002 Part B Powder in 10 kg multi-wall bags. When dry, the membrane is light grey in colour.
  - **ARDEX WPM 155 Rapid** is a one-part, water-based polyurethane acrylic, ready-to-use, liquid-applied, rapid setting membrane. It is supplied as a blue colour in 4 and 15 L pails.
  - **ARDEX STB Tape** is an uncured butyl tape with a fleece layer that is used in the ARDEX WPM 155 Rapid under tile waterproofing system.
  - **ARDEX Multiprime** is a water-based primer used to seal substrates and enhance the adhesion of the membranes. It is supplied as a red coloured liquid in 1, 4 and 20 L plastic containers.

## Handling and Storage

- 5.1 All materials must be stored inside, up off concrete floors, in dry conditions, out of direct sunlight and freezing conditions. The membrane products have a shelf life of 12 months from date of manufacture in the original unopened packaging. Once opened, the products must be used within 3 months.

## Technical Literature

- 6.1 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:
- ARDEX WPM 001 Superflex Bathroom and Balcony Premixed, March 2012.
  - ARDEX WPM 002 Superflex Bathroom and Balcony Two Part, Jan 2022.
  - ARDEX WPM 155 Rapid, May 2013.
- 6.2 All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

## Design Information

### General

- 7.1 ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes are for use in buildings where an impervious waterproof membrane is required to floors and walls to prevent damage to building elements and adjoining areas.
- 7.2 ARDEX WPM 002 and ARDEX WPM 155 Rapid are designed to be used where a quicker curing time is required, such as in cool or humid conditions.
- 7.3 The membrane must be protected from physical damage by the application of ceramic or stone tile finishes.
- 7.4 Movement and control joints may be required depending on the shape and size of the building or room, and the tile finish specified. Design guidelines can be found in the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling.
- 7.5 Timber framing systems must comply with NZS 3604, or where specific engineering design is used, the framing shall be of at least equivalent stiffness to the framing provisions of NZS 3604, or comply with the serviceability criteria of AS/NZS 1170. In all cases, framing must be provided so that the maximum span of the substrate as specified by the substrate manufacturer is met and all sheet edges are fully supported. Timber framing systems supporting the substrates must be constructed such that deflections do not exceed  $1/360^{\text{th}}$  of the span. Where NZS 3604 is used, the allowable joist spans given in Table 7.1 shall be reduced by 20%.

## Substrates

### Plywood

- 8.1 Plywood must be a minimum of 17 mm thick complying with AS/NZS 2269, CD Grade Structural with the sanded C face upwards and treated to H3 [CCA treated]. LOSP treated plywood must not be used.
- 8.2 The plywood must be supported with dwangs or framing with a maximum span of 400 mm in each direction, fixed with 10 g x 50 mm stainless steel countersunk head screws at 150 mm centres along the sheet edges and 200 mm centres through the body of the sheets.

### Fibre Cement Compressed Sheet/ Fibre Cement Sheet Tile Underlay

- 8.3 Fibre cement compressed sheet and tile underlay must be manufactured to comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 2908.2 and must be specified by the manufacturer as being suitable for use as a wet area membrane substrate. Installation must be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer.

### Reconstituted Wood Panel Flooring

- 8.4 Non-oriented strand board panels that are bonded with PMDI resin, are water-repellent, have an average density of 680 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, are treated to H3 with a waterborne treatment not LOSP, and are suitable for use as the timber substrate under wet area waterproof membrane systems.

### Concrete and Concrete Masonry

- 8.5 Concrete and concrete masonry substrates must be to a specific engineering design meeting the requirements of the NZBC, such as concrete construction to NZS 3101, concrete slab-on-ground to NZS 3604 or NZS 4229, and concrete masonry to NZS 4229 and NZS 4230.

### Wet Area Wall Linings

- 8.6 Plasterboard wall linings must be manufactured to comply with AS/NZS 2588 and be suitable for use in internal wet areas.
- 8.7 Fibre cement sheet must be suitable for use in wet areas and comply with AS/NZS 2908.2.
- 8.8 Installation of plasterboard or fibre cement wall linings must be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer.

## Durability

### Serviceable Life

- 9.1 ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes, when subjected to normal conditions of environment and use, are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 15 years and be compatible with ceramic or stone tile finishes with a design serviceable life of 15-25 years.

