

PRO TIPS FLEXSTONE INSTALLATION

BASE COAT INSTALLATION:

- ✓ STD or Select grade plywood is glued & screwed so T&G joints don't need Seam tape. 1/16" expansion gaps should exist at all Sq Edges and Flexstone Seam Tape used over all gaps along with imperfections filled in advance as part of prep work. Use #3 primer/sealer on smooth surfaces & Concrete with imperfections filled in advance of full base application.
- ✓ Pre-mix all the new pails of base coat at once and put lids back on. (This saves time rather than 1 at a time) Using Flexstone's custom 3/8" x 3/8" V-Notched trowels ensures that you always achieve the correct thickness.
- ✓ You must get correct coverage so as a guide 1 Gal of base should coat a full sheet of plywood (32 SF). Two Gal mixed batches cover at least 60 SF (angle Flexstone trowel down as much as possible - use more pressure with smaller teeth). The Mixer must only add water to each batch after the troweler has spread previous batch.
- ✓ When spreading new batches of base use the flat edge of trowel to push base on to applied batch. It's also a good idea to feather out edges of each batch and plan your work so that you work towards an exit point so you are not stranded.
- ✓ Quick Mixing: Use a thin stick to measure Base to Water ratios. With a standard 5-Gal pail you can cut a notch up 5 ½ inches and another at 7 inches. This gives you exactly 2-Gal's base and 2 quarts of water. (confirm dimensions using water in a pail). Avoid using measuring cups with base coat as material left in your measuring cup will harden & go to waste.
- ✓ In hot weather Install the base coat early in the morning when cooler. Lower temperatures slow the set-up time giving installers more time to work with the product. Base coat can be applied as low as 5 – 7 degrees C (40 degrees F). In several hours base gets a skin so rain or freezing won't damage it but it will take longer to fully cure in cold temperatures.
- ✓ While working keep Base pails in the shade as keeping it cooler provides you with more working time and it really hot temps you can add Ice to your water to slow down set-up time. Never exceed 4-1 mix of Base to Water as it will reject extra water.
- ✓ Flexstone's easy-release Red Poly Tape creates a 1" high tape-wall above the drip flashings keeping product from dripping over edges. Scuff-up top of flashing and just Base over flat flashing lip -No need to trowel base coat up against the Red Tape. Finish coats are rolled against Red Tape and once job is complete peel off tape and you have nicely finished edges.
- ✓ IGNORE minor imperfections or trowel marks in wet applied base coat as self-levelling process usually fixes this. While Base cures it's tacky so once it hardens you can cut out fallen debris or bugs, then grind/sand out bumps as needed.
- ✓ When addressing imperfections after the base coat cures, a belt-sander, angle grinder or even a drywall Rasp is also a handy tool for smoothing bumps. Ponding water areas (low spots) can be filled using extra base coat even after base cures.

FINISH COAT INSTALLATION FOR SYSTEM X (TEXTURED STONE):

- ✓ Once your base coat is cured & walkable (ok if a little tacky) roll out your AR colour coat a few feet in front of you as far as you can reach spreading the chips. Leave a wet edge and broadcast chips to rejection. Approx 3'-4' should work.
- ✓ Do not roll the AR Colour coat out too thick as this layer is primarily to holding the chips. Rolling a thick coat of AR can result in chips slowly sinking into the surface resulting in an inconsistent finish. (thin 10mm nap roller sleeve works).
- ✓ Spreading Chips/Flakes: Use a 2-3-gallon plastic pail and drill ¼" holes in the bottom of it. (you can add a wooden handle). Hold lid underneath, fill with chips then shake chips onto the surface. You can also disperse by hand like feeding chickens but you often end up with 'piles' of chips that harden with moisture making them to sweep up.
- ✓ If the forecast calls for rain – AVOID INSTALLING THE CHIPS. When acrylic-polymer chips are exposed to rain, they have a tendency to clump together and solidify. This results in painstakingly scraping the excess chips off the surface.
- ✓ Re: Slip-resistance, you have control. Use a drywall-type pole sander with 100-150 grit sand paper and lightly sand chips. If you walk with bare feet do a very light sanding and if you have concerns about slippage in some areas perhaps you may not want to sand these areas at all. First sweep up excess chips and put back in box for re-use then blow off sanding dust.
- ✓ Installing the clear coat is an important cosmetic step. Use 18-20 nap sleeves to get more coverage/sleeve and roll the clear coat similar to painting a wall moving in different directions to eliminate roller marks. Every few feet, take a step back and look at your surface from as many different angles as possible. You may find there are a few spots that are too thick (shinier), or too thin (duller), so back roll those areas to ensure that your thickness is consistent. (In 2 months, it dulls to a matte finish) Another technique on large jobs is to first squeegee out the clear coat then back roll to even out.