### Maintenance

- 10.1 No maintenance of the membrane will be required provided significant substrate movement does not occur and the tile finish remains intact. Regular checks must be made of the tiled areas to ensure they are sound and will not allow moisture to penetrate. Any cracks or damage must be repaired immediately by repairing the tiles, grout and sealant.
- 10.2 In the event of damage to the membrane, the tiling must be removed and the membrane repaired by removing the damaged portion and applying a patch as for new work.
- 10.3 Drainage outlets must be maintained to operate effectively, and tile finishes must be kept clean.

### Internal Moisture

- 11.1 ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes are impervious to water, and when appropriately designed and installed will prevent water from penetrating behind linings or entering concealed spaces.
- 11.2 Surfaces must be finished with ceramic or stone tiles. A means of compliance with NZBC Clauses E3.3.3 and E3.3.4 is given in NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1 Paragraph 3.1.1 b), 3.1.2 b) and 3.3.1 b).



- 11.3 Falls in showers and shower areas must be a minimum of 1 in 50. In unenclosed showers, falls must extend a minimum of 1,500 mm out from the shower rose. Floor wastes and drainage flanges must be provided and the floor must fall to the outlet.
- 11.4 ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes are suitable for use to contain accidental overflow to meet NZBC Clause E3.3.2. A means of compliance for overflow is given in NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1, Section 2.
- 11.5 The waterproofing membranes must completely cover shower bases, and for unenclosed showers it must extend a minimum of 1,500 mm out from the shower rose. Further design guidance on waterproofing wet areas, including waterproofing walls and junctions can be obtained from AS 3740, the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling, and the flooring and wall lining manufacturers.
- 11.6 Where water-resistant wall finishes such as prefinished sheet materials are used, they must overlap the membrane a minimum of 30 mm.

## Installation Information

### Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 12.1 Installation of the membranes must be completed by trained installers, approved by ARDEX New Zealand Limited.
- 12.2 Installation of substrates must be completed by, or under the supervision of, Licensed Building Practitioners [LBP] with the relevant Licence Class, in accordance with instructions given within the ARDEX New Zealand Limited Technical Literature and this Appraisal.

### Preparation of Substrates

- 13.1 Substrates must be dry, clean and stable before installation commences. Surfaces must be even and free from nibs, sharp edges, dust, dirt or other materials such as oil, grease or concrete formwork release agents.
- 13.2 The relative humidity of concrete substrates must be 75% or less before membrane application. The concrete can be checked for dryness by using a hygrometer as set out in BRANZ Bulletin No. 585.
- 13.3 All voids, cracks, holes, joints and excessively rough areas must be filled to achieve an even and uniform surface. Junctions of substrate abutments, such as at wall/floor and wall/wall junctions must have reinforcements installed as set out in the Technical Literature.
- 13.4 The moisture content of reconstituted wood flooring at the time of priming must not exceed 16%. All face surfaces and edges must be primed prior to membrane installation.
- 13.5 Substrates must be primed with ARDEX Multiprime and allowed to dry fully before the membrane is installed.

### Membrane Installation

- 14.1 Installation must not be undertaken where the substrate surface temperature is below 10°C or above 35°C.
- 14.2 ARDEX WPM 002 liquid and dry components must be mixed and left to stand for 5 minutes before re-mixing, then applying. ARDEX WPM 001 and ARDEX WPM 155 Rapid must be thoroughly stirred before application.
- 14.3 The membranes must be applied in a minimum of two coats at the rates set out in the Technical Literature to give a total finished thickness of 0.5-1.2 mm. Subsequent coats must be applied at an opposite direction to the previous coat.
- 14.4 Application can be made by roller (medium/long nap), brush (long bristle), or a flat steel trowel.
- 14.5 Reinforcement fabric is bedded into the wet layer between coats to provide movement protection at wall/wall and wall/floor junctions, and at any other areas such as joints in the flooring substrate, floor cracks or around penetrations in the membrane. ARDEX STB Tape must be used with ARDEX WPM 155 Rapid to take advantage of the rapid/fast drying features.
- 14.6 Clean up may be undertaken with water.



### Tiling

- 15.1 The membrane must be fully cured before tiling. The cured membrane must be protected at all times to prevent mechanical damage, so may require temporary covers until the finishing is completed.
- 15.2 Tiling must be undertaken in accordance with AS 3958.1 and the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling. The compatibility of the tile adhesive must be confirmed with the adhesive manufacturer or ARDEX New Zealand Limited.

### Inspections

- 16.1 Critical areas of inspection are:
- Construction of substrates, including crack control and installation of bond breakers and movement control joints.
  - Moisture content of the substrate prior to the application of the membrane.
  - Acceptance of the substrate by the membrane installer prior to application of the membrane.
  - Installation of the membrane to the supplier's instructions, particularly installation to the correct thickness and use of reinforcement.
  - Membrane curing and integrity prior to the installation of tiles including protection from mechanical damage during curing and prior to tile installation.

### Health and Safety

- 17.1 Safe use and handling procedures for the membrane are provided in the Technical Literature. The materials must be used in conjunction with the relevant Material Safety Data Sheet.

### Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

### Tests

- 18.1 The following testing of ARDEX WPM 001 and ARDEX WPM 002 has been undertaken by ARDEX Australia Pty Limited research and development laboratory: water vapour transmission, water absorption, tensile strength and elongation before and after UV exposure, immersion in bleach, immersion in industrial detergent and immersion in water. Test methods and results were reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 18.2 The following testing of ARDEX WPM 001 was undertaken by the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation [CSIRO] Australia:
- In accordance with ANSI A118.10 for ICBO Evaluation Service - dimensional stability, waterproofness, shear strength to ceramic tile and cement mortar, and fungal and micro-organism resistance.
  - In accordance with AS 1145 - behaviour under cyclic strain.
- 18.3 Testing of ARDEX WPM 001 and ARDEX WPM 002 has been undertaken by BRANZ for low temperature flexibility and peel adhesion after heat/humidity aging.
- 18.4 The following testing of ARDEX WPM 155 Rapid was undertaken by various organisations:
- Durability testing to AS/NZS 4858 Appendix A including effect of heat aging, bleach, detergent and water on tensile strength and elongation.
  - Cyclic movement resistance requirements of AS/NZS 4858:2004 Appendix B.
  - Water vapour transmission using both wet and dry cup methods from ASTM E96.
  - Water transmission behaviour following the procedures of AS/NZS 4858 Appendix C.
- 18.5 The above test methods and results have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.



### Other Investigations

- 19.1 An assessment was made of the durability of the ARDEX Undertile Liquid Membranes by BRANZ technical experts.
- 19.2 Site inspections have been carried out by BRANZ to examine the practicability of installation.
- 19.3 The Technical Literature has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

### Quality

- 20.1 The manufacture of the membrane has been examined by BRANZ, and details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 20.2 The quality management system of membrane's manufacturer has been assessed and found to be satisfactory.
- 20.3 The quality of supply of the membrane system materials to the market is the responsibility of ARDEX New Zealand Limited.
- 20.4 Designers are responsible for the building design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of installation of the framing systems and substrate.
- 20.5 Quality on-site is the responsibility of the trained installers, approved by ARDEX New Zealand Limited.
- 20.6 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the ceramic or stone tiles in accordance with the instructions of ARDEX New Zealand Limited.

### Sources of Information

- AS 3740:2021 Waterproofing of domestic wet areas.
- AS 3958.1:2007 Ceramic tiles - Guide to the installation of ceramic tiles.
- AS/NZS 1170:2002 Structural design actions
- AS/NZS 2908.2:2000 Cellulose-cement products - Flat sheets.
- AS/NZS 4858:2004 Wet area membranes.
- AS/NZS 2269:2012 Plywood - Structural.
- BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling [Third Edition], April 2015.
- NZS 3101:2006 Concrete Structures Standard.
- NZS 3602:2003 Timber and wood-based products for use in buildings.
- NZS 3604:2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- NZS 4229:2013 Concrete masonry buildings not requiring specific engineering design.
- NZS 4230:2004 Code of practice for the design of masonry structures.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments - Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



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02 August 2022

ARDEX UNDERTILE INTERNAL  
LIQUID WATERPROOFING  
MEMBRANES



In the opinion of BRANZ, **ARDEX Undertile Internal Liquid Waterproofing Membranes** are fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided they are used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **ARDEX New Zealand Limited**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

### Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
  - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
  - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
  - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
  - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **ARDEX New Zealand Limited:**
  - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
  - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
  - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions;
  - d) warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
  - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
  - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
  - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **ARDEX New Zealand Limited**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **ARDEX New Zealand Limited** or any third party.

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**For BRANZ**

**Chelydra Percy**

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

02 August 2022